

ALDBROUGH ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT MINUTES

THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF ALDBROUGH ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 11th May 2026 following the Annual Parish Meeting in the Village Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor Mike Banks (MB)- Chair, Councillor Stephen Baddon (SB), Councillor Stuart Reed (SR), Councillor Kirstie Thornton (KT), Cllr Angus Thompson (AT)

In attendance: C Liversedge-Gell (Clerk) and three residents.

Minute	Item	Date raised	Summary	Detail/Action	Action/By Who
11/05-01	Apologies			None	Completed
11/05-02	PC Elections			<p>a) Election of Chairman Cllr Reed nominated Cllr Banks for the position of Chairman, which was seconded by Cllr Baddon. There being no further nominations, it was RESOLVED by unanimous show of hands to elect Cllr Mike as Chairman of the Parish Council for the next 12 months and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.</p> <p>b) Election of Vice Chairman Cllr Baddon nominated Cllr Reed for the position of Vice Chairman, which was seconded by Cllr Thornton There being no further nominations, it was RESOLVED by unanimous show of hands to elect Cllr Reed as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for the next 12 months</p> <p>c) Appointment of Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) Clerk Charlotte Liversedge-Gell was appointed as RFO</p>	
11/05-03	Declarations of Interest			RESOLVED - None recorded.	Completed
11/05-04	Minutes of last meeting			RESOLVED - The 9 th March 2026 minutes were agreed as an accurate record and signed by MB.	Completed
11/05-05	Appointment of a Council representative to the local YLCA Branch			RESOLVED – Cllr Reed nominated. Clerk to inform YLCA	Completed
11/05-06	Councillor Report/Update		NYC Councillor Angus Thompson (AT)	<p>NYC COUNCILLOR’S REPORT APRIL 2026</p> <p>NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL. This month sees the 3rd anniversary of the coming in being of the Unitary Council, know of course as North Yorkshire Council. I think three years down the line, we can say that it has been on the whole, a great</p>	Completed

			<p>success.</p> <p>There will always be residents who say that we had a better service under the old RDC days, but we always need to be mindful of the fact that it was done principally to save on costs.</p> <p>The Unitary is now showing savings of very nearly £70 million per annum. So where would we be if we hadn't gone down this route? The answer is almost certainly bankrupt. There was in the run up to the new Council coming into being, a plan brought forwards for a 'two unitaries' system in North Yorkshire. One would have encompassed the district councils of Hambleton, Harrogate, Craven and Richmondshire which would have been based in Northallerton, and a second unitary taking in Scarborough, Ryedale, Selby and the City of York which would have been based in York.</p> <p>There were two factors in my mind which made me vote for the single unitary. Firstly and most importantly, there would not have been anything like the financial savings which we were aiming for and have achieved through one council. Whilst other counties, Surrey for example, have been split into three unitary councils, have been driven by the sheer population size. We have in North Yorkshire the largest geographical area in England, but a population of some 700,000 which is considered at the top end of the scale for one council.</p> <p>The other, but less important factor in my mind, was the fact that the City of York was fiercely resisting the proposal. As it happens, the single unitary has worked out well and interestingly, has been help up as a shining example of what can be achieved by the government. They are forcing other counties like Surrey, who still operate a two tier system of district and county councils, to bring forward proposals to merge councils into a unitary. So it looks as though we in North Yorkshire would have been forced down this route had we not opted to do so four years ago.</p> <p>HIGHWAYS.</p> <p>At the meeting of the Combined Authority, that is NYC, City of York and the Mayor, on 27th March there was an exchange of views as the Mayor stated that NYC will in 26/27 receive £63.8m for highways maintenance, up from £57.8m in the current year. The City of York will receive £7.1m in the same period, up from £4.4m in the current year. So York will have an increase of 61% whilst we will have an increase of 10%. But NYC says it will inspectors overturn a decision made by the council and awards costs to the appellant because the authority fails to follow planning policy, imposes unreasonable conditions, or it wastes time or money.</p> <p>A good number of these 38 appeals will of course relate back to the District Councils prior to April 2022. A good example of such a decision which was overturned on appeal was</p>	
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what is now named Copperfield Park at Middleton Tyas. This was pre 2019 but the then RDC Planning Committee refused permission, largely because of the opposition to the development within the village and the from the PC, but this was overturned by the Inspector and costs awarded against RDC.

Another one which was post 2019 was the Ashes proposed development in Barton. So this will be one of the 38 cases.

In defence of NYC Planning, officers have stated that, 'As the country's largest county by geographical area, we handle more applications than most authorities. In 24/25, we made decisions on about 4,700 applications compared with the national average of 1,365 for English unitary authorities'.

In my January report I said that I was hopeful that the Richmond Planning Office had turned a corner in terms of staffing. Sadly, I think I was being a little optimistic here in that with the former Hambleton and Richmond Planning Offices effectively combined, vacancies for qualified planning officers do not spear to be any lower than six months ago. The one real step forwards has been in IT which is more or less on a level and workable playing field across the county. This means that staff from say Harrogate can pick up Richmond cases, if needs be.

HOPE MOOR WIND FARM.

The proposal to put 20 two hundred meter high wind turbines on the beautiful moor between Newsham, Arkengarthdale and the Stang across from Barningham has stunned residents, not just in the immediate area but right across the county. When you consider that it will be possible to see these monsters from Hartlepool, Skipton and the Lake District, you can perhaps envisage the scale of what is proposed. Community input into Scoping is vital not only for the Secretary of State's decision but also in any subsequent plans for monitoring and mitigation of various impacts.

I urge you to listen to the following for more information.

[will-hope-moor-affect-you.mp4](#)

If you wish to receive my reports which I send out usually every second month, then please forward your email address to:

Cllr.angus.thompson@northyorks.gov.uk.

Best wishes,

Angus Thompson.

NYC Councillor for North Richmondshire.

2nd April 2026.

E & OE.

				<p>Cllr Thompson attended the meeting</p> <p>Cllr Thornton ask Cllr Thompson about the Highways between Forcett and the A66 explaining that the verges are no longer in place which has created deep channels at both sides of the road and that there are very large pot holes that create hazards to drivers. Cllr Thompson will look into this.</p> <p>VC Reed informed Cllr Thompson of a recent experience reporting street lighting issues with NYC and being told of a 20 day lead time to get a response/reply. Cllr Thompson requested this be forwarded to him and he will look into it.</p> <p>Cllr Thompson gave an update on the tree at St John’s Park that had been investigated by the tree assessor on 10 March 2026 The tree has a sub stem growing from the base which was removed at approximately 2.5m out from the parent stem leaving a long stub. The ivy (which appears to have been severed) had grown across the two stems, which can give the impression that there is a hole in the main stem. On inspection, there were no visible concerns and no works needed were identified. The PC agreed it was a healthy tree as the PC arborists had also surveyed the tree and established the same outcome.</p> <p>Potholes – NYC are considering legal action as £20m over four years to go towards fixing potholes has been denied them. NYC are responsible for a large area of roads and reserves are being used to help fix the problems which is a concerning position.</p> <p>Tourist Tax – the split of dividing the tax 75% to the Mayor of North Yorkshire and 25% to NYC was not deemed proportionate by NYC.</p>	
11/05-07	Update on current items and matters arising				
11/05-07-01	Speed Monitoring			RESOLVED Clerk now has the software for the Speed Matrix Data. Report to be downloaded and sent to PC for interpretation.	Clerk
11/05-07-02	Clock Maintenance/ Restoration			RESOLVED – MB circulated the quote from clock manufacturer - £809 over a three year Service Maintenance Plan. The PC agreed to this price. This has now been paid.	Completed
11/05-07-03	Encroachment fees and reasons for encroachment			RESOLVED – There is one outstanding encroachment fee. This is the Quoits Club. MB to follow it up. Clerk to email Encroachment Fees as they stand to the PC for approval. On approval, emails will be issued	Clerk PC
11/05-07-04	Plaque for bus shelter			RESOLVED – MB will get a plaque for the bus shelter for the Best Kept Village Competition 2024. Ongoing.	MB

11/05-07-05	No cold caller zones (NCCZ)			RESOLVED – Cold Calling remains an issue within the Village with reports from various residents. Trading Standards were hoping to make the PC meeting but could not due to unforeseen circumstances. Clerk to arrange a site visit with the PC and Trading Standards during the day to progress with the application.	Clerk
11/05-07-06	Fence around the willow tree and			RESOLVED – Works have now been carried out on the Willow Tree and the posts/fencing can be erected. The PC agreed to the posts being purchases and works carried out..	MB
11/05-07-07	Post for trees			RESOLVED – Some of the trees require bigger posts as they are bending in the wind. These can now be looked into when the fence around the Willow Tree is installed as per item 11/05-06-06	KT/MB
11/05-07-08	Additional defibrillator			RESOLVED –. PC continue to monitor any future grants/schemes where funding may be available. Ongoing.	SR/MB
11/05-07-09	East End Standing Water			RESOLVED – The standing water at East End is still causing issues. It has been reported to NYC many times, but no remedial works have been carried out. Clerk followed up with Highways and included photos of the problem. NYC confirmed that the issue has been logged and the local Highways Officer will visit the location and investigate. After initial acknowledgement, no update provided from NYC. Clerk to follow up with NYC.	Clerk
11/05-07-10	Sykes Bridge Standing Water			RESOLVED – Clerk followed up with Highways and included photos of the problem. NYC confirmed that the issue has been logged and the local Highways Officer will visit the location and investigate. After initial acknowledgement, no update provided from NYC. Clerk to follow up with NYC.	Clerk
11/05-07-11	EV Charging Email			RESOLVED – PC Policy on EV charging is finished and is to be published on the website.	MB
11/05-07-12	Moles on Village Green			RESOLVED – A professional has been in to deal with this issue and the moles were gone for some time. It does appear that the issue has returned and MB to look into. Ongoing	MB
11/05-07-13	Damage to Village Green and verges			RESOLVED – The damage to the VG outside the Stanwick Arms has been repaired by MB and then cut. It will blend in over the summer now that these works have been carried out. Clerk contacted Highways to establish if marker posts can be placed in areas where cars parking and mounting verges has been causing damage to the VG and what the desired dimensions/materials for the posts are from NYC. Clerk to request update. The PC would please urge drivers to be considerate when parking and to not drive over or park on the VG.	MB Clerk

11/05-07-14	NYP Property Marking Event			RESOLVED – Clerk to ask NYP if they would attend during one of ASJ VH Afternoon Teas	Clerk KT
11/05-07-15	Chapel Green Flooding			RESOLVED – Flooding has occurred at Chapel Green. This is being monitored to see if it occurs again. Ongoing	MB
11/05-07-16	Tees River Trust Meeting			RESOLVED – The Tees River Trust has appointment volunteers to be guardians of the Beck. The Willow Tree growing in the Beck will continue to be being monitored by the PC.	Completed
11/05-07-17	Parish Council Vacancy			RESOLVED – No interest show yet for the Parish Councillor Vacancy. If anyone would like to apply to join the Parish Council please contact the Clerk via email - Clerk@aldbroughstjohnparishcouncil.gov.uk	Clerk
11/05-07-18	SWARCO Matrix Board Contract Renewal			RESOLVED – Email received from SWARCO regarding the Matrix Board’s Asset Contract Renewal as the current one is expiring. The cost is £672.99. The PC queried how much anew Matrix Board would be. Clerk to ascertain and forward to the PC.	Clerk
11/05-07-19	Grass cutting – issues with the cut in certain areas raised with NYC			RESOLVED – MB raised issues with NYC that certain areas of the grass cutting had not been carried out adequately. The team came out the following day and finished the works off to a much better standard.	Completed
11/05-07-20	Annual Parish Council Insurance review with Zurich			RESOLED – The Parish Council insurance had increased from £378 to £401 due to the increase in Precept. The PC agreed to the quote. MB to pay the invoice. Query raised over whether the Matrix Board would be covered if it was vandalised. Clerk to query and report back to the PC.	Clerk MB
11/05-07-21	Further disturbances/ concerns at Broken Barn			RESOLVED – Cllr Thompson discussed Broken Barn, Wilderness Ways (WW) property was discussed as a resident had asked if WW were trading legally and had they required Change of Use Permission. Cllr Thompson confirmed that WW had applied for a Certificate of Lawfulness after which they did not need further permissions as there were no grounds to require any at that time. Children’s homes are regulated entirely outside the planning system and fall under the statutory oversight of Ofsted. It was suggested by NYC that matters relating to the Broken Barn be directed to WW or to Ofsted themselves as they do not fall within the Local Authorities remit.	

				<p>MB had requested a Freedom of Information to NYP on what resources and how many times and the police Vans, Cars, Helicopters have been deployed to Broken Barn. This came back as 12.</p> <p>WW had planned to be at the meeting but could not attend due to an Ofsted visit on the same day/evening. They are hoping to attend the next meeting on 13th July 2026.</p>	
11/05-07-22	Ownership of the Grass Lane from Spenceley Place to fields behind Old Hall.			<p>RESOLVED – Resident emailed the PC and attended the meeting explaining that literature relating to the sale of the Old Hall indicates that the Lane is part of that property. When this had been looked into in 2015 the first part had been registered as being owned by RDC and not being owned by The Old Hall. The PC agreed that this needed to be clarified. Clerk to forward details to Cllr Thompson.</p>	Clerk AT
11/05-08	Correspondence		Correspondence received and dealt with by Clerk since last meeting.	<p>(a) NYC Communication included in matters arising (b) NYC Parish Liaison updates - emailed to councillors (c) NYC CCTV Review - emailed to councillors. No action required as no CCTV within ASJ (d) NYC Area 1 Parish Workshops - emailed to councillors (e) YLCA information updates - emailed to councillors (f) YLCA White Rose newsletter – emailed to councillors (g) NALC Updates – emailed to councillors (h) NYC Standards Bulletin – emailed to councillors</p>	Clerk
11/05-09	Planning Applications			<p>RESOLVED – ZD26/00199/FULL Chestnut House Aldbrough St John, Full planning permission for a proposed single-storey extension with 6 no panels on the South facing section of the roof. No objections from the PC.</p>	Completed
11/05-10	Finance			<p>RESOLVED –</p> <p>a) Annual Governance Accountability Return – AGAR 25/26</p> <p>Internal Audit Report carried out by Rebecca Dixon.</p> <p>To approve the annual governance statement and accounting statement. The AGAR was prepared by the Clerk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of Exemption: The PC are exempt from a limited assurance review. The higher of the authority’s total gross income for the year or total gross annual expenditure, for the year did not exceed £25,000. RESOLVED that this criterion is met - statement signed by the Chairman 	Completed

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1 (Annual Governance Statement): The PC acknowledged the review of internal controls and approved/signed Section 1. • Section 2 (Accounting Statements): The PC approved the accounting statements and were signed by the Chairman. • Public Rights & Publication: The dates for the Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Annual Governance & Accountability Return were agreed as 3rd June, through to 14th July 2026 <p>4) Review, agree and approve the mandatory policies and procedures. Updated IT Policy was agreed and signed by the Chair – to be uploaded onto the website and archived.</p> <p>b) Budget up to 31st March 2026 shared with the PC and will be available on the PC website following the submission of the AGAR</p> <p>c) Expenditure up to 31st March 2026 shared with the PC and will be available on the PC website following the submission of the AGAR</p> <p>d) Income up to 31st March 2026 shared with the PC and will be available on the PC website following the submission of the AGAR</p> <p>e) Draft Budget, Expenditure and Income up 4th May 2026 shared with the PC and will be available on the PC website following the submission of the AGAR</p> <p>f) Payments approved YLCA Subs £186, Clerk Salary £242.15, NYC Grass Cutting £3527.24, Ape Tree Services £1080, MB misc maintenance sundries £51.22, Smith of Derby Clock maintenance contract £970.80, TVGW footpath works £363.60</p>	
11/05-11	To consider questions from the public			<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>(i) Fly Tipping at Doctors Lane was raised. MB explained that as it is on private land that belongs to Westgarth's, NYC cannot assist. The PC sympathise with Westgarth's as they have had this issue before and had to remove the waste at their own expense. Clerk to send a thank you letter to Westgarths.</p>	Clerk MB
11/05-12	Items for future agenda			<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>(i) A Moss Brush is being considered to be hired by the PC. MB to circulate details to the PC.</p>	MB
11/05-13	Date of next meeting			The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Monday 13th July 2026 at 7pm Everyone welcome.	Completed

	<u>Meeting ended at 8.50pm</u>				

Signature (Chairman) Date.....