

Rainton with Newby Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 14 October 2025 at 7.30pm in Rainton Village Hall.

Present: Cllr P Speed (Chairman)
Cllr J Edwards
Cllr J Harwood

Clerk: Mrs S Adamson
In attendance: Two Parishioners

60 To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence:

Cllr Egerton, Cllr Jones and Cllr Williams.

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

62 Parishioners' Representations

- a. To note a written representation from a member of the public about parking in the village and the Clerk's reply: noted.
- b. A written representation about the 'siding' of the footpaths: the Parishioner who had originally raised the poor standard of work during the cutting back of the verges, had raised further queries about the progress of the remedial work. The Clerk had provided as much information as NYC had provided i.e. that the work was scheduled to be done by the middle of October and that reseeding would take place when weather conditions allowed. An additional request that the parish council should review the footpath widening, from the point of view of both safety and aesthetics, to ensure that the outcome enhances rather than detracts from the Village Green, was deferred to the next meeting with all councillors present.
- c. Yorkshire Water: a resident had suffered a sewage overflow in their garden during the excessive rain in July; Yorkshire Water had informed them that the sensors weren't working properly and new ones had been installed. They had also informed them that the three-monthly flush, last done in March and June, was not necessary, which contradicted what the Clerk had been told, that the schedule would be monthly. The resident also asked for organised support from the Parish Council. The Chairman noted that Yorkshire Water had refused to attend Parish Forum meetings until their 2025-2030 Business Plan had been drawn up. The Clerk to contact the NYC Ward Councillor Nick Brown, for guidance, as the Plan had been published.

There was also confusion about ongoing work at the Sewage Treatment Works. The previous work at the site had not been successful so different equipment was to be installed and wagons had started to reverse down Carr Lane again, in contravention of the planning permission conditions. Yorkshire Water had agreed that this was extremely dangerous and that it would ensure that their contractors complied. The Chairman to monitor.

- d. The Parishioners present wished to raise the problems of parking in the village which they said were getting worse, with residents unable to park outside their own houses; this was exacerbated by some residents who had off-street parking not using it. One resident said that although he respected the status of the Village Green, he had no other option than to drive across the verge to park his van on tarmac outside his own house. Councillors understood these frustrations and there was a brief discussion on how a solution could be found. The Chairman thanked them for their suggestions and assured them that these had been taken on board and would be investigated. The Parishioners then left the meeting.

63 County Matters

- a. Highways – to note any progress by Area6: no progress had been made but it was hoped that an update might be received later in the week.
- b. To receive a report from Cllr Speed on the meeting of the Wathvale Parish Forum on 2nd October: Cllr Speed had not been able to attend but had received the Minutes which detailed a number of criticisms over Area6 Highways' response to problems. The Ward Councillor, Nick Brown, had highlighted the publication of Yorkshire Water's 2025-2030 Infrastructure Development Plan and advised parish councils expecting an enhancement to their sewage or water services to have a look at it.
- c. Parish Liaison newsletter, including details of a consultation on healthcare provision in North Yorkshire: as this could be of interest to residents, it was agreed to publicise the consultation on healthcare in the newsletter.
- d. To discuss the flooding on Wide Howe Lane: Cllr Edwards was concerned about frequent flooding opposite Park House Farm which she believed was caused by a blockage preventing water flowing into a drainage channel in Baldersby Park. In torrential rain the water was deceptively deep and prevented vehicles getting through. Recently there had been signs warning of road closures but no work had taken place to deal with it, and the signs had now been removed. As none of the work to clear and improve the gullies on Dishforth Lane had started, the village could be very vulnerable to flooding again. The Clerk to remind Area6 about Dishforth Lane and ask them to assess the problem on Wide Howe Lane.

64 Minutes of the Meeting held on 09 September 2025: it was resolved to approve the Minutes as a true record and they were signed by the Chairman.

65 Matters Arising

- a. **Min 50(a):** To receive an update from Quickline Communications on their proposals for restoration of the Village Green: the company had been aware that the work was to an unacceptable standard and the contractors had now made improvements. The Clerk reported that Quickline had not been informed by Highways that the verges formed part of the Village Green and were unaware of the constraints. She had sent a map of the Greens to Area6 to remind them that they needed to contact the Parish Council when they were issuing licences for work on the Highway.
- b. **Min 53(b):** to receive an update on the offer from a local family to fund a bench to replace the recently removed rotten wooden bench: the family had asked the Council to provide some options as to design and materials, so that they could make a choice. To return to Agenda when all councillors present.

- c. **Min 53(c):** update on the Casual Vacancy and Councillor Co-option: the prospective candidate was still interested but hadn't made a final decision.

66 Planning Matters

- a. Applications:
25/02957/PBR Prior Notification for conversion of 1 no. agricultural barn to form 2 no. dwellings, at land comprising field and tracks at 437047 475420 Church Lane, Rainton.
The Parish Council did not object to or support the application but wished to seek safeguards as set out below: that the existing sewer is adequate for the proposal and will not contribute to further flooding within the village.
- b. To note two applications 25/03278/SCOPE and 25/03277/SCREEN for Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping and Screening Opinions for proposed development of an agricultural feedstock anaerobic digestion facility at The Grange Track YO7 3PQ. *Noted.*
- c. Decisions:
1. 25/02952/TPO Works to trees in Rainton subject to Tree Preservation Order 34/2025(HAR). *Permission granted subject to conditions.*
 2. ZC24/03370/FUL Partial demolition of existing workshop and yard for new self-build detached dwelling and garage and stores, and air source heat pump, at Beech Tree Farm, Back Lane, Rainton YO7 3QB. *Permission granted subject to conditions.*

67 Financial Matters

- a. Accounts: the following were all authorised for payment:
1. CE&CM Walker, grass cutting, 08 and 22 Sept: £412.80 inc VAT
 2. Open Spaces Society, membership fee £45.00
 3. Clerk's salary 28th October, Gross £304.20 Net £243.40
- b. Receipts: noted.
 NYC Parish Precept 2nd Instalment: £4,650.
- c. To note that the erroneous payment by HMRC Government Banking and Payments of £813.69 has been returned: noted.
- d. To receive the Q2 Bank Reconciliation: to return to the Agenda when all signatories present.
- e. To receive the NYC briefing on its Parish Election Recharges Policy: traditionally parish councils had not had to contribute to election costs, but would be expected to do so from 2027. The Clerk had asked NYC for an estimate for Rainton.

68 Council Business

- a. To receive an update on planting at Village Signs and Church Lane and decide on the best option: unfortunately, although Horticap did undertake outside work, they did not travel as far as Rainton. Plan and Plant in the village had provided some very useful advice but were unable to help as they were particularly busy at the moment. The Chairman was still keen to start the project with bulb planting on the Church Lane verges and the Clerk was asked to order 500 wild daffodil bulbs. The Council could then look at doing more the following year.

- b. To receive an update on the Emergency Plan and consider paying £325 for a community defibrillator familiarisation session including a free defibrillator health check: the Clerk reported that North Yorkshire had requested using a redacted version of the Rainton Emergency Plan as one of their templates. It was agreed that the invitation to the defibrillator training session would not be taken up as NYC provided free courses in the library. Cllr Harwood to research the possibilities in consultation with Cllr Williams.
- c. Biodiversity: to receive information and costs on the installation of an owl box by the Glad Trust Nature Reserve, Kirkby Fleetham: it was agreed that this should not be taken forward at the moment.
- d. To decide on how the Locality Budget (£250) could be spent: it was agreed that this would be discussed when all councillors were present, but in the meantime, the Clerk was asked to notify the Ward Councillor that Rainton would put in a claim from the fund before the end of the Financial Year.
- e. To approve revised Tree Maintenance Policy: it was resolved to adopt the policy, incorporating the amendments suggested at the September meeting.

69 Correspondence

- a. To consider a request from the North Yorkshire Citizens Advice & Law Centre for a donation: donations had been made in 2023 and 2024. It was agreed that this would be decided when all councillors were present.
- b. An invitation to the Chairman from the Church Wardens of St James Church to the Service of Licensing of Reverend Eva Dawn Ward as House for Duty Associate Priest for the Benefice of Topcliffe, Baldersby with Dishforth, Dalton and Skipton on Swale, on 1st October, which was accepted: Cllr Speed had attended this service which he had found very interesting.
- c. A thank you letter from the Village Hall Committee for the contribution to the costs of the Village Newsletter: noted.
- d. To note a letter from a parish council asking for support in their campaign against a gas drilling planning application: YLCA had advised that other parishes could object to an application even though they were not a consultee, but councillors felt that although they would like to support other small parishes, and although there was undoubted concern about fracking and its impact on the natural world, they were not in a position to speak on behalf of all residents who might have differing views on a contentious subject. It was decided that councillors could object to the application individually if they wished, but not in a parish council capacity.

70 Exchange of Information

Cllr Harwood reported that the Village Hall Committee was looking at battery storage from the solar panels as a back-up power source.

71 Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 18 November 2025.

The meeting closed at 9.14pm