GREAT AYTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly Parish Council meeting held at The Discovery Centre on Tuesday 6th October 2026 - 7pm.

Present: Cllr Baylin, Cllr Blackmore, Cllr Greenwell, Cllr Hawking, Cllr Healy Dufosse-Belton, Cllr Kirk (Chair) and Cllr Mason.
In Attendance: Angela Livingstone (Clerk), NYC Cllr Moorhouse and 24 residents. North Yorkshire Police PC Noble, North Yorkshire Councillor Heather Moorhouse.

26.101 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence, all Councillors were present. There were no declarations of interest.

26.102 Public Participation

The Chair explained the rules of a Parish Council meeting. Residents confirmed their attendance was for matters regarding the allotments and the new tenancy agreement. The Chair informed that the Parish Council had been faced with issues relating to the allotments, such as staff who are licenced to put down rat poison reaching limits of use and still not solving the issue. The concerns and issues sent to the Parish Council have been discussed on a number of occasions, the allotments were on the agenda regularly and the regulations had been on the agenda for discussion in August and September, with the regulations reviewed in September and approved. This was an annual process and would be reviewed again in 10 months to find if any further changes and amendments were needed. The Chair stated that he hoped that all were aware that an offer was made for a meeting to be made between allotment representatives and the Parish Council to discuss in detail the issues raised. It had been suggested that 3 people from the groups and Parish Councillors would meet to discuss the issues raised and see where all stood on the matter. He added that the Parish Council wanted to see the allotments being a success and continuing as vital to the community. He stated that the offer was still available if deemed appropriate and he hoped a date could be organised. He informed that the changes made all complied with the rules and regulations for allotments. This was not a situation in which the Parish Council felt that anything was untoward but were prepared to see where the differences of opinion were. The Chair invited any comments from attendees. The council records did not substantiate all of the comments made as being factual. The Chairman of one of the allotment groups stated he was speaking also on behalf of the Pigeon Homing Society. He stated that the changes to the agreement will change the ethos and wellbeing of the allotments and the tenants. The changes to the rules on chickens will mean no chickens in 4-5 years, this will be heartbreaking for many families. He questioned if the ducks, pheasants and quail were exempt. He stated that 75% of each plot needing to be cultivated with no more than 20% developed was impossible for the pigeon keepers. He stated that 90% of the barbed wire was on the plots when handed to tenants and this should have been removed before being rented out and tenants should not be responsible for the inheritance handed on by the council. He believed that IBCs had previously been encouraged and new rules stated these were not to be filled. He complained of the aggressive tone of the warning letters and social media. He informed that an eviction notice had been received by an 80-year-old man suffering from cancer. He stated that an eviction should be a last resort and letters should be sent only by elected members of the committee not employees. He added that the Parish Council should not have right of access to plots. The trespass notices on the gates effectively ban access to the community garden and orchard. The Parish Council had imposed a restriction on bonfires, but the employees bring waste from outside of allotments to the plot to burn. He felt that the changes were not well thought through, and the allotment tenants should have been consulted with, he said that those attending had no faith in the Parish Council. A lady informed that her husband had been from the village his full life and was bullied by letters from the Parish Council stating they had a full plot not 2/3rds and had needed to give the allotment up. She enquired if they needed to take the items off the plot from a person named John who was not on the tenancy agreement. A lady reiterated earlier comments and advised her experience of having chickens being a lifesaver for her, with having chickens getting her up every day and giving her a purpose. She felt that the Parish Council had no empathy. A further plot holder stated that the chicken feed did not bring the rats it was the location next to fields and water, alongside empty allotments with high grass, empty sheds and greenhouses. A lady who stated she was not an allotment holder but was part of the group to keep the site stated that she observed a lot of passion in the allotment holders, a lot of skill intelligence and craft, they would be able to write a new agreement. A gentleman stated that the tenants with chickens attended the site twice a day and there would be a security issue without their attendance especially in the winter. It was advised that a gang of ratters spent the morning down on the site and only caught one rat. A councillor stated that they should not have been allowed onto the allotments and believed that a dog from the group involved had killed his chickens, plot holders felt that this would have been done by a fox. It was commented that the gates being locked during the day was not common sense and that the first tenants in on a morning should open it and this could be closed by the last person out. It was commented that the Parish Council should work with the tenants to come up with best practice. The Chair of the Parish Council reminded that there had been the offer to meet and discuss issues which would be more productive and that the Parish Council wanted the allotments for community use.

Throughout the meeting 11 residents left the meeting, with 13 remaining till the end.

26.103 Police report –To receive monthly report from North Yorkshire Police 1st–30th September - ASB Personal: 1, ASB Nuisance: 2, Burglary: Commercial: 1 – theft of items from storage facility, Theft (including from shops): 1 – theft of scrap metal, 3– theft from shops, 1 – theft of fuel, Auto crime/SMV: 1 – theft of tools from van, Violence Against the Person: 3, Other crimes: 1 – non crime. Total This Period: 14. PC Noble commented that there had been a decline following the spike in issues

earlier in the year. There had over the past couple of weeks been a number of incidents with children of ages from 8 upwards, door kicking and damaging doors. This was causing harassment and many children were identified and officers had been into schools and given assemblies. Schools were asked to do modules on being a good neighbour and patrols had been increased. A resident informed of an incident where 20-30 children on bikes were causing mayhem at the train station and on the train. PC Noble advised that issues with children coming into the village by train and bus were known and the police do try to deal with this. He stated the usefulness of video doorbells for evidence. Issues with e-scooters and e- bikes were also discussed and it was advised that some had been seized. Cllr Healy Dufosse-Belton stated the thanks of the Parish Council to PC Noble, his team and the community youth hub and other services. He informed that in December 2025 and January 2026 incidents rose from the average of 17 to 40 a month with many concerned residents and he had been impressed to see how the agencies worked together and felt that the Parish Council were now more knowledgeable to work together for the future.

26.104 Minutes from the Parish Council Meetings held on 8th September 2026.
It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th September 2026 as a true and accurate record. Minutes were signed by the Chair.

26.105 Report from NYC Councillor – Cllr Moorhouse stated that the problems reported by the Parish Council regarding the state of the verges following Northern Gas works had improved. She informed that the works expected by NYC on the river erosion opposite Stokesley Butchers had been delayed by the other roadworks and was not now anticipated till June 2027. It was questioned if the bollards would be removed, Cllr Moorhouse to request an answer on this. She added that she had enquired regarding the planning application on Easby Lane but it would not go to committee until November at the earliest. It was advised that the Parish Council Facebook page had kept residents informed on the changes to the final date for any planning observations to be submitted and Cllr Moorhouse was asked to ensure that the committee walked down to the bridge from Easby Lane to see the issues faced. It was also queried if the parapets on the bridge had been replaced which would be checked.

26.106 Allotments

26.106.1 The Chair informed that it was anticipated that the Heads of terms for the purchase of the allotments would be in place in time for the November meeting.

26.106.2 Current matters report provided -to approve any requests and progress any actions – to progress separate meetings with allotment groups to discuss concerns

The Clerk had reported that responses from the offer to move plots away from proposed road had resulted in three requests to move, two had identified plots and one was to be taken to see available plots. A tenant had also informed they were giving up their plot. Responses from the August inspection notices to improve had resulted in 4 plots given up and 8 having given reasons for their lack of gardening and assured gardening would be noticeable. 7 had not responded. The allotment group involved in the community garden and orchard agreed that they would meet to discuss concerns from the inspection. There had been 5 gardens given up. Complaints regarding new tenancy agreement - email sent to chairs of three allotment groups offering to meet and discuss concerns following receipt of one query. Queries from tenants why barbed wire was needing removing, request for retrospective application for 4 chickens, complaint sent from tenant to MP, request to change decision on chickens, enquiry who decides on changes, there was no consultation and it was not discussed at a PC meeting. Other matters - report of stolen fencing, query from tenant if the PC had removed fencing /paving during inspection, report from tenant regarding broken gate lock, new lock purchased and replaced, report of unacceptable conditions of birds in allotment plot. The Chair reminded that the PC were prepared to meet an allotment group.

Cllr Moorhouse left the meeting.

A tenant stated that many plot holders would be giving up their plots as they did not want the changes. She added that the group wanted the PC to see this evening the depth of feeling before they met with the PC. It was questioned which Parish Councillors would be involved in a meeting. It was advised that this would be dependant on availability. It was questioned if the Parish Council had invited allotment tenants to the meetings where the agreement was discussed. The Chair reminded that the agenda shows what will be discussed and anyone can attend. The PC did not invite residents with planning applications to the meeting but they sometimes attended.

26.107 Planning Matters

26.107.1 Planning applications – Consultation Responses. –Councillors discussed applications and the following was agreed.

Application ref / Address	Description of Works	Parish Council responses
26/05461/FUL 25 Skottowe Crescent	Front Porch Extension	No representations
26/04845/DVCON Southview Lodge Low Green	Variation of Conditions 2 (Approved Plans) and 3 (Materials) for the alterations to the materials for windows and doors of planning permission	No representations on either application, the property was well shielded from view.

Application ref / Address	Description of Works	Parish Council responses
26/05316/FUL Southview Lodge Low Green	ZB26/00467/FUL - Application for proposed single storey extension to the rear of the house. Demolition of Portico and construction of new Canopy/Porch. Proposed new entrance gate and repairs to boundary walling. Erection of proposed garage and carport	
26/05455/FUL Tree Bridge Cottage Nunthorpe Village Road	Single storey extension to side and rear of dwelling, garage conversion into habitable room, raising roof of garage and installation of staircase to form first floor storage area, front bay extensions and minor amendments to previously approved porch details (from previously approved planning application ref: 22/00667/FUL)	No representations, the property was well shielded from view.
26/04091/LB 6 Bridge Street	Listed Building Consent for Replacement of 13 windows and the back door/frame Application Withdrawn	

An application had just been received Ref 26/03071/TPO 1 Old Mill Wynd - TPO application T1- Silver birch reduce by 10%, T2- Silver birch reduced by 20%, T3- Pear reduced by 20%, T4 +5- Sycamore no work needed, T6-Holly tidy new growth and T7-Ash dismantle. – The Clerk was asked to request an extension on this to enable discussion at the November meeting and advise that there was no arborist report included. **ACTION: Clerk**

26.107.2 NYC / NYMNPA Planning Decisions

PLANNING REF/ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION OF WORK
26/02966/FUL 1 Orchard Close	Application for single storey rear extension, single storey side extension and garage conversion - Application Permitted
26/03003/FUL 45 Easby Lane	Application for one and a half storey side extension with single storey extension to rear and raising ridge height by 1.2m - Application Permitted
26/03062/TPO Southview Lodge Low Green	Works to fell Horse Chestnut (17 on plan) and works to trees (19,20,22,23,24,25,26 on plan) subject to a tree preservation order 1982/05 - Application Permitted
26/03324/FUL 78 Roseberry Crescent	Proposed extension to front of house - Application Permitted
26/00751/FUL 70 Roseberry Crescent	Retrospective application for formation of riding arena - Application Permitted
26/00905/FUL / ZB26/00906/LBC 1 Acorn Cottages High Green	Application for the installation of an air source heat pump (ASHP) within the rear yard of the property, together with associated internal and external pipework, radiators, and ancillary heating infrastructure - Application Permitted

26.108 Correspondence and Information from Clerk

To receive and review the correspondence and information details and decide upon necessary actions.

26.108.1 Correspondence for discussion-

From	Details
NYC	Stokesley Town Investment Plan – survey to 30.11 – to resolve if anyone to attend. The Chair reminded that the PC interest would be the footpath and potential cycle route, he had already personally filled in survey. Other Councillors to progress. **ACTION: Councillors**
North Yorkshire Police	ASB reduction information and their plans for going forward – to resolve any further response. The Parish Council were happy with the plans advised.
National Trust Woodland Plan	Consultation to end October
Great Ayton Scouts	Bonfire/fireworks display 5.11 Fletchers Farm – to resolve if the donation of £150 is to be made. Councillors APPROVED a donation of £150. Clerk to send payment. **ACTION: Clerk**

26.108.2 Correspondence for information

NYC	Local Plan call for sites updated

NYC	Bike Base licencing decision notice – approved
NYC	PC reported large hole made by children Captain Cooks Way, works ordered
NYC	PC reported Northumbrian Water leaving verges on Easby Lane in unacceptable condition to enable cutting, being investigated
NYC	North Yorkshire wider partnership conference – Harrogate 16.10
Resident	Concern re loss of grant funding for allotments site – response sent.
Resident	Complaint re spraying of pesticides, Clerk requested information from NYC
Resident	Concerns of weed encroachment in river nr Low Green, sent to EA again. Inspection organised
Resident	Complaint re road traffic. Response sent that group looking at HGV routing
Residents	Complaint re pot holes High Green
Allotment project group	Minutes of meeting 7.9
Resident	Further complaint re no grass maintenance 149 Newton Road. Response sent
BUGs group	Support given to resident to plant memorial tree at edge of floodplain meadow as requested
NYMNPA	Invite to training event Helmsley 15.10
NYMNPA	Invite to community forum 21.10

26.109 To receive reports/information from Councillors and decide upon necessary actions.

Item	Information	Action / Comments
26.109.1 Parish Council working arrangements		Parish Council phone contract in place and phone held by Mr Marley. PC branded clothing – to progress. Appraisals during October
26.109.2 Facilities	Yatton House	Storage container location still not agreed, being considered by Yatton House, not meeting till 12th October to consider request sent 11th August. Yatton House have now started using the proposed land, this was not previously used. Since August used for BBQ, apple event and football.
	Cemetery	Further issues with dog fouling in Cemetery – To consider if dogs should be banned. Cemetery costs and regulations 2026 – To consider any amendment required to the regulations and to approve fees for the year. Councillors discussed that despite the warning notices that dogs would be banned and the gates being locked overnight there were still incidents of dog fouling in the cemetery. The fees were also being assessed to ensure that the costs of grave digging were covered alongside the upkeep of the grounds. – To defer to November meeting. **ACTION: Agenda**
	Tree surveys	Being completed w/c 12th October 2026.
	Playpark	RoSPA inspection completed, no immediate concerns, items with comments made are being progressed. New zip wire installed following safety concerns. The Chair commented that the inspections completed weekly ensured that there were no new major works required.
26.109.3 Village Appearance	High Green	Still awaiting costing options on carriageway surfacing. New electric chargers installed by NYC, updated signage requested and NYC confirmed that there were future works planned to update the signage.
	Events	Memorial Sunday 8th November Carols on the Green Friday 18th December -7pm To approve purchase of Christmas tree from normal supplier. Councillors APPROVED the purchase. A resident suggested having a living Christmas tree. The Clerk was to look how this could be achievable without complaints from residents. **ACTION: Clerk**
26.109.4 Traffic concerns	HGV Proposal	No update at present.
26.109.5 Great Ayton Discovery Centre Update		No data received.
26.109.6 Website / social media		Cllrs to ensure that they were using new emails.
26.109.7 Any update from Parish Cllrs or the GAPC Team		Nothing discussed.

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26.110 Financial Reports

26.110.1 To receive and approve items on the Accounts Report. Receipts and Payments to 6th October 2026 were **AGREED** as **RECEIVED** and it was **RESOLVED** that the payments list be signed as approved in accordance with Financial Regulations.

Receipts

Paid From	Description	Date	Amount £
Allotment tenant	Key deposit	9.9.26	£40.00
Allotment tenants	Allotment rent	To 1.10.26	£510.00
Rea funeral	September fees	29.9.26	£1755.00
North Yorkshire Council	Precept	30.9.26	£95000.00
Storey	Burial fee	30.9.26	£1100.00
Lords	Headstall installation fee	30.9.26	£125.00
		TOTAL	**£98530.00**

Payments

Paid to	Description	Date	Amount £
Nat West bank	bank charges	1.9.26	£6.65
North Yorkshire Council	monthly bin collection	1.9.26	£75.91
Smartest Energy	office electric	3.9.26	£ -
Smartest Energy	cemetery electric	3.9.26	£ -
Smartest Energy	Electric Toilets	3.9.26	£32.42
Thompsons Timberworks	supply zip wire seat, chain etc GAPC team fitted	9.9.26	£192.00
Sam Turner & Sons	cemetery/allot repairs (invoice queried)	11.9.26	£83.58
Radius UK Fuels	diesel van	13.9.26	£49.20
Lex Autolease	Van rental	16.9.26	£473.67
BNP Paribas	kubota mower rental	17.9.26	£456.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP	limited assurance review	18.9.26	£756.00
Everflow	Water	18.9.26	-£50.95
Radius UK Fuels	petrol for grasscutter	20.9.26	£44.31
Amazon	phone charger plug	24.9.26	£10.99
Amazon	phone case	25.9.26	£5.49
Amazon	phone screen protector	25.9.26	£6.79
Playsafety	Rospa annual inspection	25.9.26	£123.60
Alan Dale	grave digging 4th and 17th Sept	28.9.26	£800.00
Argos	A17 sim free phone	29.9.26	£139.99
Lebara	phone contract	29.9.26	£2.38
Studio Botez Lounge 75	domain, website provision, inc credit note	1.10.26	£216.00
Staff wages	inc backpay NI, tax and pensions	25.9.26	£9,271.46
Radius UK Fuels	grasscutter diesel	27.9.26	£69.31
Great Ayton Discovery Centre	Donation	30.9.26	£12,500.00
Sam Turner & Sons	Credit note from inv 11.9	1.10.26	-£64.80
		TOTAL	**£ 25,200.00**

26.110.2 External Auditor report

The External report and certificate noted that the annual governance and accountability return was in line with proper practices. It was noted that the Clerk had identified a calculation error on the assets and this would be amended in the following years return. The auditor had not been happy with the independence of the internal auditor being considered by the council and this would be taking into consideration for the 2026-2027 return. The report and certificate together with the conclusion of audit had been displayed as required on 30th September 2026.

26.110.3 Councillors to consider budget requirements for December meeting – A reminder of the need to consider any budget requirements for the December meeting.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, 3rd November 2026

Exclusion of the Press and Public - In accordance with Paragraph 1 (2) of The Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the Parish Council can RESOLVE that the press and public be excluded from the meeting if required.

Signature Date

Clerk: Mrs Angela Livingstone clerk@greatayton-pc.gov.uk