

Rainton with Newby Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Tuesday 14 July 2026 at 7:30pm in Rainton Village Hall.

Present: Cllr P Speed (Chair)
Cllr C Egerton (Deputy Chair)
Cllr J Harwood
Cllr G Honeybone
Cllr J Williams

Clerk: Mrs S Adamson
Seven Parishioners (part)

36 To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence: Cllr Jones

37 To receive Councillors' declarations of interest and consider any requests for dispensations: no declarations of interest were declared.

38 Parishioners' Representations

A written representation about planning application [26/02174/EIAMAJ](#) Erection of a poultry farm comprising 6 No. poultry houses and associated infrastructure, on Land South Of York Gate Farm, Underlands Lane, Melmerby Ripon YO7 4PS
The Chairman thanked the Parishioner who had submitted the representation and for providing an excellent summary of the most relevant information included in the 400 plus objections to the planning application. Of specific concern to the parishioners present was the adverse effect on public health of such an industrial scale chicken farm, particularly the toxic combination of ammonia and diesel which had been proven to be particularly dangerous for people with cardio vascular disease and lung conditions, pregnant women and babies. The Chairman noted that due to the huge demand for chicken and to meet new welfare standards demanded by supermarkets, 600 new sheds were required nationally and there were planning applications throughout the country on 14 farms which would increase production by 17 million birds a year. He provided this information, not as an indication of approval, but because the Planning Authority would have to consider it.

Councillors continued the discussion and it was agreed unanimously to object to the application; the Clerk to draft a response based on the discussion, and this is reproduced below:

Rainton with Newby Parish Council discussed this application at its meeting on 14 July 2026 and would like to put forward its objection on behalf of parishioners, several of whom attended the meeting.

Its principal objection is on the grounds of damage to the environment and the consequences for public health.

There are objections published on the NYC planning portal from several people with scientific expertise and the parish council would like to draw your attention to the submission by Mrs Mary Avery and to the email from Professor David Glew (a Rainton resident), whose summary is reproduced below:

*The evidence provided by the applicant's environmental reports confirms that the erection of this intensive poultry mega farm and the change in land use is likely to result in **1,000 times more CO2 and ammonia emissions** than the current arable land. This is clearly in direct contradiction with the NPPF, York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority Carbon Negative Route map, the North Yorkshire Local Plan, and the Gothenburg Protocol and the National Emissions Ceiling Regulations and should therefore be refused.*

The **Environment Act 2021** placed a strengthened 'biodiversity duty' on all local councils, including the parish sector. Rainton with Newby has embarked on a tree planting project on the old access road to the A1(M) which is used every day by residents out for a walk. The adverse impact of pollutants from such a chicken farm would affect the health of people walking down this lane (and of course more generally within the parish) and the wildlife which the planting was designed to support. It also undermines any efforts the parish council willingly makes to comply with the legislation.

39 County Matters

- a. Highways – to note any progress or new problems: the Highways Inspector had identified the blocked gully on Dishforth Lane which had been dug out and an order raised to carry out further work to get it running properly.
- b. Wathvale Parish Forum meeting on 21 July. To draft any questions for Karl Battersby, Corporate Director of Environment NYC: no particular issues.
- c. To note road closure on Sleights Lane for Quickline Communications between 29th – 31st July <https://one.network/?tm=GB150945426>: noted.
- d. To receive Parish Council newsletter and note their new website <https://parish.northyorks.gov.uk/> .
 - there would be briefings for local councils on the development of the Local Plan to update them on progress and publicise it to all residents;
 - the NYC Plan 2026-2030 had been published;
 - NYC was developing a new countywide 'tree plan' to protect trees and green spaces;
 - A new Nature Recovery Strategy had been launched;
 - NYC had a new Plan to strengthen action on anti-social behaviour, with a focus on early prevention.

40 Minutes of the Meeting held on 09 June 2026: it was resolved to approve the Minutes as a true record and they were signed by the Chairman.

41 Matters Arising

- a. **Min 30 (b)** to note advice from YLCA planning consultant: the Clerk was asked to resubmit this query to the YLCA and ask for legal advice from NALC.

42 Planning Matters

- a. Applications
 1. [26/03354/TDCMIN](#) Technical Details application for the demolition of existing agricultural buildings and erection of 2 No. 3 bedroom bungalows, at Grange Farm, Back Lane, Rainton YO7 3PL.
The parish council had objected to the original 'Permission in Principle' (PIP) planning application on the grounds of drainage, highway safety and increase in traffic. In response to this consultation, the parish council said that as the development backed onto farmland, the boundaries should be marked by field hedges, rather than walls or fences, for reasons of biodiversity.

2. [26/02174/EIAMAJ](#) Erection of a poultry farm comprising 6 No. poultry houses and associated infrastructure, on Land South Of York Gate Farm, Underlands Lane, Melmerby Ripon YO7 4PS: see Minute 38 above.

b. Decisions: none.

43 Financial Matters

a. Accounts:

the Clerk noted that the invoice from Braithwaites was slightly more than the original quote, as the troughs had a larger capacity and surface area than the design originally chosen. It was resolved to approve all seven for payment:

1. CE&CM Walker Ltd, grass cutting June £206.40 inc VAT
2. HMRC PAYE Q1 £122.40
3. Chairman travel expenses to YLCA meeting in Harrogate £17.60
4. SDL Services, installation of Glasdon bench and levelling of ground for stone troughs: £156.00 inc VAT
5. Clerk expenses printing/paper April – July £48.34 inc VAT
6. Braithwaites, plants, compost, labour, travel £205
7. Clerk's salary payable 28 July, Gross £304.20 Net £243.40

Thanks were expressed to whoever had cut back the high grass at Brakehill so that the flowers in the trough were more visible on entering the village, and also to the person who had been tending to the flowers in the trough at the other end of Sleights Lane.

b. Receipts:

Mrs M Archer, for memorial bench £762.50. Noted and also agreed that the bench was already being well used.

- c. To approve bank reconciliation Q1 and note bank balances: there was £1,651.41 in the current account and £10,929.02 in the deposit account. Copies of the Receipts & Payments and bank statements had been circulated and the Bank Reconciliation for Q1 was approved and signed by Cllr Speed and Cllr Williams.

- d. To note letter from NYC re Parish Precepting arrangements: noted.

44 Council Business

- a. Tree Safety Survey: to receive two quotations and to note that the Clerk and the Chairman made the decision to accept one of them for reasons of expediency and cost: the decision to bring the annual survey forward had been made at the previous meeting. The two quotations received were both from trusted consultancies but there was a marked difference in price. With the approval of the Chairman, the Clerk had asked Arborlutions to carry out the survey and this was approved retrospectively.

- b. To consider buying replacement pads for the defibrillator in view of the shortage of consumables due to problems in the supply chain, and in light of advice from the Resuscitation Council UK: although the advice from the Resuscitation Council was that expired pads could continue to work if the 'emergency ready' indication light was on, it recommended buying new ones because of the shortage. The Clerk said that pads were in stock at the suppliers and she was asked to order a spare set as a precaution.

- c. Update on the repair to the damaged wall at Sunnybank: it was noted that the repair had been carried out, probably by NYC whom it was assumed had taken

over ownership from Harrogate Borough Council. The Clerk was still waiting for clarification from the Surveyor's Dept at NYC.

- d. Re-instatement of verges by Quickline following installation of cabling: the Clerk reported that Quickline had inspected the verges and agreed that more work needed to be done to re-instate the verges, however at the moment the weather was too hot and dry for seeding.
- e. To complete a survey from the Combined Authority of York and North Yorkshire on bus travel provision and requirements: the questions covered adequate links to key destinations, such as schools, hospitals, healthcare, major employee destinations, leisure, post offices, shops etc and whether the frequency of services met local needs. This was discussed at length and various anomalies identified:
 - the morning express bus to Ripon bypassing the village, so that although it was possible to travel to work in Northallerton, it wasn't possible to work in Ripon, without travelling into Thirsk and catching the bus there;
 - the very early start for children attending school in Thirsk, and although the return bus left at 15.53pm there was then a long gap until the next one at 18.15pm;
 - if connecting trains or buses were late, connections to Rainton were missed so that the service could not be safely depended on;
 - there were no evening buses curtailing cinema trips or social events.
 In short, it was felt that the bus service was not frequent enough to be meaningful, with either a lengthy or too short a time at the destination. The clerk to respond to the consultation on this basis.

45 Correspondence

YLCA White Rose Bulletin: of interest was the news that the government had stripped nine local authorities of their power to deal with major planning applications due to slow and poor-quality decision making. It was likely more local authorities would face similar 'special measures'.

46 Exchange of Information

- a. The Clerk reported that following the removal of the requirement to publish councillors' home addresses, the Monitoring Officer had issued a revised form for the Register of Interests, which she would circulate. NYC was in the process of reviewing their Members' Code of Conduct and this could also be reflected in parish councils' policies. To return to the Agenda.
- b. Cllr Speed requested that at the next meeting in September, a decision should be made about further planting on Church Lane.
- c. Cllr Speed also prompted a discussion about the grass cutting: although there was nothing to cut at the moment, the contractors had recently been setting their blades too low and almost leaving bare soil in particular on Dishforth Lane. He had already mentioned this to Walkers but they didn't do anything about it, which was clearly unacceptable.
- d. Cllr Williams suggested that the bench on Church Lane might be moved to a position where it would be used more often. To return to the Agenda.

47 Date of the next meeting - Tuesday 08 September 2026.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.07pm