



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 1st July 2026 at 7.00pm.

Venue: Church Cottage, Main Street, Wheldrake

Present: Cllr Nelson (Chairman), Cllr Sneesby, Cllr Wood, Cllr Elsey-Jeffree, Cllr Reed, Cllr Batchelor, Cllr McCaie, Cllr Major and the Parish Clerk.

One members of the public.

The meeting opened at 7.01pm

MINUTES

26/84. Welcome

Cllr Nelson welcomed everyone to the meeting

Cllr Nelson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman of the Council

26/85. Apologies

To receive apologies and consider accepting the reasons for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Myers and Brown

Resolution: To accept the reasons for absence

26/86. Declarations of interest

a. To receive and consider any declarations of interest not already declared under the Council's code of conduct or member's register of disclosable pecuniary interests.

Cllr Reed declared an interest in item 91A.

b. To receive and consider upon any applications for dispensations.

None

26/87. Minutes

To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 27th May 2026 as a true and accurate record.

Resolution: To approve the minutes as a true and accurate record

Cllrs Atkinson and Surtees arrived at the meeting

26/88. Public participation

Any resident may speak for up to 3 minutes on any matter on the agenda with the session lasting no longer than 20 minutes.

One resident attended the meeting to speak in support of her grant application for a community event planned in the village. The resident outlined the aims of the event, explained the proposed arrangements, including accessibility measures and advised that neighbouring properties had been informed of the proposals. The resident explained that the event was intended to break even and outlined her proposals for the use of any surplus funds. The resident requested financial support from the Parish Council towards the event.

26/89. Reports

To receive updates from the following: *(information only)*

a. Parish Clerk

The Clerk provided an update on ongoing matters and actions arising since the previous meeting.

b. Chair

No updates

c. Ward Councillor

The Ward Councillor provided a written update, which is attached at Appendix 1.

d. Community Police Officer, including monthly crime statistics report

The Council noted the monthly police report. Two anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents were recorded.

26/90. Groups

To receive updates from the following working groups: *(information only, unless specified)*

a. Playpark and Village Maintenance

The Council discussed ongoing issues with glass and litter at the playpark and considered opportunities for activities for young people within the village, including whether the Youth Club could provide additional support. The condition and maintenance of the village planters were discussed, including watering arrangements. The Council discussed concerns regarding overgrown hedges obstructing pavements around the village.

Resolutions: The Clerk to contact the Community Police Officer and Youth Club regarding playpark issues and concerns, including potential support for young people; seek advice from a local company regarding planter maintenance; and post a reminder on social media regarding hedge maintenance and keeping pavements clear following the nesting season.

b. Defibrillators

The Council noted that all defibrillators are currently working correctly. Feedback was provided regarding the recent defibrillator training session, which had very low attendance. It was agreed that a further training session would not be arranged for a while.

c. Community speed watch

The Council received an update on Community Speed Watch activity. Due to volunteer availability, only one session had taken place since the previous meeting. During the session, 109 vehicles were monitored, with six speeding offences reported. One vehicle was recorded at 49mph, the highest speed recorded since the scheme began.

The Council noted that eight sessions have been arranged up to the 1st September. The Clerk will take over the administration side of the scheme.

d. WRA representative

Cllr Reed provided an update.

e. Christmas lighting/decorations

The Council received an update on arrangements for the village Christmas lighting and decorations.

Resolution: Cllr Atkinson to establish a WhatsApp group to coordinate arrangements and organise a meeting. The Clerk to contact Leeds Lighting to confirm whether an agreement is in place with City of York Council.

26/91. Planning

a. To consider and decide upon the following planning applications:

Status	Reference	Location	Description
NEW	26/01010/TCA	Wintringham North Lane Wheldrake York YO19 6BL	Crown reduce 1no. Maple tree to the previous reduction points (approximately 3 to 3.5 metres) and shape. Tree works in a Conservation Area.

Resolution: The Council noted the application without comment

- b. To note the following planning decisions:

Status	Reference	Location	Description
APPROVED	26/00878/TCA	The Old School House 38 Main Street Wheldrake York YO19 6AE	Fell 1no. Deodar Cedar tree; Crown reduce 1no. Elm tree over the driveway and garden area of neighbouring property - tree works in a conservation area
APPROVED	26/00860/TCA	Dovefields 38A Main Street Wheldrake York YO19 6AE	Remedial pruning of 1no. Cherry Plum tree in front garden - tree works in a conservation area

Resolution: Council noted the planning decisions

- c. To consider the following planning enforcement matters

None

26/92. Council Governance & Administration

- a. To receive and consider, for approval, Council risk assessments for Sandholes Wood
Resolution: The risk assessment was approved. Cllrs Nelson and Major, together with the Clerk, will visit Sandholes Wood, and Cllr Major agreed to undertake the bi-annual inspections.
- b. To consider a quotation for the addition of fidelity insurance to the annual insurance policy.
Resolution: To approve the quotation of £56.00 for the addition of £100,000 fidelity guarantee cover to the Council's insurance policy
- c. To consider options for Council online data storage.
Resolution: To approve in principle the addition of Zoho WorkDrive to the Clerk's email account at an annual cost of £42.00, subject to the Clerk discussing the practical arrangements with Cllr Reed before implementation.
- d. To consider website amendments
Resolution: To approve the addition of a Village Events Calendar and content submitted by local community groups to the Council's website, with content to be administered by the Clerk.
Actions: The Clerk to provide the website login details to Cllr Reed to enable a review and overhaul of the website; to create a Parish Council Facebook page; and to add the Village Events Calendar to the Council's website.

26/93. Matters for Consideration

- a. To receive and consider an update on VAS sign installations
The Council received an update on the progress of the VAS sign installations and noted the delays experienced.
Resolution: To issue a press release regarding the delays with the VAS sign installations.
- b. To consider maintenance requirements at Sandholes Wood
Resolution: The Council noted that maintenance requirements would be considered during the planned site visit to Sandholes Wood
- c. To consider village parking concerns
The Council discussed concerns regarding parking close to junctions and along the main street, where vehicles can affect visibility. Concerns were also raised regarding parking on Dalton Hill, particularly the impact on bus movements and visibility when exiting North Lane. The Council discussed the potential introduction of additional restrictions, including double yellow lines, noting that this may potentially move the issue elsewhere.
Resolution: The Clerk to contact Highways to request a site visit to discuss the parking concerns raised, preferably at 8.00am.
- d. To review and consider quotations for a new bench under minute reference 26/45/A
The Council discussed a potential location for the new bench on the verge opposite the school, near the existing salt bin.
Resolution: To approve the purchase of a Sandwick bench from NBB Recycled Furniture at a cost of £444.

Action: Cllr Nelson to progress the proposed location with Public Realm. The Clerk to contact Cllr Myers regarding delivery arrangements.

- e. To consider a formal request for an extension to the 30mph speed limit on Church Lane me to do approve

Resolution: The Council approved the submission of a formal request for an extension to the 30mph speed limit on Church Lane. The Clerk to submit the request.

- f. Boundary Review – to consider a response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England consultation on draft ward proposals and any coordination with neighbouring parish councils.

The Council discussed the proposed ward arrangements and raised concerns regarding the creation of a larger “super ward”. Concerns were raised that the proposed ward would be significantly larger than others, would not be practical due to the geographical spread of villages, the lack of shared community links, and the number of councillors allocated.

Resolution: To submit a response objecting to the proposed ward arrangements. Cllr Nelson to submit the response jointly with Elvington Parish Council.

- g. Defibrillator at Wheldrake Nature Reserve – to consider arrangements for registration, ownership, and ongoing maintenance responsibility following installation

The Council considered the arrangements for the newly installed defibrillator at Wheldrake Nature Reserve. The Council discussed registration, ownership, and ongoing maintenance responsibilities, including the costs and benefits of taking on responsibility for the unit. It was noted that the defibrillator would provide wider benefit to visitors to the Nature Reserve.

The Council agreed that the defibrillator should be registered in Natural England’s name, with the Council providing support with the registration process and operation of the unit.

Resolution: The defibrillator to remain the responsibility of Natural England, who will register the unit in their name. Cllr Elsey-Jeffree to provide support with registration and demonstrate the setup and use of the defibrillator.

- h. To consider any required donations following the defibrillator training

Resolution: To approve a donation of £200 to the Air Ambulance

- i. To consider a grant application from Greengales entertainment

Council considered the grant application and noted the benefit of supporting a community event for the village. Council had regard to feedback received through the resident survey, which identified that residents would like to see more village events and activities taking place. The Clerk advised that Local Government Act 1972, section 145 provided the relevant statutory power for the Council to consider the application. The application stated that the organisers were an informal community group and requested funding specifically towards the provision of toilet and stage facilities for the event. The Council noted that should the grant be approved, payment would be made directly to the relevant suppliers rather than to the applicant in accordance with the Council’s grant arrangements.

The Council noted the applicant’s statement that the event was not intended to generate a profit and that, should a surplus be generated, a proportion would be donated to a village community organisation, with any remainder retained to support future community events.

Resolution: To approve a grant of £7,000 towards the provision of toilet and stage facilities under Local Government Act 1972, s.145.

Following the resolution, the Council discussed practical matters arising from the grant award, including whether the Parish Council logo should be included on promotional materials and the availability of tickets for Wheldrake residents.

Action: The Clerk to publish information on the Parish Council Facebook page advising residents that tickets were available and encouraging anyone wishing to attend to purchase tickets promptly.

26/94. Finance

- a. To receive and note the bank reconciliation for May 2026 and current bank balances

Resolution: The Council received and noted the bank reconciliation for May 2026, confirming a net balance of £70,775.75 as at 31st May 2026.

- b. To approve the payments presented for authorisation up to the 18th June 2026 and any other invoices that come in prior to the meeting:

Description	Expenditure
Salaries	Net Salary
HMRC – PAYE	106.59
Zurich Insurance (subject to council approval)	56.00

Resolution: To approve the schedule of payments presented

26/95. Correspondence

To consider any correspondence received and decide upon any necessary actions

Beck Lane: The Council considered correspondence regarding weeds, dog mess and a request to plant fruit trees. The Clerk provided an update from City of York Council regarding land ownership and will investigate options further, including potential responsibility for the area.

Action: The Clerk to make further enquiries regarding ownership/management and report back to the next meeting.

Wheldrake Surgery/Water Tower Site: The Council noted correspondence regarding wildlife and a request for hedgehog signs. The resident has been directed to City of York Council Planning and Ward Cllr Vassie.

Hedge/Vegetation Maintenance: The Council noted further correspondence from a resident regarding hedge cutting. The resident has been advised to raise concerns directly with City of York Council as the responsible authority.

26/96. To note any agenda items for the next meeting

None

26/97. Date of the next meeting: 29th July 2026 at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.48pm

Signed

Cllr S Nelson, Chairman
29th July 2026

Appendix 1

Here is a summary of what I have been doing for Wheldrake residents the past few weeks.

1. Cycle Path

I have had a very constructive meeting with the heads of Economy and Transport for the combined authority. If I convince the current executive members to see the big picture City of York Council should be able to receive the funding and staff resource to sort out the land acquisition and legal contracts for the cycle path. The combined authority heads have accepted an invitation to come to Wheldrake and see the new Wheldrake Ings nature centre for themselves.

2. Hedgehog signs

I took Richard Webb, the new chief operating officer for CYC round all the villages in the ward 2 ½ weeks ago. He was appalled at how long it was taking to get something as simple and obviously popular as hedgehog warning signs approved by highways and installed. If the city council cannot do something as small as this, it is not surprising that people are losing confidence in local government. The executive member is now also on board and pushing to sort this out.

Richard Webb also saw for himself a host of other issues: council homes where windows don't open even though they are meant to be used in the event of a fire; real-time display signs that still don't work properly after 10 months. He was very impressed by the new Natural England centre on Wheldrake Ings and sees why we are so keen to see a transformation of access between the village and the city via cycle paths and public transport.

3. Dangerous bend warning signs

I have escalated everything on the council's failure to cut back vegetation around the chevrons and dangerous bend maximum speeds signs on the B1228. Six weeks after being advised of the issue the council's public realm and highways departments are fighting among themselves about who is responsible. The story will shortly be going to the Press.