

HESLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE MEETING ROOM

TUESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present: Pauline Bramley Richard Bramley
John Garner Bev Heap
Rose Hilton Tom Percy
Caleb Pell Zena Richards

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

Public Present: 1 – Florian Bloc, Chairman, Village Trust

Public session matters raised:

Mr Bloc gave a brief presentation to back up their grant application, then left the meeting.

24/247 a) To receive apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting:

Parish Councillor David Blacketer

b) To consider the approval of reasons given for absence:

Resolved / Approved (Unanimous)

24/248 To record declarations of interest in items on the agenda: None

24/249 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meetings of 15 October 2024

Resolved / Approved (Unanimous)

24/250 To discuss matters arising from previous minutes:

- Yorkshire Marathon – The emergency access procedure for carers/liveries had worked well, so the Parish Council would send a message of thanks to the organisers.

- Tree Maintenance – Main Street –

Resolved / The Parish Council accepted the quote of £1310.00 plus VAT from Lewis Tree Surgery (Unanimous)

- Meeting Room – Prior to this meeting (6.30 p.m.) the Parish Council met with the Chairman and the Secretary of the Meeting Room Management Committee -

-- Roof works – Project Management

It was agreed that the most convenient time would be the school summer holidays, and it was noted that schools break up on Friday 18 July 2025.

The Meeting Room had resolved to pay £1500 towards the increased costs due to the delay.

Resolved / The Parish Council agreed, in principle, to moving to the summer holidays providing the contractor was agreeable and the Acre £5000 grant would be still available to the works if completed in the summer of 2025. The Clerk would confirm with PJVH Fund.

--Driveway Dispute

The Committee Chairman had met to meeting room neighbours, including the complainant and he was confident that an agreement had been received in principle. Two quotes would be requested for the necessary works, then would submit a report to the Parish Council for their records, which would be presented to the next Parish Council meeting.

-- Access Audit

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At their meeting in July 2024 the Meeting Room Committee agreed – “11. Access Audit - the audit findings were discussed, and it was agreed to move the handrail as itemised in the findings; it was agreed to place a white edge on the top step to the right of the front door (as you face the entrance). It was agreed to move the hand dryer in the level access lavatory to the R/hand side of the sink. It was agreed to look at (1) the small rise step on the floor joint between the main hall and the hall. (2) the step rise before exiting the fire door from the kitchen, potentially adding a drop-down ramp to the back of the fire door”.

Subsequently, Nick Allen and Malcolm Bowker subsequently looked at the level access lavatory and agreed the position for the pull cord alarm and where the sounder is to be situated in the corridor. In addition, they took on Cllr R Bramley’s suggestion for a low-level light to illuminate the step edge. They will arrange for both of those jobs to be carried when the hand dryer is moved to the clean side of the sink.

They looked at the fire exit from the kitchen and will design a fold down ramp to be fixed to the door and released for use as required.

Both the Meeting Room Committee and the Parish Councillors felt this meeting was helpful and further meetings would be arranged.

A specific meeting would be arranged before the start date to discuss with contractor issues including access, keys, etc

- Safer Crossing Outgang - Cllr Hilton reported that the foliage overhanging the signs had been cut back, but the stop sign had not been moved and the road markings had not been refreshed, so Cllr Ravilious would chase up.

- University of York – Student Buses, Antisocial Behaviour - Cllr Bramley gave a summary of the Good Neighbours meeting (22Nov24), which she attended along with Cllr Heap.

- Nature Recovery Areas – Future Plan – The Parish Council would chase up Craig Ralston. Cllr Ravillious would provide an additional Natural England contact.

24/251 To receive report from Ward Councillor:

The Parish Council had written (05Nov24) to Cllr Ravilious as follows:

“Heslington Parish Council write to you in your capacity as Heslington Ward Councillor, representing the needs and concerns of all the Heslington Community.

Heslington Parish Council has concerns about the new First Bus services U1 and U2 which have replaced the 66 and 67 First Bus Services. Several email discussions and meetings took place between December 2023 and March 2024 about the impact of university night bus services on residents. This was resolved satisfactorily for Main Street West residents, and assurances were given at that time by First Bus, yourself and Kris Fieldhouse that any further changes to bus services would only happen after consultation with Heslington residents.

At the September Parish Council meeting councillors received an update from you about the buses and notice that the First Bus 66 and 67 services had been changed to U1 and U2, seemingly without any prior consultation with the Parish Council or the wider community. Councillors raised concerns and spoke of reports of residents not being aware that they can use the new services, one person told a Parish Councillor that they were refused access to the service as it was only for student use. The bus stops themselves give no indication that the services are open to all. It was pointed out that there are no references to “Heslington” on the vehicles, only the university. The Parish Council chairman asked why this was and your response was that the university are subsidising the services. Parish Councillors were informed at this meeting that a letter would be sent to all Heslington residents to address the issues raised

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about the change of service, and making it clear that the U1 and 2 buses are replacements for the number 66 and 67 services. So far, no such communication to households on this matter has been made.

At the Good Neighbours group meeting on 22nd October, these issues were raised by Parish Council representatives. It is understood from this meeting that the decision about the change of services and the names of the new buses (i.e. U1 and U2) were made so they would be immediately recognisable to students. Further, it was concerning that the decision about the changes (including the bus names) seems to have been made through discussions between university personnel and First Bus without any input from York City Council.

Communication with the wider community now needs to be belatedly rectified. The lack of information to the village community reinforces the view in some quarters that Heslington residents do not matter to either City of York Council, or York University, and Heslington is just a place where the university exists, rather than a village in its own right. If the U1 and 2 are deemed public services, then the destination of "Heslington" should also be added to the front of the vehicles, without delay.

Heslington Parish Council look forward to hearing from you.

Cllr Ravilious had responded (15Nov24) as follows:

"Thank you for raising your concerns with me about the U1 and U2 bus service. I've had a chat with the council officers who manage City of York Council commissioned buses and they explained to me how the bus tendering works, and what kind of influence the council has. Please see their explanation below.

In essence City of York Council has very limited influence over bus routes that it doesn't provide financial support for. I will of course raise your concerns with Kris Fieldhouse at the University so that he is aware of the problems and can work to address issues with passengers being turned away from the buses. I will also ask it if is possible to make it more obvious that these buses serve Heslington.

I apologise for not managing to get my newsletter out with information about the buses for Heslington residents. The newsletter is at the printers now and I will be delivering it soon.

I will continue to do my best to serve the residents of both Fulford and Heslington and will listen to all concerns raised. I look forward to seeing you all at the parish council meeting next Tuesday and will be happy to discuss further then".

24/252 To receive updates on the City of York Council Local Plan:

The Parish Clerk had checked the CYC website and there hadn't been any updates since the last meeting.

24/253 To receive updates on the Neighbourhood Plan:

A grant of £4,375.00 had been approved by Locality.

24/254 To report and make relevant recommendations on new planning applications:

- 24/01845/REM - Variation of condition 1 on permitted application 23/01644/REM to alter the approved plans and elevations of interdisciplinary facility building @ University Campus, Lying Between Field Lane And Low Lane, A64 Trunk Road And Hull Road
Resolved / No Objection (Unanimous)

- 24/01935/TCA - Fell 1no. Ash (T1) in border of 1 and 2 Woodyard Cottages and plant another tree in a more suitable location - tree in a conservation area @ 1 Woodyard Cottages
Resolved / No Objection, subject to guidance from the CYC Tree Officer (Unanimous)

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24/255 To note planning decisions received:

- 24/01608/TPO - Fell 1no. Ash (T1), remove dead, diseased and dysfunctional material over 30mm in diameter of 2no. Ash trees (T2, T3) including lateral reduction of limbs over footpath on trees protected by Tree Preservation Order CYC260 @ Holmefield Lane – No Objections

24/256 To discuss financial matters:

- Bookkeeping for current year to date:

Parish Councillors had received a bank reconciliation totalling £64659.83, along with linked income and expenditure.

- Financial Management:

-- Bank Accounts - Savings Account, Signatories/Online Access:

Cllrs Heap and Pell were now listed as authorised signatories on the account.

-- Local Government Services Pay Agreement: 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

This had been applied as per guidance

-- Budget 2025-2026

The draft was discussed briefly and a decision would be made at the December 2024 meeting.

- Payment Approval:

Parish Clerk/Lengthman Salary/PAYE

Hello Technology Ltd Website Hosting/Domain Name £138.00

24/257 To discuss correspondence received by the council:

- North Yorkshire Police Monthly Report – Noted and shown below

- Annual Transport survey for the University of York – Noted and shown below

- Village Trust - Grant Application:

Resolved / The Parish Council agreed a grant of £900.00 (Unanimous)

24/258 To receive matters raised by members:

- Newsletter – The next edition would be drafted for December 2024

- Biodiversity Policy:

Resolved / Adopted (Unanimous)

- 80th anniversary of VE Day:

The Parish Council will contact CYC to find out what events are been organised.

Cllr Ravillious will contact Fulford PC to find out what events they may be organising.

24/259 To confirm the details of the future meetings:

2024 - 17 December

2025 – 21 January, 18 February, 18 March, 15 April, 20 May, 17 June, 15 July, 19 August,

16 September, 21 October, 18 November, 16 December

Important Dates:

Asset of Community Value, The Deramore Arms Public House, Renewed 12 October 2023, Expires 11 October 2028

Chairman’s Signature

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North Yorkshire Police Report October 2024

Type of Incident	Time and Location.	Heslington Report made and action taken by NYP	Total calls for Month
ASB- Nuisance	York Sports Village 13/10	Dispute between two groups of youths using racially abusive language	1
ASB- Personal			0
Burglary			0
Drugs			0
Vehicle			0
Theft	David Kato College 1/10	Theft of bicycle from key card entry bike shed	
	David Kato College 2/10	Theft of bicycle from outside accommodation	
	David Kato College 2/10	Theft of bicycle, lock snapped and left behind	8
	Keneth Dixon Court 8/10	Theft of bicycle, lock snapped and left behind	
	Vanborough College 9/10	Theft of bicycle - between 21/9 - 8/10	
	Alcuin Way 16/10	Theft of bicycle	
	Wentworth Way 24/10	Theft of bicycle from bike racks	
	Hickleton Court 31/10	Theft of bicycle from bike racks btween 25/10 - 31/10. Locks have also beeb taken	
Violence			0
Criminal Damage	Holburns Croft 10/10	Damage to boot on Volkswagen Polo	
	Kimberlow Lane 20/10	Damage to buses, widows smashed. Possibly from BB gun being fireed from wooded area	2

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	BUDGET 2024/25	BUDGET 2025/26	
-			
Income (£)			
CYC Precept	19170		
CYC Double Taxation/Grants	2000		
Donations towards Christmas tree			
VAT Refund	877		
Misc / Bank Interest			
NP Grant			
Total Income (£)	20,047		
Expenditure (£)			
Parish Clerk wages	5147	5327	Includes 3.5% inflation vs 2024/25 BUDGET
Parish Clerk PAYE adjust (TBC)			
Lengthsman wages	9123	9123	To be inflated once guidance on RLW data available
Lengthsman PAYE adjust (TBC)			
Insurance	737	749	Includes 3.5% inflation vs 2024/25 actual £724.
Tree Works			
Grass Cutting	100	100	
Subs / Membership Fees	255	265	As per 2024/25 Actual
Neighbourhood Plan / Local Plan			
Parish Clerk Expenses	150	150	
Pension scheme costs	535	535	
Audits	336	336	
Grants	1200	1200	
Newsletter	441	441	
Miscellaneous / Sundry items	250	250	
Maintenance and General Repairs	550	550	
Large Projects/Meeting Room	1900	1900	
VAT Paid (To Reclaim)			
Website			
Total Expenditure (£)	20,724	20,926	
Overspend/underspend (£)			

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ANNUAL TRANSPORT SURVEYS - MARCH 2024

Introduction

TPS Transport Consultants are commissioned by the UoY to report on the findings of its annual transport surveys, in compliance with the requirements of planning consent for expansion of the University onto Campus East.

The counts form part of a comprehensive data collection exercise, which seeks to ascertain the traffic impact of the University.

The transport surveys are aimed at capturing all movements to the University (Campus East & West), by mode (car, bus, walking, cycling and scooting) over a 12-hour period (0700-1900) and to provide a year-on-year comparison in the context of growth in staff and student numbers.

The surveys take place on the Thursday of the first full week of March; in 2024 the survey date was Thursday 7th March. The weather on the day of the surveys was predominantly dry and overcast, with no activities taking place at the University that would serve to impact typical traffic conditions.

Methodology

The surveys captured multi-modal turning counts at 29 different sites on Campus West & East.

Bus usage surveys are carried out to establish the level of use of public transport services in the vicinity of the University. 16 bus stops were surveyed.

Summary of results & findings

2024 student & staff numbers at the time of the survey were 24,500 - a 9.4% decrease from the 2023 figure of 27,056.

The number of trips to the University by bus has increased since 2023. 8,240 boarded/alighted in 2024, compared to 6,668 in 2023. It is encouraging to see an upward trend in trips by bus, in the context of a reduction in overall staff and student numbers.

The total number of University trips recorded has increased from 33,961 to 39,065 between 2023 and 2024 (an increase of 15%).

Importantly, however, vehicular trips generated by the University have reduced by 11% since 2023. There has also been a significant increase in all forms of sustainable travel, which is particularly encouraging in the context of the University's travel plan.

Vehicular trips as a proportion of all trips to the University is the lowest it has been since the surveys have been used to quantify modal split. In 2019 vehicle trips were 24.1% of the mode share and in 2024 this reduced to 20.2%.

Chairman's Signature

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