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Wheldrake Parish Council

Official Minutes of an Ordinary Council Meeting of WHELDRAKE PARISH COUNCIL
Date: Thursday 29th October 2026
Time: 7.00pm,
Venue: Church Cottage, Main Street, Wheldrake

Present: Cllr Nelson (Chair), Cllr Southern, Cllr Batchelor, Cllr Sneesby, Cllr Surtees, Cllr Elsey-Jeffree, Cllr Reed, Cllr McCaie and Cllr Brown
No members of the public
Officer – J Bedford, Clerk

Meeting started: 7.00pm

MINUTES

26/137. Welcome
Cllr Nelson welcomed everyone to the meeting

26/138. Apologies
To receive apologies and consider accepting the reasons for absence.
Apologies were received from Cllr Major, Myers and Atkinson
Resolved: To accept the reasons for absence

Agenda item 150 was brought forward and considered after agenda item 138.

26/139. 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.
No declarations of interest were made. Cllr Nelson mentioned a neighbouring property's tree application (26/01927/TCA), but confirmed that it did not affect her property.
b. To receive and consider upon any applications for dispensations.
None received

26/140. Minutes
To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 30th September 2026 as a true and accurate record.
Resolved: To approve the minutes as a true and accurate record

26/141. 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.
No members of the public were present

26/142. Reports
To receive updates from the following: *(information only)*
a. Parish Clerk
The Clerk provided the following updates:
- **The Clerk had spoken with neighbouring parish councils regarding the bus contribution.**
- **Streetscape had commenced work on installing the new swings at the playpark.**
- **Playscheme is scheduled to replace the nest swing beam on the 10th November. The nest swing has been delivered to them.**
- **The streetlight connections for the Christmas lights have been completed.**

b. Chair
The Chair reported that Public Realm had been contacted regarding the bench location and the gap in the playpark hedge.
There had been no further progress from the Environment Officer regarding fencing off the wildflower area. Cllr Southern had arranged for the area to be cut.

c. Ward Councillor
The written report from the Ward Councillor was received and is attached as an appendix to the minutes.
Ward Cllr Vassie arrived at the meeting

d. Community Police Officer, including monthly crime statistics report

Police reports for September and October were received, recording four reported incidents.

PCSO Charlotte Creasey attended and advised that she had recently taken over responsibility for community engagement in Wheldrake. She would email details to arrange an opportunity to meet residents, introduce herself and hear any local concerns.

The following matters were raised:

- **Anti-social behaviour and vandalism at the playpark, particularly during evenings.**
- **Anti-social behaviour on the Bramblewood estate.**
- **Parking on pavements at Millfield Industrial Estate, obstructing access.**
- **Speeding on Broad Highway and concerns for horse riders.**

Action: The Clerk to contact Highways regarding the possibility of Broad Highway being considered for Quiet Lane status.

26/143 MP and Associated Matters

a. To hear from Luke Charters MP and consider matters raised.

Mr Charters provided updates on his work with Ward Councillor Vassie, local businesses and Wheldrake School, and his engagement with local issues. He referred to resident casework relating to the Bramblewood estate and work with CYC to secure double yellow lines outside Somerset House.

The £92,000 sports S106 contribution was discussed. Mr Charters had no information on which organisations would receive the funding. The Clerk confirmed that CYC would determine the allocation.

Community Speedwatch was discussed. Mr Charters had visited the scheme and invited the Parish Council to identify areas where further support from North Yorkshire Police would be helpful. Mr Charters discussed mobile speed camera enforcement and invited the Council's views on how this could be increased in the village. Potential locations were considered, including Church Lane near Chapel Terrace.

Concerns were raised about the transition from the 20mph speed limit to the national speed limit on Broad Highway.

Mr Charters mentioned the extension of the £2 fare cap and highlighted the Mayor's Local Transport Plan consultation, open until the 22nd November, and encouraged residents to respond.

The Council raised concerns about CYC's refusal of the previously requested gateway features. The possibility of working with neighbouring parish councils to raise shared highway concerns was discussed.

Mr Charters referred to his discussions with CYC about enabling communities to progress certain minor works themselves, subject to appropriate requirements. The Council welcomed this approach.

The proposed solar farm between Elvington and Wheldrake was discussed. Mr Charters advised that the proposal appeared to have gone quiet following a meeting by one of his officers. The importance of addressing wildlife impacts from solar developments was highlighted, with the Lower Derwent Valley and Natural England actively engaging with developers.

Mr Charters mentioned undertaking litter picking at the park and thanked residents who help keep the village tidy. He also thanked the Council for inviting him to the Christmas lights switch-on.

Action: Parish Councillors to consider submitting a response to the Mayor's Local Transport Plan consultation.

b. To consider the City of York Council Local Plan Scoping Consultation.

The Local Plan Scoping Consultation was referred to, with members noting the information and consultation which closes on the 8th November

c. To receive an update on the planned construction traffic route for the Light Valley Solar Project.

Cllr Nelson raised concerns regarding the amended Light Valley Solar application, which proposed a construction traffic route from the A19 at Crockey Hill, along Wheldrake Lane and towards Escrick. The route would be used throughout the project, including decommissioning. Concerns were raised about the volume of construction traffic and its impact on the village and surrounding rural roads, particularly the suitability of narrow country lanes. It was noted that Deighton Parish Council also had concerns.

Particular concern was raised about the Pool Bridge Farm entrance, where vehicles turning into and out of the site create a potential hazard. The nearby bus stop, visiting traffic unfamiliar with the area and the presence of deer and other wildlife were highlighted. The signage already installed by Pool Bridge Farm was acknowledged.

The Clerk highlighted that North Yorkshire Highways had recommended the proposed construction traffic route, but the application documentation did not indicate whether City of York Highways had been consulted on its suitability.

Mr Charters agreed to make representations to CYC regarding the proposed construction traffic route, including querying whether CYC Highways had been consulted on its suitability, and seeking a reduced speed limit near Pool Bridge Farm. A 40mph limit was suggested.

Resolution: The Council agreed to support Mr Charters representations to CYC regarding the proposed construction traffic route and a reduced speed limit near Pool Bridge Farm.

Action: Mr Charters to make representations to CYC on behalf of the Parish Council.

d. To receive and consider an update from Ward Councillor Vassie on village bus provision.

Ward Cllr Vassie advised that progress on proposals to improve bus services over the Christmas period had been delayed by staff absences at CYC. He confirmed that he was no longer seeking contributions from the Parish Council, as the delays meant there was insufficient time to finalise the arrangements. He hoped to continue discussions with CYC to secure funding for additional services and would provide further updates when available.

The wider provision of bus services was discussed. The Council would welcome improved services, particularly in view of the proposed Langwith and Heronby developments. It was noted that the Parish Council had agreed to contribute towards the late-night bus service for a number of years and that the evening service was understood to be the busiest on the route. The need for continued parish council funding was questioned.

Concerns were raised that existing services were not sufficiently connected with other public transport, particularly rail timetables, and did not provide suitable early morning connections for residents travelling to York or commuting further afield.

Mr Charters advised that overnight parking was expected to be permitted at Askham Bar Park & Ride.

The Clerk reported that she had repeatedly sought clarification from CYC about how the £80,000 S106 contribution for bus provision from the Bramblewood development was being used, but had not received a clear response. Mr Charters commented that local authorities nationally were holding S106 contributions for extended periods and that stronger requirements were needed to ensure funding was used appropriately and in a timely manner.

e. To receive and consider any update from City of York Council regarding the proposed extension of the 30mph speed limit on Church Lane.

The proposed extension of the 30mph speed limit beyond the allotment and nature reserve entrance on Church Lane was discussed. Members also raised concerns about the national speed limit on Main Street/Wheldrake Lane and the need for the 30mph limit to extend beyond the turning to Escrick.

It was noted that CYC had previously declined the initial Church Lane request but had indicated that a wider village 20mph scheme could be considered if there was community support. Mr Charters expressed support for the proposed 30mph extension and agreed to make representations to CYC on the Parish Council's behalf.

Action: The Clerk to confirm to CYC that the Parish Council wishes to pursue the 30mph extension only, rather than a wider village 20mph scheme, and to send Mr Charters a copy of the original request report to support his representations.

f. To note the proposed Langwith and Heronby village development schemes and the recent community consultation sessions and consider a response.

The proposed developments at Langwith and Heronby were discussed, including their potential impact on Wheldrake and surrounding villages. Mr Charters advised that he had engaged with the developers and encouraged residents to take part in the consultation process.

Members raised concerns about the need for supporting infrastructure to be delivered alongside housing, including road access, public transport, schools, healthcare, cycle routes, community buildings and local employment opportunities. The importance of appropriate phasing was emphasised, particularly the need for highway improvements and community facilities to be in place before significant housing development takes place. Members highlighted the risk of developments being phased in a way that could avoid triggering requirements for necessary amenities and contributions.

The proposed access arrangements were discussed. It was noted that the Langwith scheme would require a new access onto the A64. The potential for a new A64 junction and bus gate was discussed, with members highlighting the opportunity this could provide to improve bus connectivity for Wheldrake. The importance of ensuring that highway improvements were delivered in the correct order was emphasised. The potential proposed roundabout at Crockey Hill as part of the Heronby scheme was also noted.

The potential for local employment and the provision of community facilities was discussed. Ward Cllr Vassie highlighted the availability of land around Elvington Industrial Estate and questioned the provision of employment opportunities alongside significant housing growth. Examples were given of other developments where community buildings had been required to be provided early and used as site offices in the meantime. Mr Charters advised that understanding the proposed development phasing would be important.

The importance of consulting young people was raised. Ward Cllr Vassie advised that he had raised this with the Head of Education and the developers, and would also feedback concerns that the Langwith consultation sessions had been held at times when many people would be at work.

The possibility of working jointly with neighbouring parish councils, particularly Elvington, to raise shared concerns was considered.

Resolution: The Council agreed to contact Elvington Parish Council to explore working together on matters relating to the proposed developments.

Action: The Chair to contact Elvington Parish Council.

g. To receive and consider any updates from City of York Council regarding the installation of the new Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS).

The Council expressed continued frustration at the delay in installing the new VAS signs, with the matter having been ongoing since November 2024. It was noted that the Parish Council had initially offered to fund the signs itself, but that funding was subsequently agreed through CYC and the Deputy Mayor's funding arrangements.

The Clerk had received a further response from CYC confirming that the project was at the procurement stage. CYC was awaiting confirmation from its procurement team of the most appropriate method before placing the order. CYC advised that the funding had to be used by the end of the financial year and that installation would take place by March 2027 at the latest, although it hoped to complete the work sooner.

Mr Charters advised that he had recently raised wider concerns with CYC about delays in progressing relatively minor community requests. The Council welcomed his efforts to establish a clearer process that would enable communities to progress certain works themselves, subject to appropriate requirements.

Action: The Clerk to forward the relevant correspondence regarding the VAS delays to Mr Charters.

Mr Charters to raise the delay in ordering and installing the VAS signs with CYC

h. To note correspondence received regarding a school crossing patrol and school warning signage, and consider any further action required.
The concerns raised by a resident regarding the lack of a school crossing patrol and the adequacy of warning signage near Wheldrake School were discussed. It was noted that the CYC Road Safety Officer had confirmed that a school crossing patrol can only be employed by CYC or the school, and therefore could not be directly employed by the Parish Council.
The Council noted that CYC had previously assessed the site on three occasions and found that it did not meet the criteria for a patrol. A request for a zebra crossing had also previously been declined. Mr Charters advised that he had raised the issue through a parliamentary question and received confirmation that the Department for Transport does not set mandatory criteria for the installation of zebra crossings outside primary schools. He offered to share the relevant correspondence with the Parish Council.
Concerns were also raised about children crossing near the junction of Dalton Hill and North Lane, and vehicles parking on pavements and in restricted areas near the school. The parking concerns were noted for referral to the PCSO.
It was noted that CYC have agreed to install additional school warning signs, although these have not yet been installed.
Action: Mr Charters to share the relevant Department for Transport correspondence regarding zebra crossings with the Parish Council.
The Clerk to copy Mr Charters into correspondence with CYC regarding the outstanding school warning signs.

26/144. Groups

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

a. Playpark and Village Maintenance – to include consideration of the annual playpark inspection
The Council considered future annual playpark inspections, concerns regarding the roundabout surfacing installed by Team Sport & Play, the gap in the hedge and the need to protect the wildflower area from dogs.
Resolved: Team Sport & Play was approved to undertake annual safety inspections from 2027 at £145 plus VAT for an annual inspection and £125 plus VAT for an operational inspection.
The lengthsman was approved to fill the gap in the hedge and install posts and rope around the wildflower area, leaving one end open.
Action: The Clerk to ask Team Sport & Play to inspect and address the roundabout surfacing edges.
Cllr Southern to contact the lengthsman regarding the wildflower area fencing.

b. Defibrillators
It was noted that replacement pads had been ordered for one defibrillator, which was currently out of action. All other defibrillators were confirmed as working correctly.

c. Community speed watch
It was reported that 24 sessions had been completed during the year, with 79 speeding vehicles recorded. A further series of sessions have been arranged for early December. Volunteer numbers have reduced, and recruitment will be considered in the New Year. The Council thanked the team for their continued commitment and excellent work.

d. WRA representative
Cllr Reed provided an update on the last WRA meeting

e. Christmas lighting/decorations
It was noted that the lamppost connections have been installed, but further information is awaited on accessing them. A quotation for the Christmas trees is also awaited from the lengthsman.
Resolved: The Clerk and Chair were authorised to approve the tree quotation once received.
Action: The working group to arrange installation and testing of the lights.
Planning for 2027 to begin in January, ensuring consideration is given to providing decorations at the Church Lane end of the village.

26/145. Planning

a. To consider and decide upon the following planning applications and any others that come in before the meeting:

Status	Reference	Location	Description
NEW	26/01875/TCA	Nevada 54 Main Street Wheldrake York YO19 6AB	Fell 3no. Conifer Trees; Crown reduce 1no. Maple Tree by approximately 2 metres - tree works in a conservation area.
NEW	26/01927/TCA	91 Back Lane South Wheldrake York YO19 6DT	Fell 1no. Conifer tree in a Conservation Area

Resolution: No comments were made on either application

b. To note the following planning decisions:

Status	Reference	Location	Description
APPROVED	26/01318/TCA	The Rectory 3 Church Lane Wheldrake York YO19 6AW	Fell 3no. Elm, 1no. Rowan, 1no. Cherry Plum, and 1no. Holly; Prune branch from 1no. Sycamore to give 2.5 metres vertical clearance from garage roof; Crown lift 1no. Turkey Oak by 2.5 metres above road verge. Tree works in a Conservation Area.
APPROVED	26/01411/FUL	2 Church Close Wheldrake York YO19 6DP	Two storey front and single storey rear extensions
APPROVED	26/01393/TCA	Willsford North Lane Wheldrake York YO19 6BB	Crown reduce and shape 1no. Hawthorn tree to previous cut points and slightly lift the lower branches - tree works in a Conservation Area
APPROVED	26/01417/TCA	The Old School House 38 Main Street Wheldrake York YO19 6AE	Up to 1.5m crown reduction of 1no. Oak - tree in a conservation area
APPROVED	26/01666/TCA	The Old School House 38 Main Street Wheldrake York Y019 6AE	Fell Ino. Silver Birch tree in a Conservation Area.

Resolution: The Council noted the planning decisions

26/146. Council Governance & Administration

a. To consider updating the village emergency plan

The Council discussed the need to review and update the out-of-date Emergency Plan. Members noted that this will require consultation with local groups and individuals to establish available support and obtain consent to include contact details.

Resolved: Cllrs McCaie, Southern and Nelson agreed to coordinate the review and update of the Emergency Plan.

b. To receive a completed grant evaluation form

The Council received the completed evaluation form for the event grant awarded in June. The reported final position showed an event deficit of £1,155.32. Members noted that the Council's Grant Policy, application form and evaluation process had since been reviewed and updated.

26/147. Matters for Consideration

a. To agree the final location for the new bench

Resolved: To defer to a future meeting pending a response from CYC Public Realm

b. To consider the introduction of village litter-picking sessions, including frequency, risk assessments and insurance requirements

The Council considered the proposal to introduce monthly community litter-picking sessions and the draft risk assessment and insurance requirements.

Cllr Surtees advised that the CYC environment and community team had previously provided training and equipment for local litter-picking activities, with CYC providing insurance and a risk assessment. It was agreed that this experience should be explored further.

No decision was made to commence sessions pending further clarification of the insurance and safeguarding requirements.

Action: The Clerk to contact CYC to establish the arrangements previously used.

c. To consider the ongoing management and maintenance requirements of the existing wildflower area

The ongoing management and maintenance of the wildflower area were discussed under item 144A.

26/148. Finance

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

Resolution: The Council received the bank resolution and noted the balance as £80,383.83 on the 30th September 2026

b. To note receipts

Description	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure
City of York Council – Precept 2nd Instalment		21863.50

Resolution: The Council noted the receipts

c. To note the payments made in between meetings

Description	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure
Festive Lights – Christmas lighting	1227.12	1472.55
Poppy Shop – Wreath	22.50	27.00
Speedwatch – Bag		14.99

Resolution: The Council noted the payments made in between meetings

d. To approve the payments presented for authorisation up to the 23rd October 2026 and any other invoices that come in prior to the meeting:

Description	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure
Clerk Salary – October (Standing order)		Net Salary
HMRC – PAYE and Employers NI Contributions		116.01
Land Registry Fees		42.00
Autela Payroll Services	50.63	60.76
Toby Johnson Ltd – Lengthsman	2,504.01	3,004.82
Defib Warehouse	50.63	60.76
Parish Online	420.00	504.00

Resolution: To approve the schedule of payments presented.

26/149. Correspondence

To consider any correspondence received and determine whether any matters require any further consideration.

The Council noted the generous offer from Pete's Gardening Services Ltd to donate approximately 300 daffodil bulbs for planting in the village. Suggested locations included near the primary school, village entrances, the Wenlock Arms and Braithwaite Green.
The Council thanked the donor for the offer.
Action: The Clerk to assist in obtaining the necessary CYC permissions for the suggested planting locations.

26/150. Co-option

a. To consider applications from eligible residents to fill the current vacancy

One application was received to fill the current vacancy

b. To consider an approve the co-option of an eligible applicant and to receive the statutory documentation

Resolution: To approve the co-option of Matthew Wild to Wheldrake Parish Council

26/151. To note any agenda items for the next meeting

None

26/152. To confirm the date of the next meeting

25th November 2026 at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 21.18 pm

Signed ……...

Cllr S Nelson, Chairman
25th November 2026

Appendix 1

Wheldrake Parish Council Meeting 29th October 2026
Ward Councillor's report

Solar Farm
I have had no correspondence from the Light Valley solar farm proposal people over the past few months. Assuming they are rethinking how to submit a successful application.

Hedgehog Sign & signs outside school
The city council have gone silent on the hedgehog sign. My conversation this week suggests that Highways have decided to ignore the sign's existence. At a recent meeting with the council's CEO we agreed that it would be helpful if the council drew up a protocol that would set out what signs were acceptable and what factors had to be taken into account to put up some signs without needing to go through a complex formal process.

While the city council doesn't want sign posts or lamp post covered in signage, to avoid drowning in street clutter, it is acknowledged that the current approach can be over-bureaucratic and over-long. The parish council might wish to adopt the same approach as for the hedgehog sign to install a couple of signs to advise passing drivers of their proximity to the primary school.

VAS Sign
I am following the exchange regarding the VAS sign but have no news as to when it will actually be signed off. The administration's decision to keep central control over everything is, in my view, adding to the delays.

Bus 'realtime' displays
I am aware that the displays at our bus stops are still not working fifteen months since they were installed. I continue to try to persuade CYC to fix this.

S106 funding
For information: the city council has over £13m in S106 contributions sitting unspent in bank accounts. I am on a committee trying to sort out the mess. Some monies paid to CYC have been sitting there for over a decade. Included in this sum is about £1m intended for parks & open spaces and play areas. I am working with others to see how we might release some of this money to help pay for repairs to play equipment in rural wards. The council's entire playground budget (around £1m) was spent in city wards this year. Elvington Parish Council are currently looking at the condition of their play area are producing three scenarios for improving/repairing/maintaining their equipment in the hope that if some of this S106 money is released then they can benefit from it.

Boundary Commission
You will I trust all be aware that our appeal against merging Wheldrake Ward with Dunnington was successful. The two wards are remaining separate.

Langwith Village
Following the 2 day design meeting at the airfield, the developers have drawn up a presentation ahead of preparing their planning application that they intend to submit before the end of the year.

There is still time to view the proposals onlne and submit comments. As the parish council will know the airfield site is listed for housing on the adopted Local Plan so the issue is not whether or not houses can be built but rather what will be built.

I have suggested to the developers and the education team at CYC that they need to take the pop up banners and proposal to Fulford School, Archbishop Holgate's School and York College, in order to

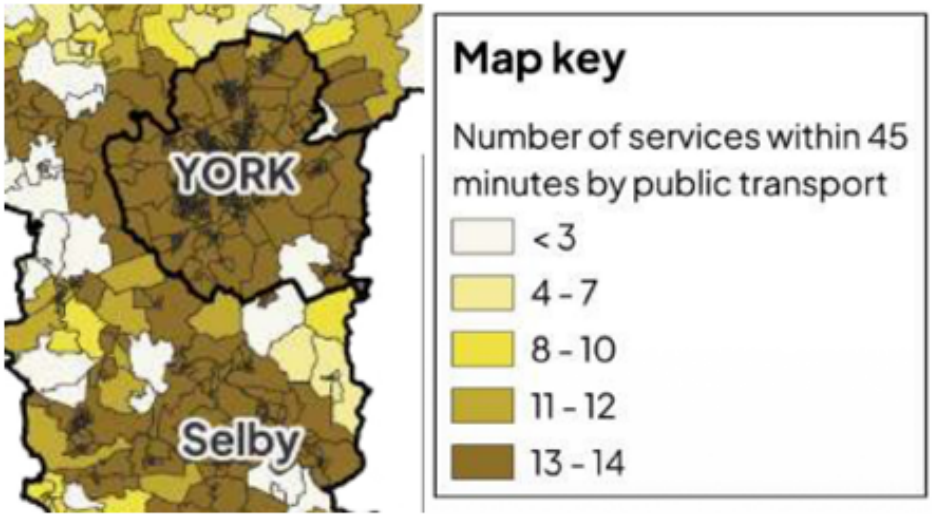
allow young people to comment on the scheme, as they will be the ones living longest with whatever is built. Both Head of Education and Developers responded positively to the idea.

Cycle path
I continue to push for the city council to work with the Combined Authority (CA) to sort out the land & legal side of the cycle path, as proposed by Sustrans for years ago. This is the moment to sort this out, *before* any Langwith village scheme is approved and I am holding regular meetings with senior management at the combined authority and the city council to move this along. I am also grateful to have Luke Charters' support.

Many of the city council's transport powers are disappearing as they transfer to the CA and the mayor. There is a real risk that our voices will be lost as all the money shifts away. The mayor has £115 million to spend every year and It is not simply about a safe cycle path for Wheldrake and Elvington villagers seeking to access York (important though this is), but also for city dwellers seeking to enjoy the countryside and there are clear benefits for tourism and for the rural economy. The economic benefits are clear.

The CA have the power to fund a revist of the feasibility study produced by Sustrans and to pay for sorting out the rights along the cycle path. The developers see the importance of the path to Active Travel across the south of York.

Bus services
I had hoped to have a fully fleshed out proposal to put before you. The city council has been failing to put on proper bus services to Wheldrake and Elvington for decades, as the map (taken from the mayor's draft Local Transport Plan clearly shows. we are the white patch in the bottom right hand corner.)



Staff leave is delaying things. Given those delays if an expanded service *is* approved for this Christmas it will be too late for CYC to expect contributions from the parish councils.

Council officers accept that if congestion along Fulford Road is to be eased then better village bus services are a must. They also accept that with the Designer Outlet car parks being full to capacity over the Christmas period, expecting village residents to use the park & ride is fanciful.

I will provide updates as soon as I have them.
Cllr Christian Vassie, Wheldrake Ward Councillor. 28th October 2026