

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 9th April 2026
TIME: 7.00pm
LOCATION: Reading Room, Skelton-on-Ure
PRESENT: Cllrs Emma Gerrard (Chairing), Rea Bell (after item 26.04); Alexandra Lake, Alice Madill (after item 26.04); and Liz Van Hee
CLERK: Nick Reed (minutes)
IN ATTENDANCE: 14 members of the public [MoP]

26.01	Declarations of interest and requests for dispensation There were none.
26.02	Apologies and consideration of reasons for absence There were none, all Councillors being present.
26.03	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th January 2026 These were AGREED as a true record of the meeting, and signed as such by the Chair.
26.04	Casual vacancies The Council RESOLVED to co-opt Rea Bell and Alice Madill to fill the vacancies created by the resignations of Cllrs Jane Mosley and Jim Spillings. Cllrs Bell and Madill signed their acceptances of office and took their place on the Council for the remainder of the meeting. The Council heartily THANKED former Cllrs Mosley and Spillings for their years of dedication to the Council and to the Parish, and for continuing to work on potential Reading Room improvements.
26.05	Ongoing issues from the minutes for updating (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)
26.051	20s Plenty: The Council RE-AFFIRMED its resolution to advocate for a 20mph speed limit on roads throughout the Parish, with the exceptions of the B6265, Skelton Lane, and High Moor Road. In response to MoP comments, it was noted that any reckless driving committed by identifiable vehicles should be reported to North Yorkshire Police, and that Newby Hall estate tractors are GPS tracked and closely monitored by the estate to ensure good community relations.
26.052	Millennium Walkway: The Council heard that shrubbery clearance has begun at the walkway, and thanked the four volunteers who had helped with this on the recent community day. Work is still ongoing replacing rotten boards. In response to a question, it was noted that it would be possible to raise the walkway if there were sufficient donated timber to do this. The Council NOTED its thanks for volunteers engaged in the planning and delivery of this work.
26.053	NYC Joint Parishes: The Council noted that the Wathvale Joint Parishes Forum meets on 28 th April.
26.06	Reports from parish organisations / activities (not covered elsewhere on the agenda) The Council heard that the Christ the Consoler 150 campaign, celebrating 150 years since the church's opening, has raised £50,000 thus far, with another £20,000 pledged. A consultancy has been engaged to develop a Heritage Lottery Fund bid to further progress this work. Guy Critchlow updated the Council on his discussions with North Yorkshire Council highways, which remain ongoing and noted that the white lines at either end of Skelton-on-Ure village need renewal. Cllr Van Hee and GC will meet with a NYC Highways officer before or after the Joint Parishes Meeting on 28 th April.

SKELTON CUM NEWBY PARISH COUNCIL

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

	<p>The community litter pick had attracted 30 volunteers, although MoP noted that it was dispiriting to see litter already returning to parts of the parish. The Council considered September, after the end of the Newby Hall season, to be a suitable time for another community event.</p>
26.07	<p>Questions and Comments from members of the public / district and county councillors / NY Police</p> <p>North Yorkshire Council Cllr Nick Brown introduced himself to new Parish Councillors and MoP, describing himself as very supportive of activity at parish level. He noted that NYC council tax would be rising by 4.99%, and that he had proposed various savings for NYC. There were no other comments not related to other agenda items.</p>
26.08	<p>Financial Statement and approvals for payment</p> <p>The Council was noted as having on hand £6,257.64 at the end of the 2025-26 financial year on 31st March 2026, with recent receipts of £160 (Reading Room hire fees), £942.80 (contributions towards Joint Parishes Forum clerking), and £284.44 (HM Revenue and Customs VAT126 reclaim)</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments: Wages and PAYE (Clerk, Cleaner, joint parishes clerk); Clerk's expenses/training qtr 4; Yorkshire Accountants Ripon (£30+VAT, payroll admin qtr 4); Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (£167, membership 2026-27); Wild Garlic Ltd (£264, website hosting and management); J. Mosley £42.47 (village planting); and Zurich Insurance, not more than £800 for 2026-27 parish insurance [<i>Clerk's note: the cost is confirmed at £731.67 and has been paid along with the other approved payments.</i>]</p> <p>The Council further RESOLVED to formally approve a payment necessarily agreed between meetings to Shawgas (£71.57+VAT), YLCA (£73, training), and Dishforth Village Hall (£45, venue hire for JPF meetings), and NOTED direct debit payments to Scottish Water (£56.61, Reading Room supply, and £19.20, allotment supply), e.On Next (£250.10+VAT, Reading Room electricity), and Unity Trust Bank (£38, bank charges).</p> <p>The cash book balance after these transactions was noted as being £3,290.44.</p>
26.09	<p>Planning applications and decisions</p> <p>There were no new applications to consider, but the Council NOTED for the minutes the decision, necessarily made between meetings, that the Council objects to 26/00315/FUL for a new dwelling to the east of 36 Skelton-on-Ure on the grounds of appearance, layout and density, and highway safety.</p>
26.10	<p>Email</p> <p>Noting the implementation of a new assertion in the 2025-26 Annual Government and Accountability Review process, the Council RESOLVED to set up a new non-webmail email address for the Council at the cost of £57+VAT for setup, and then £26+VAT per year at current prices. The Council considered setting up non-webmail addresses for Councillors, but RESOLVED that, given the size and relative lack of activity of this Council, this is not currently necessary.</p>
26.11	<p>Signatories</p> <p>Noting the recent turnover of Councillors, the Council RE-AFFIRMED per its Financial Regulations that payments should be raised by the Clerk, who is not a signatory, and authorised by any two Councillors, and that all Councillors should be signatories to the Council's accounts with Unity Trust Bank.</p>
26.12	<p>Reading Room capital project</p> <p>The Council heard that plans are expected to be presented to the Council in the near future, hopefully so that the Council could approve the allocation of commuted sums at a May meeting. The Council accordingly RESOLVED to hold a short extraordinary meeting immediately following the Annual parish Council Meeting on Thursday 14th May.</p>

SKELTON CUM NEWBY PARISH COUNCIL

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

26.13	Emergency Plan Cllrs Gerrard, Lake and Madill agreed to form a working group to progress the updating of this plan. <i>Action: Clerk to circulate existing plan.</i>
26.14	Parish Caretaker There was no work to commission beyond that regularly scheduled. It was noted that the play area has not yet been cut by North Yorkshire Council, and that if this continues to be the case it should be reported to the Clerk who can consult NYC regarding their maintenance and grasscutting schedule for this area.
26.15	Correspondence
26.151	Newby Hall: noting that signage at the exit to the estate had been updated. The Council and MoP present commended this as a great improvement.
26.152	North Yorkshire Council: Noting that the area around 24 Crow Garth had been cleared of rubbish and waste materials.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 14th May – Annual Parish Council Meeting,
followed by a short Parish Council meeting

SIGNED: (Chair)

DATE: