

Washburn Parish Council

Meeting: Annual Council Meeting

Date: 19th May 2025

Venue: Norwood Social Hall

Commenced: 7.15 pm
Concluded: 9.13 pm

Members Present Cllr G Hebblethwaite (Chair)
Cllrs H Barker, A Campbell, J Davison, G Knox, S Ryder

In Attendance: Cllr N Hull (North Yorkshire Council), Dr J Knowles (Parish Clerk), Amanda White (Northern Powergrid – Customer Service Manager North Yorkshire), Phil Banks (Northern Powergrid – Faults Programme Manager)

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

It was resolved that Cllr G Hebblethwaite be appointed Chair for the Year 2025/2026.

Proposed: Cllr S Ryder
Seconded: Cllr G Knox
Votes for: All Members present

The Chair, Cllr G Hebblethwaite agreed the position with the signing of the declaration of office.

It was resolved that Cllr J Davison be appointed Vice Chair for 2025/2026.

Proposed: Cllr G Knox
Seconded: Cllr S Ryder
Votes for: All Members present

The Vice Chair, Cllr J Davison agreed the position with the signing of the declaration of office as Vice Chair.

2. Apologies

Apologies received from: Cllr P Green, A Johnson, F Walkinshaw, K Wilson

The Council record that it formally accepts Cllr A Johnson reason for missing the meeting. It has received an email to state that she has been unable to return from holiday due to the airline changing

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest, of any nature, were received.

4. Minutes for approval:

Resolved: the minutes of Full Council held on 3rd March 2025 were approved for accuracy by Cllr H Barker and seconded by Cllr A Campbell, agreed unanimously and signed by the Chair

5. Northern Powergrid

Amanda White and Phil Banks from Northern Powergrid made a presentation to Council.

Washburn parish is a rural area that is served by overhead lines fed from a substation in Pool-in-Wharfedale. This area is at the end of the 8-mile overhead lines.

Northern Powergrid undertake regular patrols of the line to look for faults and annual vegetation management programme. They do rely on customers to let them know if the power goes off by ringing 105 and ideally providing What 3 Words locations.

Northern Powergrid are intending to review and increase the number of radio-controlled switches in the local area to help restore electricity more quickly in the event of a power cut.

In 2025, the HG3 area experienced seven separate unplanned interruptions on the high voltage network. The main causes of disruption are weather events (storms, high winds, ice), contact with trees, wind borne debris, bird strikes.

Northern Powergrid Foundation provide grants to enable parishes to become resilient – for example, to set up warm hubs by providing a generator for heat and hot drinks. Some areas experience a phone blackout so you could purchase satellite phones to assist the most vulnerable. There are also Priority Services Membership for vulnerable people in the community and Winter Walmer packs available.

Chair thanked Northern Powergrid for attending and their presentation.

6. County Matters

Cllr N Hull outlined that works remain on schedule at Kex Gill for completion in Spring 2026. An additional £12M from Council reserves has been set aside.

North Yorkshire Council are facing a difficult financial situation as there has been a reduction in central government funding. This will lead to a reduction in services.

The Councillor Locality Grant has been reduced to £5,000 per year.

The 20's Plenty campaign led to North Yorkshire Council undertaking an appraisal of streets and highways across the county. In Harrogate 190 streets will see speed limits reduced to 20mph.

The recent Boundary Commission review has said there are too many councillors in North Yorkshire. There is an opportunity to take part in the consultation.

Cllr Hull will be meeting with the Chief Executive Officer soon and intends to raise concerns regarding lack of communication and action in relation to highways and planning enforcement.

7. Ongoing Issues

7.1 Kex Gill – covered in item 6 above.

Resolved: **that the report be noted**

7.2 Commuted Sums – the Chair confirmed that the new bench has been installed at Meagill Chapel. The current available commuted sums has been distributed.

7.3 White Crag Accident – North Yorkshire Council have informed the Council that in the current public interest they will be withholding any information at this time. This item needs to be kept on future agendas.

Resolved: **that the report be noted**

8. Internal Audit

The Clerk presented the Internal Audit report findings and recommendations.

Resolved: **that the report be noted**

9. Annual Governance Statement

Items 1-8 Approved.

Resolved: **that the Annual Governance Statement had been reviewed and approved by Council**

10. Annual Accounting Statement

Items 1-10 Approved.

Resolved: **that the Annual Accounting Statement had been reviewed and approved by Council**

11. Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

The Standing Orders and Financial Regulations are attached.

Resolved: **the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations be adopted**

12. Risk Assessment and Asset Register

The Risk Assessment and Asset Register are attached.

Resolved: **that the Council agree and adopt the reviewed Risk Assessment and Asset Register**

13. Insurance

The Insurance renewal statement for 2025-2026 is attached.

Resolved: **the automatic renewal from Arthur J Gallagher Insurance Brokers be accepted**

14. General Powers of Competence

The Clerks report is attached.

Resolved: **The Council resolves from 19th May 2025, until the next Annual Meeting of the Council, that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, to adopt the General Power of Competence**

15. Policy Audit

The Policy Audit Review is attached.

Resolved: **that the Council agree and adopt the current Policy Audit**

16. Police Matters

There were no Police in attendance.

There was three reported crimes in the Parish in January: 1 x Anti-Social behaviour at Top Lane and 2 x Criminal Damage and Arson at Swinsty Reservoir Car Park with no suspect identified. There were five reported crimes in the Parish in February: 1 x Vehicle Crime under investigation at Top Lane; 1 x Criminal Damage and Arson at Fewston Reservoir Car Park under investigation; 1 x Vehicle Crime at Church Hill with no suspect identified; 1 x Violence and Sexual Offence under investigation at Jonah's Lane; and 1 x Anti-Social behaviour at Top Lane. During March there were three reported crimes: 1 x Violence and Sexual Offence at Rues Lane unable to prosecute the suspect; 1 x Criminal Damage and Arson at Back Lane with no suspect; and, 1 x Criminal Damage and Arson at Swinsty Reservoir Car Park with no suspect.

17. Plans considered since last meeting

The list of plans considered since the last meeting is attached.

Resolved: **that the comments be noted**

18. Planning Application Decisions

No Planning decisions since the previous meeting

19. Correspondence Received

The following correspondence was received (21.02.25 – 12.05.25)

1. Nidderdale Plus – News from Nidderdale
2. North Yorkshire Council – Road Closure Notification – Wydra Lane 5 June
3. North Yorkshire Council – Changes to Bin Collection Days in Harrogate Area
4. Nidderdale Strategic Partnership – Relaunch
5. Yorkshire Water – Planned Mass Trespass/Swim at Swinsty Reservoir
6. YLCA – Harrogate Branch Meeting 9 June

7. Email – Timble Oak Tree Railings **Council agreed no works needed at this time and would be reviewed at the next tree inspection**
8. North Yorkshire Council – Parish Liaison Updates and Latest Council News
9. YLCA – White Rose Update

20. Highways Issues

Issues to report:

1. B6451 – Dangerous Corner to Brame Lane black/white chevron signage facing the wrong direction
2. B6451 – Brame Lane junction overgrown verges
3. A59 – Cobby Syke Road junction overgrown verges
4. Sourby Lane – overgrown verges

21. Maintenance

New issues requiring action:

1. Timble Four Lane End – cut back around junction and verges
2. Smithson Lane – cut back around junction and verges
3. Wydra Lane – cut back around junction and verges
4. Constable Ridge – Penny Pot Lane – to cut back verges
5. Meagill Lane junction – to cut back around junction and verges

22. Asset Inspections

Following the asset inspections the actions identified to be carried out:

1. Norwood Bland Hill seat – needs creosoting and weeding around the seat
2. Norwood Telephone Box – red paint beginning to crack and bubble

23. Finance

23.1 Accounts for Payment

To: All Members of the Parish Council		From: Parish Clerk		
Accounts Paid				
General Accounts		Mar-25		
<u>DETAIL</u>		<u>GROSS</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>NETT</u>
IAN EGGLESTON		945.00	157.50	787.50
UNITY BANK CHARGES (MARCH)		6.00	0.00	6.00
TOTAL		951.00	157.50	793.50
To: All Members of the Parish Council		From: Parish Clerk		
Accounts Paid				
General Accounts		Apr-25		
<u>DETAIL</u>		<u>GROSS</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>NETT</u>
YLCA SUBSCRIPTION		243.00	0.00	243.00
WHARFEDALE EMBROIDERY		126.00	21.00	105.00
UNITY BANK CHARGES (APRIL)		6.00	0.00	6.00
TOTAL		375.00	21.00	354.00
To: All Members of the Parish Council		From: Parish Clerk		
Accounts Paid				
General Accounts		May-25		
<u>DETAIL</u>		<u>GROSS</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>NETT</u>
KEN STEPHENSON INTERNAL AUDIT		80.00	0.00	80.00
UNITY BANK CHARGES (MAY)		6.00	0.00	6.00
WEL MEDICAL DEFIBRILLATOR PADS		75.18	12.53	62.65
AMAZON - LITTER PICKS		379.50	63.30	316.20
DFE UK LTD - MEAGILL CHAPEL BENCH		408.00	68.00	340.00
NORWOOD SOCIAL HALL		78.00	0.00	78.00
TOTAL		1026.68	143.83	882.85

Resolved: that the accounts paid be approved to 19th May 2025

Signed

Date

23.2 Bank Reconciliation

Resolved: to approve the bank reconciliation statement and budget comparison to 30th April 2025

The balance on 30th April 2025 stands at £16,725.24 (Instant Access - £16,582.71, Current Account - £142.53)

24. Next Meeting

24.1 Items for inclusion on the next agenda to inform the Clerk by 18th June

24.2 Monday 7th July @ 7.30pm at the Robinson Library