

# 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 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025  
**TIME:** 7.00pm  
**LOCATION:** Reading Room, Skelton-on-Ure  
**PRESENT:** Cllrs Jane Mosley (Chairing), Emma Gerrard, Alexandra Lake, Jim Spillings, and (after item 25.35) Liz Van Hee  
**CLERK:** Nick Reed (minutes)  
**IN ATTENDANCE:** 4 members of the public [MoP]

25.32	<b>Declarations of interest</b> and requests for dispensation There were none.
25.33	<b>Apologies</b> and consideration of reasons for absence There were none, all Councillors being present.
25.34	<b>Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025</b> These were AGREED as a true record of the meeting, and signed as such by the Chair of the meeting.
25.35	<b>Casual vacancy</b> The Council RESOLVED to co-opt Elizabeth [Liz] Van Hee to fill this vacancy. Cllr Van Hee signed the acceptance of office and took her seat for the remainder of the meeting.
25.36	<b>Ongoing issues from the minutes for updating</b> (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)
25.361	<b>Highways:</b> The Council had received the following comments from North Yorkshire Council highways: re the junction of High Moor Road and the B6265, that the double white lines are regarded as being in good condition, that signage had been replaced and the “slow” marking would be refreshed this month, and that the request for a 40mph limit would be reviewed in “a future year”; regarding High Moor Road, that £9,500 had been spent on patching and that a full renewal is on the forward programme but not a priority; and regarding the Skelton Lane / B6265 junction, that signage has been replaced and the “slow” marking is to be refreshed. The Council considered this response unsatisfactory, particularly wishing to know what signage had been replaced and continuing to believe turning right onto Skelton Lane coming out of Ripon to be an unsafe situation.
25.262	<b>NYC Joint Parishes Meeting:</b> The Council heard a report back from September’s meeting, noting that dissatisfaction with NYC Highways had also been a feature of this meeting. NYC Cllr Brown had been open and honest about the financial challenges facing NYC now and in the future, and their obvious impacts on Highways funding. He had asked for feedback on mobile phone coverage in the villages, and has £500(ish) per Council in locality budget to distribute.
25.363	<b>NYC Boundary Commission proposals:</b> The Council noted that the revised proposals now have the whole parish within one NYC constituency, but that the constituency is Dishforth rather than Ripon Canal and Ure or Boroughbridge. The Council RESOLVED to comment that Ripon Canal and Ure seems a far more appropriate constituency for this parish to be part of.
25.364	<b>Millennium Walkway:</b> The Council noted that there had been no developments since July, and that further investigations are needed into the current state and use of the walkway.

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<b>25.37</b>	<b>Reports from parish organisations / activities</b> (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)
25.371	<b>Black Lion pub and community hub:</b> The Council heard that the pub and hub was handed over to its tenant leaseholders on 1 <sup>st</sup> October, and that therefore the Black Lion Group is stepping back from day-to-day running of the pub. It was agreed that, given this new era, the pub does not need to be a standing agenda item at Parish Council meetings going forward.
25.372	<b>Christ the Consoler Church:</b> The Council heard that the group had hosted successful events and services including the Pride and Prejudice theatre show, and a record 155 attending the celebration of farming service on 5 <sup>th</sup> October. There are two more events this year, including the performance of Great Expectations with a festive twist on 4 <sup>th</sup> December, to which parish residents can receive a discount with the online code 'SkeltonOnUre'. Fundraising remains ongoing with just under £15,000 raised and there are a number of grant applications currently in process.
<b>25.38</b>	<b>Questions and Comments from members of the public / district and county councillors / NY Police</b> A MoP commented that a village clean-up / litterpick would be welcome, and the Council AGREED to organise one, noting that equipment is still available to borrow from the NYC depot in Harrogate.
<b>25.39</b>	<b>Financial Statement and approvals for payment</b> The Council was noted as having on hand £10,181.61 on 30 <sup>th</sup> September, with recent receipts of £70 (Reading Room hire fees), £2,508 (North Yorkshire Council, precept #2 of 2), and £161.47 (bar sales). It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments: Wages and PAYE (Clerk, Cleaner, joint parishes secretary); Clerk's expenses/training qtr 2; Information Commissioner's Office (£52, GDPR registration); Yorkshire Accountants Ripon (£30+VAT, payroll admin qtr 2); Absolute Gardens (£260, caretaking qtr 2); G. Critchlow (£100.90 inc £42.40+VAT to Ripon Builders Merchants); and P. Watson £60.50 (Reading Room sundries) The Council further RESOLVED to formally approve payments necessarily agreed between meetings to: Advance Fire (£251.96+VAT, annual inspection and equipment renewal at Reading Room); Scotton Park (£241.99+VAT, electrical work at Reading Room); GC Electrical (£260, relocation of defibrillator); and G. Critchlow (£43.82, Reading Room sundries), and NOTED direct debit payments to Scottish Water (£56.61, Reading Room supply, and £23.56, allotment supply), and Unity Trust Bank (£36, bank charges). The cash book balance after these transactions was noted as being £8,113.83.
<b>25.40</b>	<b>Planning applications and decisions</b> There were neither any applications to consider, nor any principal authority decisions to note.
<b>25.41</b>	<b>Committed sums for Reading Room</b> The Council heard that all the works suggested will need the approval of Newby Hall Estate as Reading Room landlords, and that the working group is awaiting a reply from NH representatives. Noting that work is currently taking place to the dwelling semi-detached to the Reading Room, and that if work is swiftly commissioned then the Council could realise £124,937, rather than £107,262, it was AGREED to ask again for a swift response. The Council NOTED its approval of the parcel of Reading Room works currently being suggested by the working group.
<b>25.42</b>	<b>Budget 2026-27</b> The Council RESOLVED to adopt the draft budget as circulated, with a precept requirement of £6,688, noting the necessary rise in precept by iro £5.17 per elector, and that this is the first rise in precept for many years.

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<b>25.43</b>	<b>Parish Caretaker</b> There was no work to commission beyond that regularly scheduled, and the Council NOTED that one more verge cut was scheduled this year. The Council AGREED to cover material costs for the renovation of Skelton-on-Ure village telephone box by a volunteer resident.
<b>25.44</b> 25.441	<b>Correspondence</b> PKF Littlejohn LLP; confirming acceptance of the Council's exempt status from External Audit, and that therefore the audit process for 2024-25 is complete without any notes or recommendations.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00pm (*please note change of day*)

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

**DATE:**