

# HESLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE MEETING ROOM

TUESDAY 20 MAY 2025 AT 7.30PM

**Councillors Present:** David Blacketer Pauline Bramley  
Richard Bramley John Garner  
Bev Heap Tom Percy  
Caleb Pell

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

**Public Present:** 1

**Public session matters raised:** None

**24/325 a) To receive apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting:**

Parish Councillors Zena Richards

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

Resolved / Approved (Unanimous)

**24/326 To record declarations of interest in items on the agenda:**

Cllr Heap – 25/00879/TCA

**24/327 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meetings of 15 April 2025**

Resolved / Approved (Unanimous)

**24/328 To discuss matters arising from previous minutes:**

- Meeting Room:

-- Roof works – Project Management

The Parish Council would contact the Contractor to ask for suggested dates/time for the pre-start meeting Invitees will then be contacted. Cllr Blacketer reported that initial Building Regulation Control advice completed. There will be further site visits.

Cllr Pell would research funding options.

- Access Audit – NTR

- University of York – Student Buses, Antisocial Behaviour – Ongoing issues - a large group , using drugs/drink congregating near the laundrette at St Lawrence Court backing onto the Holmefield Estate An incident of shouting/swearing in Main Street - the phone box had been vandalised. Reported to BT.

- Newsletter – The latest edition had been delivered.

**24/329 To receive report from Ward Councillor:**

The Park and Ride Consultation is now live. The litter pick was successful, assisted by Heslington Scouts, a lot of litter was collected. The dip outside the public house had been reported to Yorkshire Water. Quickline has made some progress from Escrick to Poppleton, but still had issues to deal with. Ward funding of £5500.00 is now available, subject to criteria. The Parish Council would email Cllr Ravilious with concerns about 24/01377/

Chairman's Signature .....

Date.....

FULM and 24/01378/LBC The Hive and 5 Main Street. There would be a Ward Drop In at Heslington on 11 June.

**24/330 To receive updates on the City of York Council Local Plan 2017-2033:**

Cllr Ravilious reported that the Supplementary Planning Documents were been updated by officers.

**24/331 To receive updates on the Neighbourhood Plan:**

Councillors are still updating all documents. The Clerk will reply to the consultant's email to inform him that they are considering their next steps.

**24/332 To report and make relevant recommendations on new planning applications:**

- 25/00879/TCA – Fell 4no. Ash trees in a Conservation Area @ Trees lying to the East of Peel Close

Resolved / The Parish Council objects to this application to fell the tree until guidance is received from the City of York Council Tree Officer. (4 votes in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions)

**24/333 To note planning decisions received: None**

**24/334 To discuss financial matters:**

- Bookkeeping for current year to date -

A bank reconciliation totalling £68916.83, along with an income and expenditure report was circulated around Cllrs.

- Financial Management:

-- Banking – Resolved - The Parish Council would proceed with opening accounts with Unity Trust Bank (Unanimous). Cllrs P Bramley, Heap and Pell would be signatories.

-- Policies – Resolved - the Risk Management Policy was adopted (Unanimous)

- Payment Approval:

Parish Clerk/Lengthman	Salary/PAYE	
YLCA	Subscription	£238.00
York Print Company	Newsletter	£105.00
Groundwork	Unspent Grant Returned	£4078.12
Zurich	Insurance	£602.40
Northern Internal Audit Services		£420.00

Resolved / Adopted (Unanimous)

**24/335 To discuss correspondence received by the council:**

- YLCA – guidance/information received and forwarded to Cllrs

- North Yorkshire Police report (April 2025) forwarded to Cllrs

- Good Neighbours Meeting Report (05Jun25) forwarded to Cllrs

Rose Hilton had resigned as a member of the Parish Council. The Parish Council thanked her for all her hard work.

**24/336 To receive matters raised by members:**

- Heslington Sportsfield Management Committee (HSMC)

Cllr Percy, who is one of the Parish Council elected representatives, along with Cllr Richards in his capacity as Chairman of HSMC reported as follows:

Chairman's Signature .....

Date.....

*“The land was gifted to the residents of the village in 1967 by the Deramore estate, on the understanding that it would be run as a charitable trust to provide a recreation ground for the residents of the village.*

*Over the years various grants have been sought to add a pavilion/ changing room facility along with a range of play equipment. Although these additions have provided benefits to the community, sadly little thought seems to have been given to the costs of maintaining and replacing them as time has gone on, and this is now becoming a real problem.*

*I was asked to join Heslington sports field management committee in 2019, and succeeded Bill Mclean as chair in the same year. It became apparent that the income provided by the rental of the sportsfield to the various clubs using it was barely covering the costs incurred, and the trust was often returning a loss annually. There was no provision in the accounts for a sinking fund for inevitable large repairs or replacement for the play equipment, which only has a limited life span. It would appear that grant funding for new equipment etc are much easier to source than grants for maintenance!*

*At present we have 3 clubs paying rent for use of the grounds. Heslington cricket club, Heslington Football club, and Fulford football club. I have pushed up the rentals for all 3 clubs since I became chair, and we have budgeted for these to continue to increase over the next 3 years, but we must be cautious not to push these too hard, as without the clubs use, we would have no income whatsoever !! Fulford football may soon have use of new facilities at Fulford school, so this income stream is not secure. The subs that the clubs charge appear to be in line with other similar clubs, so I do not feel we have much room to increase the rental much further. We have tried to look at the costs incurred by HSMC, and ensure that the costs that can be directly attributed to the clubs are covered by the rent they provide. (The maintenance of the pitches is largely carried out at a heavily discounted rate by the university, for which we are grateful.) The current income vs expenditure is largely balanced now, other than any repairs or renewals required.*

*Pre covid we were in a worrying financial position, as the reserves we had were eaten away by the continuing losses incurred. Fortunately, because the pavilion is liable for business rates we were awarded some lump sums during the pandemic, and we now have very healthy reserves of circa £30k. However, the netting on the play towers has become unsafe, and we have had to close this equipment until the nets can be replaced. This is quoted at just under £9k. The surface under the metal play equipment has started to fail, and a like for like replacement has been quoted at a similar amount. If we go ahead with these repairs our reserves will be down to circa £10k, a level at which our reserves policy suggests we should try and maintain, (being equivalent to 18 months costs with no income.) There will be continuing costs incurred by the play equipment moving forward, and HSMC will struggle to finance these from our own funding. We can apply for grants, but the ward grant funding is very limited, and any grant funding cannot be relied upon as a stable source of funding. We have explored other ways to generate income from the sportsfield, but these will only provide a modest amount of funds and would require considerable effort from members of the committee to generate, which I feel we should not be relying upon.*

Chairman's Signature .....

Date.....

*Heslington sports field is unusual in that it is run as a self supporting charity, rather than being the responsibility of the Parish council or CYC as most similar facilities are. The sports field and associated facilities are a valuable community resource, hence I would like to suggest that the sports field is financially supported by the Parish council in the future. This would provide the security that has been lacking for many years, and create a stable future for the sports field.*

*The way I would suggest this could work would be that HSMC will spend the existing surplus of funds on the current repairs required, until our funds drop to the level of reserves our policy suggests.*

*Any future spending that would take us below that threshold would mean that we would submit a grant application to the parish council. The parish council could budget for an annual amount to be allocated for this purpose, effectively providing the sinking fund I referred to earlier. I assume this would require a small increase in the precept, but I feel this could be justified as it would be allocated to maintaining a valuable community resource, that would usually be under the local authorities responsibility. If the parish council allocated say £4k a year for this purpose, it should allow funds to build up beyond the annual repairs requirement, and to create a fund that would allow for replacement of equipment in the future. Presumably this money could be ring fenced within the PC'S budget and only released if a grant is applied for by HSMC.*

*If we are not able to secure additional funding for HSMC we must seriously consider whether we should look to remove the play equipment altogether in order to remove the ongoing liabilities. This is something I really don't think we should do if at all possible. Hopefully HSMC and the parish council can work together to secure the future of the sportsfield”.*

The most recent draft budget figures were also circulated.

The Parish Council would seek guidance from Y.L.C.A. regarding long-standing grant giving.

Village Signs – All three appear to be in a state of disrepair and one appears to be dangerous. Cllr Percy would look at them ASAP.

**24/337 To confirm the details of the future meetings:**

2025 – 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 .....

Date.....