

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF HACKNESS & HARWOOD DALE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN HACKNESS VILLAGE HALL ON FRIDAY 8th MAY 2026 AT 7.20pm.

Present: Cllr. P Chapman
Cllr. D Dickinson
Cllr. A Edwards
Cllr. P Foxton (Outgoing Chairman)
Cllr. M Hugill
Cllr. JA Lockey
Cllr. J McCormick (Incoming Chairman)
5 members of public, Mrs J Marley (Clerk).

Absent: Cllrs. J Hoyland and A Lockey.

- 1/26** **ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN** **Resolved** Cllr. J McCormick be elected Chairman for the forthcoming year.
- 2/26** **CHAIRMAN'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**
Received Cllr. McCormick's signed declaration of acceptance of office, countersigned by the Clerk as Proper Officer.
- 3/26** **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**
Resolved Cllr. Dickinson be elected Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year.
- 4/26** **ELECTION/CONFIRMATION OF REPRESENTATIVES/OFFICERS**
Representatives/officers were **agreed** as follows:
Coastal Forum Cllr. Dickinson
- 5/26** **APOLOGIES:-** None.
- 6/26** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** **received** from Cllr. Dickinson [personal, agenda item 14a), grant to Hackness Village Hall].
- 7/26** **MINUTES**
Having been previously circulated, the minutes of the meeting of 13th March 2026 were **approved** as an accurate record & authorised for signature by the Chairman.
- 8/26** **PUBLIC OPEN FORUM** Information was given in respect of a planning application on land to the east of Swallows Nest, Northfield Farm, Suffield.
- 9/26** **MATTERS RAISED IN PARISH ASSEMBLY & PUBLIC OPEN FORUM** **Resolved** the information to be taken into account when the application was discussed later in the meeting.
- 10/26** **REPORTS**
a) **Unitary:** No report to receive.
b) **Clerk:** No matters to report.
- 11/26** **UPDATES ON MATTERS RAISED AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS**
a) NYC consultation on proposed 30/40mph speed limits [*Minute 65/25d) refers*] – **noted** a 30mph limit was now proposed past Hackness School and on Storr Lane and Broxa Lane [*map circulated with agenda*]. **Resolved** this was a vast improvement on the original proposals but Council still considered it should be a 20mph limit past the school and asked Clerk to find out why this was not possible & report to as future meeting.
b) Bin near Wrench Green road bridge [*Minute 65/25e) refers*] – Cllr. Jeffels not present to provide an update on cost and emptying regime. **Resolved** defer to July meeting; Clerk asked to make enquiries of NYC in the meantime.
c) Public Rights of Way – Highdales / Lowdales / Spring Wood and Oak Rigg to Reasty [*Minute 66/25 refers*] – **noted** update from the NYMNP Chief Executive via the Clerk and report by Cllr. Dickinson in respect of continuing problems and obstructions of rights of way (which had been reported to a member of NYMNP staff on 16th April). **Resolved** Clerk to update NYMNP (including Cllr. Dickinson's offer to walk the problem paths with a member of NYMNP staff) and report to next meeting.
- 12/26** **COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**
Cllr. Foxton reported continuing problems on The Windings which were being used by articulated HGVs - **resolved** Clerk to contact Highways and ask for a meeting to

be arranged with a view to banning these vehicles from Southernmost Cottage Silpho to the junction at the bottom opposite Low Hall Cottage. He also reported the deer signs (reported by NY Cllr. Jeffels as "ordered" at the July 2025 meeting (Minute 23/25b) refers]) had still not been installed (**resolved** Clerk to get an update from Highways). Cllr. McCormick reported ongoing problems with overhanging branches across rights of way in the wood at Harwood Dale and her offer to contact the Woodland Trust was accepted with thanks.

13/26 **FINANCE MATTERS**

- a) Request for discretionary grant to repair Hackness Village Hall car park potholes [Minute 63/25 refers] **resolved** to be deferred to the July meeting to give the applicant more time to obtain estimates for the work.
- b) 2025/26 Accounts (*circulated with agenda*) – **received & approved**; Chairman **authorised** to sign;
- c) Letter from Internal Auditor re audit of 25/6 accounts (*circulated with agenda*) – **resolved** letter be received and contents noted. Bullet points 1-5 to be actioned by Clerk over next few months. Bullet point 6 to be addressed when the 2026/27 council accounts are produced.
- d) 2025/26 Annual Return (*circulated with agenda*) – 1] **Resolved** Certificate of Exemption be **approved**; 2] **Resolved** Annual Internal Audit Report be **received & noted**; 3] **Resolved** Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) be **completed** & Chairman **authorised** to sign; 4] **Resolved** Accounting Statements (Section 2) be **approved** & Chairman **authorised** to sign; 5] **Resolved** public inspection period to be 3/6/26 to 14/7/26 inclusive and documents necessary to ensure compliance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities to be published as necessary.
- e) Schedule of meetings till September 2027 [*list circulated with agenda*]. **Resolved** meetings to be held Hackness Village Hall on 10/7/26, 11/9/26, 13/11/26, 8/1/27, 12/3/27, 14/5/27, 9/7/27, 10/9/27.

14/26 **ACCOUNTS TO CERTIFY**

Asquith Accountants Ltd	Internal audit 2025/26	£342-00
Zurich	Insurance 2026/27	£248-99

Agreed invoices be **authorised** for payment, (Cllrs. Chapman and Hugill to do the online authorisation).

15/26 **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) Correspondence received after 1/5/26 & requiring a response before next meeting:
 1. Letter of resignation from Cllr. JA Lockey – **resolved** Clerk to notify Electoral Registration office. Clerk to write a letter of thanks for his years of service - Cllr. Lockey was the last remaining founder member of the Council from its inaugural meeting on 24th March 1975.
 2. Email and draft agreement from North Yorkshire Council in respect of the maintenance of cemeteries and closed churchyards. This tied in with a letter Cllr. Dickinson had received from Rev. Hand (the vicar of St Peter's Hackness and St Margaret's Harwood Dale) querying the status of the churchyards. Clerk explained that essentially this agreement was to replace the Model Agreement in respect of churchyards. She had studied it closely and spoken to someone at NYC Bereavement Services – while that person had intimated the agreement was a pure formality, there were clauses in it which the Clerk advised the Council it would be unwise to accept. **Resolved** Clerk to explain the situation to Rev. Hand; Council not to sign the draft agreement at the moment and Clerk to continue to negotiate with NYC; at the July 2026 Council meeting payments to be made to the three Parochial Church Councils totalling £1,156.88 which was the sum NYC had agreed for this Council at its meeting of the Executive on 21st October 2025.

16/26 **PLANNING MATTERS**

a) **Applications received:-**

1. NYM/2026/00062 Change of use of agricultural land to domestic garden and erection of garden room (retrospective) at land to the east of Swallows Nest, Northfield Farm, Suffield - **resolved** application supported on the grounds that

as the proposal is retrospective, some of the benefits of the proposal are already evident, namely that it has resulted in a much tidier appearance of an overgrown piece of land which is highly visible when entering the village and forms an integral part of the streetscene. Additionally once planting has matured then the general appearance will be softened and the streetscene further enhanced. The timber structure on site replaced a very dilapidated one. Donor property and application site were originally all part of the farm site until conversion began in 2000. No adverse impact on landscape character (Policy CO19). Application does not negatively impact conservation and enhancement.

2. NYM/2026/00115 Certificate of lawfulness for use of land, yard and buildings in the areas shown on the site plan for the storage of plant, machinery and associated consumables, repair of plant and machinery, along with the storage of associated tools and equipment etc. as part of my agricultural engineering and contracting business in excess of ten years at Silpho Brow Farm West, Silpho. Two councillors confirmed that over a period of at least ten years they'd had cause to intermittently use the agricultural engineering services of the applicant and **resolved** this comment to be submitted to NYMNP.

b) Decisions received to note:-

1. NYM/2026/0031 Listed Building application for repair and reinstatement of section of the east parapet at Mowthorpe Bridge, Hackness – **granted with conditions.**

c) Planning items received after 1/5/2026:- none.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

J McCormick (Chairman)

10th July 2026