

HESLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday 20 May 2025 at 7.45 p.m.

Present Cllr Blacketer Cllr P Bramley Cllr R Bramley Cllr Garner Cllr Heap
Cllr Pearcy Cllr Pell

In Attendance City of York Councillor Kate Ravilious
Fiona Hill – Parish Clerk

Public 1

APCM2025/1 To elect Chairman for 2025-2026
Resolved Cllr P Bramley, Proposed Cllr Pearcy, Seconded Cllr Pell (Unanimous)

APCM2025/2 To receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office
Signed by Cllr P Bramley and the Parish Clerk

APCM2025/3 To elect Vice-Chairman for 2025-2026
Resolved Cllr C Pell, Proposed Cllr P Bramley, Seconded Cllr Heap (Unanimous)

APCM2025/4 To discuss the Code of Conduct Councillor Registration and Disclosure of Interests (Localism Act 2011)
It is the responsibility of the Parish Council to ensure the CYC website is up to date.
It is the responsibility of the Parish Councillors to ensure the information on their ROI is up to date.
The Parish Clerk will circulate the link to the City of York Council website.

Cllr Ravilious joined the meeting

APCM2025/5 a) To receive apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting
Cllr Richards
b) To consider the approval of reasons given for absence
Resolved Approved (Unanimous)

APCM2025/6 To confirm insurance arrangements for 2025-2026
Resolved Quote of £602.40 from Zurich accepted (Unanimous)

APCM2025/7 To appoint internal auditor for 2025-2026
Resolved Northern Internal Audit Services (Unanimous)

APCM2025/8 To discuss Training/Professional Development
The Parish Council, in line with the statement of intent, would consider its training needs.

APCM2025/9 To discuss General Power of Competence
The Parish Council no longer fulfils the criteria. It has a qualified clerk, but insufficient elected members.

APCM2025/10 To conduct policies review
a) As listed on YLCA Checklist
The Checklist had been reviewed. YLCA has recently circulated updated STOs and FRs, which will be circulated ready for adoption at the June 2025 meeting.
b) Meeting Room Terms of Reference
These were adopted April 2015 and it said it would be reviewed annually, but this was never done, so would be added to the next agenda.

A member of the public joined the meeting

APCM2025/11 Yorkshire Local Councils Association:
a) To agree membership for 2025-26
Resolved The Parish Council would continue its membership at a subscription of £238.00 (Unanimous)
b) To appoint Parish Council representatives for 2025-2026
Resolved Cllrs P Bramley/Pell (Unanimous)

APCM2025/12 To receive report for 2024-2025 and appoint representatives for 2025-2026

a) Good Neighbourhood Forum/Heslington East Community Forum

Report – Received throughout year

Representatives – Cllr P Bramley/Cllr Heap

b) Ouse and Derwent Drainage Board

Report - *“The board continues to carry out it's duties in maintaining the water courses in its area . The ones particular to the Parish include Germany Beck and Tilmire Drain . These C.O.W. s (critical ordinary watercourses) provide outlets for the University lakes . They also provide drainage for agricultural land enabling crops to be grown. Routine work carried out this year includes , removing silt and fallen branches and trimming the grass banks. As a non statutory consultee for planning applications the board has responded giving advice on any developments which may have impact on the flows of water. The board is part of a consortium of drainage boards which is run from it's premises at Derwent House Crockery Hill. A large amount of work has also been carried out on the replacement and repair of the pumping stations which mitigate the effect of flooding particularly in Riccall Ings . Land subsidence caused by the previous Selby Coalfield makes this task even more important. Most of the cost of these repairs and renewals is borne by UK coal and the residual coal board”.*

Representative – Cllr R Bramley

c) Sportsfield

Report – *“Heslington sports field was gifted to the residents of the village by the Deramore family, to be run as a community asset for the benefit of the village in perpetuity. The management committee is a registered charity, whose primary role is to ensure that the sportsfield continues to operate for the benefit of Heslington residents. Another busy football season is drawing to a close, and both Fulford and Heslington teams have been using the sports field throughout the winter. Heslington cricket club seems to be thriving, and looks forward to another busy season ahead. As the play equipment ages, we are now looking at some chunky repair costs to keep it safe and operable. The main play structure is currently out of action and barriered off. The costs of these repairs creates real challenges for HSMC, as although we have reserves in place that can cover these costs, we do not have sources of income that can replenish those reserves, as the majority was provided by covid grants. The income from the clubs largely covers the operation of the grounds and pavilion costs. We are looking for grant funding for these repair costs, and will speak to the parish council to see if there is any way they can provide help for what is a valuable community asset. The sports field is a valuable part of our community, and the work of the committee is often overlooked by residents who are not aware that it is run as a charity, so please allow me to thank all the committee for their voluntary work to ensure it remains as an asset for the village”.*

Representatives – Cllrs Percy/Cllr Richards

d) Heslington Almshouses Charity

Report – *“The Heslington Almshouses is a registered charity, with the primary objective of providing secure, comfortable homes to elderly and/or vulnerable adults who are in 'need, hardship or distress'. It is governed by a board of volunteer Trustees, which engages Carter Jonas (Property Management) Ltd to manage much of the day-to-day operations. The Charity manages 10 dwellings (at Lady Deramore and Thomas Hesketh Cottages) where residents may expect to continue in occupation as long as they are able to look after themselves independently, with all the privacy and dignity that entails. Over the last year there have been a number of new Trustees appointed with the aim of strengthening the governance role and further changes are planned pending agreement with the Charity Commission. Work this year has focused on the development of a new Residents' Handbook and the completion of a quinquennial survey of the properties to help identify and prioritise the repairs and improvements scheduled for the buildings. The health, safety and security of residents remains a priority of the Trustees. Funding for the almshouses is highly dependent on the weekly maintenance contributions that the residents make, and these have had to rise significantly to offset the impacts of inflation on basic operating costs and safeguard the long-term financial position of the Charity. The underlying demand for safe, secure affordable accommodation remains as high as ever with a recent warning from the Local Government Association that based on existing trends the scale of elderly homelessness is set to double. (The Independent 2017 and Age UK Policy Position Paper – Older Homelessness 2019.) Almshouses are a unique form of social, affordable housing that predates modern forms by many centuries. At a time when there is a severe shortage of affordable local rental accommodation, the role of an almshouse charity is now more vital than ever.*

NOTE: King Æthelstan reportedly started the almshouse movement in 936 AD when he was so moved by seeing churchmen in York providing alms to the poor from their own slender resources that he funded a dedicated almshouse for the city's very poor, elderly and infirm inhabitants. Today there are some 1,750 almshouses across the UK providing homes for 36,000 people who might otherwise struggle to find/pay for accommodation”.

Representative – Cllr Blacketer

APCM2025/13 To approve the arrangement for the financial year ending 31March 2025

a) Annual Governance and Accountability Returns (AGAR) -

i) Internal Audit (Page 3)

ii) Annual Governance Statement (Page 4)

iii) Accounting Statements (Page 5)

b) the publication of documents required by Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities

- Internal Audit Report
- Annual Governance Statement
- Accounting Statements
- Variance Analysis
- Bank Reconciliation
- Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and other information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

Resolved Approved (Unanimous)