

# SKELTON CUM NEWBY PARISH COUNCIL

c/o Nick Reed, Clerk, 9 Little Market Place, Masham, N. Yorks HG4 4DY

## MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**DATE:** Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
**TIME:** 7.00pm  
**LOCATION:** Reading Room, Skelton-on-Ure  
**PRESENT:** Cllrs Guy Critchlow (Chair), Emma Gerrard, Alexandra Lake (after item 24.37), Jane Mosley, Jim Spillings  
**CLERK:** Nick Reed (minutes)  
**IN ATTENDANCE:** 8 members of the public [MoP]

24.34	<b>Declarations of interest</b> and requests for dispensation There were none.
24.35	<b>Apologies</b> and consideration of reasons for absence There were none, all Councillors being present.
24.36	<b>Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024</b> These were AGREED as a true record of the meeting, and signed as such by the Chair.
24.37	<b>Casual vacancy</b> The Council RESOLVED to co-opt Alexandra Lake to the vacancy created by the resignation of Cllr Chris Delf. Cllr Lake signed the declaration of acceptance of office, and took her seat for the remainder of the meeting.
24.38 24.381 24.382	<b>Ongoing issues from the minutes for updating (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)</b> <b>Parish caretaker:</b> The Council heard that there had been some expressions of interest in this post, and RESOLVED that the start date should now be 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025. <i>ACTION: Cllrs Gerrard and Critchlow to progress appointment</i> <b>NYC joint parishes forum:</b> Considering the secretarial role proposed by NYC Cllr Brown, the Council RESOLVED to contribute up to £100p.a. towards staffing costs, and further RESOLVED that it was content to “host” this position, managing the appointee’s payroll and collecting contributions from the other member councils.
24.39 24.391 24.392 24.393	<b>Reports from parish organisations / activities</b> (not covered elsewhere on the agenda) <b>Black Lion pub:</b> The Council heard that the recent fundraising event had generated around £500, and that further volunteer sessions are planned as the building comes together. The newspaper box will be moving to the pub shortly, and Alec Shelbrooke MP will be visiting the pub in November. <b>Christ the Consoler Church:</b> The council heard that events have continued to be busy at the church, with 120 attending the recent celebration of farming. The events in turn have generated more general visitors over the summer. Newby Hall has installed new signage around the estate directing people to the church. The Churches Conservation Trust has stripped, painted and renewed the guttering. Forthcoming events include a family theatre show on 5 <sup>th</sup> December and a carol service on 15 <sup>th</sup> December. Finally, a report is available summarising the work done and remaining and launching the organ restoration, with the aim of having the organ re-opened in 2026 for the church’s 150 <sup>th</sup> anniversary. <b>Post Office:</b> The Council NOTED the sad but inevitable permanent closure of this facility, and also that the defibrillator has moved to the Reading Room and the heritage signage to the Black Lion.

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<b>24.40</b>	<b>Questions and Comments from members of the public / district and county councillors / NY Police</b> A MoP noted that street light #1 on Skelton Road is out. <i>[Clerk's note; this has been reported.]</i> North Yorkshire Cllr Nick Brown reported that as with most local authorities NYC is struggling financially, mainly due to the cost of social care and children with special educational needs, and that savings will be necessary despite the relatively healthy state of the Council's reserves. The Council is developing a local plan, and has put out a call for sites for potential housing development to fulfil its requirements under the National Planning Policy Framework. The Uredale Community Partnership, one of five pilot groups across the area, has its first meeting in October, and the Boundary Commission is surveying the size and shape of the NYC constituency boundaries, with changes expected to be in place for the 2027 local elections. Finally, Cllr Brown thanked Cllr Critchlow for his help developing the joint parishes forum.
<b>24.41</b>	<b>Financial Statement and approvals for payment</b> The Council was noted as having on hand £13,874.83 on 30 <sup>th</sup> September, with recent receipts of £465.06 (North Yorkshire Council, grasscutting contribution including arrears), £395.35 (pop-up pub takings), and £425 (Reading Room hire fees). It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments: Wages and PAYE (Clerk Jul-Sep, Cleaner Jul-Sep); Clerk's expenses/training qtr 2 £265; Yorkshire Accountants Ripon (payroll admin qtr 2) £30+VAT; and Cllr Mosley (expenses re planting) £40.03+VAT. The Council further RESOLVED to formally approve payments necessarily agreed between meetings of £358.99 to Cllr Critchlow (pop-up refreshments), £127.92 to A&K Rayner (allotment improvements), £48.35+VAT to Advance Fire (annual service of Reading Room extinguishers), and £45+VAT to Scotton Park Electrical (Reading Room call-out), and NOTED direct debit payments to Scottish Water (£52.23, Reading Room supply, and £27.22, allotment supply), and Unity Trust Bank (£36, bank charges). The cash book balance after these transactions was noted as being £12,859.96.
<b>24.42</b>	<b>Planning applications and decisions</b> The Council RESOLVED to approve formally the decision necessarily arrived at between meetings to support ZC24/02688/FUL for work to doors and windows at the Black Lion pub. The Council also NOTED the granting of the above application, and of ZC24/00978/COU for change of use from primary school to child day care / creche / nursery at Skelton-cum-Newby School.
<b>24.43</b>	<b>Christmas decorations</b> Deciding against any further work to the tree / lights at Moor End Farmhouse, the Council RESOLVED to purchase and install a tree and decorations to install outside the Reading Room, at a cost of not more than £150. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>ACTION: Cllr Spillings to pursue</i></p> The Council also NOTED that there will be a tree at Christ the Consoler Church.
<b>24.44</b>	<b>Citizens Advice</b> Noting with approval their work on behalf of parishioners, the Council RESOLVED to make a donation of £150 to North Yorkshire Citizens Advice and Law Centre under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.
<b>24.45</b>	<b>Allotments</b> After some discussion the Council RESOLVED to continue paying for the water supply to the allotments, considering it to be of help to parishioners.

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<b>24.46</b>	<b>Parish Caretaker</b> Noting 24.381 above, the Council considered that there were no pressing caretaking issues ahead of this appointment. However, the Council NOTED that the drain at Hag Pot had been repaired, presumably by Newby Hall Estate, without consultation with the Parish Council as the owner of that parcel of land. It was agreed that a meeting between the Council, Newby Hall, and North Yorkshire Council would be useful for this and other land ownership and drainage issues.
<b>24.47</b> 24.471 24.472	<b>Correspondence</b> Little Pippins Montessori Nursery: Press release with information about the opening of this facility at the former Skelton-on-Ure Primary School Information Commissioner's Office: Confirmation that the Council has been re-registered for GDPR for 2024-25.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.00pm

**SIGNED:** ..... (Chair)

**DATE:**