

HUTTON LE HOLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 26 November 2024 at 7.30pm in Hutton le Hole Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs S Bentley (Chair), J Thompson, T Shephard, D Dangerfield, J Fudge and A-M Benson (Clerk)

There were no members of the public present.

- 1) **Non-attendance of Councillors** - No apologies were received from Councillors.
- 2) **To note any declarations of interest** – No interests were declared.
- 3) **Previous Minutes**
 - a) The minutes of the previous Meetings held on 8th Oct 2024 were agreed and approved and signed by the Chair.
 - b) There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.
- 4) **Public Session** - No members of the public were present.
- 5) **To consider the exclusion of members of the Public for 8c item on the agenda**
Not necessary.
- 6) **PLANNING**
To consider any Planning Applications/Decisions received from NYMNPA.
NYM/2024/0766 - Site address: Beck Garth, Hutton le Hole, North Yorkshire, YO62 6UD
RESOLVED: No objections were raised in respect of this application.
- 7) **VILLAGE**
 - a) Village Maintenance Survey results were considered and discussed. Councillors noted the high number of responses relative to the population of the village and thanked everyone for getting the message out and responding. Councillors also noted the range of thoughts and ideas put forward.
RESOLVED: 1) That the top 3 priorities of the Villagers be noted and prioritised - those being Grass-cutting, Birdmouth fences and keeping the village looking tidy and well kept. **2)** That the Executive summary be published on the Council website, noticeboard and distributed through the Village newsletter. **3)** That the feedback be considered when drafting the Village Maintenance contract going forward.
 - b) Work undertaken by the Caretaker this month included winter strimming, clearing drains and organising a painting schedule for next year
 - c) Work completed since the last meeting – the drystone wall below the old Orchard came down twice this month (in separate places) and was repaired by the Parish Council to the cost of £400. This wall is not a Parish Council asset and as such it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Thompson make some initial enquiries from Court Leet about contributions to this. Cllr Bentley to work with Cllr Thompson on this.
 - d) Ownership of the 'Beehive' Bins – after much investigation by Cllr Dangerfield and the Clerk, it was established that whilst the bins were provided by NYMPA initially as a one-off cost, they are not owned by them, and it would appear they now constitute an

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asset of the Parish Council. To reduce littering the inside metal bins need to be larger.

RESOLVED: The Clerk is to investigate the cost and process of getting larger inner bins, and Councillors to seek a meeting with Highways to discuss the most suitable type of alternative outer bins.

8) FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) The update in respect of funds held and money movement since the start of the financial year was **agreed and approved**.

b) Payments issued at/outside the meeting since October.

i) Clerk Salary costs (Jul-Sept 2024)	08/10/2024 Cheq. 688
ii) Caretaker Costs (Sept)	£224.00 08/10/2024 Cheq. 689
iii) Zurich Insurance (Annual)	£304.00 15/10/2024 BACS
iv) D Bentley	£96.00 13/11/2024 Cheq. 690
v) R Poppy Wreath	£22.25 25/11/2024 Cheq. 694
vi) Caretaker Costs (Oct)	£182.00 25/11/2024 Cheq. 692
vii) YLCA New Councillor Training	£35.20 25/11/2024 Cheq. 693

RESOLVED: The above payments were agreed and approved and cheques were signed. It was noted that cheque 691 was spoiled.

c) The Clerk left the meeting for the discussion of these items.

i) Working from Home payment for Clerk

ii) NALC 2024-25 pay agreement

RESOLVED: the payments were agreed as per the Chair's report.

9) Budget and Precept setting

Councillors considered the Budget Forecasting & Precept report from the Clerk and discussed the precept amount to set. Matters highlighted were uncertainty over NYMPA caretaker contribution from 2026-7 (£2,750); the projected deficit of Parish accounts in future years; that the precept has only been raised once since 2017; the additional increase in costs from inflation; that Band D properties currently pay approx. £1 per week through the precept to the cost of Village upkeep.

RESOLVED: 1) That the 3-year Budget until 2026-27 was agreed and approved with one slight amendment. 2) That to prevent a similar deficit situation in the future, that the precept should rise each year, as a minimum, by the NYC Council Tax increase percentage. 3) That the precept for 2025-26 be set at £8,150 and the Clerk duly notifies NYC of this.

10) Caretaker Contract Tendering

To approve the Caretaker contract tendering process to conclude before March 2025.

RESOLVED: 1) That Hutton le Hole Parish Council approve the tender process and the revised timetable for the contract of Village Maintenance 2025-26. 2) Councillors Bentley, Fudge and Dangerfield are to form a working group for the tender process and will meet to draw up the tender document. 3) The Clerk is to seek examples of tender documents and contracts for the working group.

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11) Sexual Harassment Policy

This matter was deferred to the next meeting.

12) To consider the issue of Parking Signs within the Village

Cllr Bentley had received a request from some villagers to keep the no-parking signs visible throughout the year, not just for the tourist season. It was noted that there a limited number of signs and the caretaker often needs to repair or replace them due to damage.

RESOLVED: to keep the situation as currently, to reduce damage to the signs which are assets of the Parish Council.

13) To consider the Invite to the Royal Garden Party

RESOLVED: That as only current councillors can be nominated and with good reason/long service etc, that no nomination be made this time.

14) Information from and questions to the Chair:

- a) To receive a report on YLCA Ryedale Branch meeting – no meeting to report.
- b) The Parish Council now has online banking, but it only requires one authoriser. To ensure proper payment authorisation, cheques will continue to be used until the issue is resolved. Cllr Bentley and the Clerk to work together on this.

15) To notify the Clerk of any items for agenda of the next Parish Meeting

- a) Speed calming measures – as raised in the Village survey
- b) Memorial Tree replanting
- c) Concrete slabs for benches
- d) Sexual Harassment policy
- e) Online Banking
- f) Caretaker Contract tender
- g) Changes to bins
- h) Costs for Wall repairs
- i) Potential Grant Income
- j) Cost reductions
- k) NYC Payment for Grass cutting 2025-26

16) Date of next Meeting: 11th February 2025 at Hutton le Hole Village Hall at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at: 9:05pm

Approved by Council and signed by the Chair

(signed)

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(date)