



A routine meeting of the Danby Group Parish Council took place on **Wednesday 12th February 2025** in Castleton Village Hall.

Present : Councillors: J Day (Chair), E Watson, R Rudsdale, S Medd, P Stonehouse, D Murrell, R Findlay, J Preston (Clerk) and one member of the public throughout the meeting

Minutes of the Meeting

1. **Apologies for absence** Cllr's G Thompson & I Dodsworth

2. **Declarations of interest** Cllr Rudsdale declared an interest in relation to Agenda item 6.1

3. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday 8th January 2025 were accepted by resolution as true records and were signed by the Chair.

4. **Matters Arising from the meeting held 13th November 2024**

- (a) The Clerk advised that he had now got access to the NYC 'Customer Portal' for highways reporting etc.
- (b) The new .gov.uk domain / email address was now operational.
- (c) Various Highways issues around the Parish have been resolved including clearing the gutter on Station Road bank, clearing the road side drain near the play area, road repairs /patching near Westerdale cricket field and beyond, and extensive resurfacing work on Sandhill from the crossroads down towards Comondale.

5. **External Reports** None

6. **Planning Applications**

Members considered the following Planning Application.

- 6.1 NYM/2025/0020 Application for change of use of two holiday cottages to two local occupancy dwellings (no internal/external alterations) with separate curtilages and parking provision at Crag House Farm, Cornforths Lane, Danby Head, Danby. Resolved – support. The most recently independently conducted Housing Needs Survey identified a need for local occupancy dwellings, this application if granted would go some way to satisfying that need.
- 6.2 NYM/2025/0021 Application for subdivision of existing dwelling to create dwelling with one holiday let at Box Hall, Comondale. Resolved – no objection.
- 6.3 NYM/2025/0031 Application for erection of polytunnel to be used for growing vegetables/fruit at Riddings Farm, Westerdale. Resolved – no objection
- 6.4 NYM/2025/0060 Application for construction of flat roof with two rooflights to existing sun lounge at Wishing Well Cottage, 11 Brook Lane, Ainthorpe. Resolved – no objection

7. **Accounts / Financial**

Members considered the statement of accounts for the preceding month and subsequently authorised payment of outstanding invoices.

8. **Village Caretaker / Toilet Cleaning**

In advance of the meeting The Chair had prepared and circulated a 'Scope of Work' in respect of each of the positions. Members had had the opportunity to consider these documents and suggest amendments etc. Following further discussion, by resolution both documents were approved. The documents will be kept on file for future reference and supplied to anyone interested in applying for either (or both posts) Members went on to discuss hours of work and remuneration.

Signed as a true record:(Chair) Date:

In respect of the toilet cleaning position – the toilet blocks in the villages of Castleton, Westerdale and Commondale are all to be cleaned twice weekly (to a standard specified). Resolved – the remuneration £360 per calendar month.

In respect of the Caretakers post. Resolved – the remuneration will be £1000 per calendar month (which equates to £25 per hour for 480 hours work per year. Weekly and indeed monthly working hours will need to be flexible in accordance with the seasons with the expectation more work will be needed in the spring and summer months as opposed to the winter months.

Actions:

Chair to provide the Clerk with finalised electronic copies of the Scope of Work Documents.

Clerk to draft / circulate to members / publish a 'job' advert.

Closing date for applications 4pm Monday 10th March (Parish Council meeting scheduled for 12th March)

Successful applicant(s) to be in post for April.

9. Correspondence

9.1 North Yorkshire Council, Public Convenience Consultation (papers circulated). Noted, no action required.

9.2 Water leak Ainthorpe lane – complaint from member of the public. During recent freezing conditions a member of the public had slipped on an icy pavement on Ainthorpe Lane thereby sustain a serious head injury. It is possible water is running off adjacent residential properties and over the pavement rather than into a suitable drain. Clerk to investigate and report a drainage issue to NYC.

9.3 West Lane, Danby – the need for a footpath – issue raised by a member of the public who in brief stated in writing: “there is now 8 children living at the top half alone of the lane. Following the number of accidents that have occurred over the last number of years to people and animals, I fear it is only a matter of time before one of these children is fatally hurt. It is not only the children who are in danger, but also any pedestrian or dog walker, needing to walk down the lane. Also since off road parking has been allowed to some residents, there is no alternative other to walk on the road itself, in certain areas.” This topic was debated at length and a number of issues were highlighted. Any pavement would have to be on the left side of the road as you look up hill, however this land is owned by the Dawney Estate who would have to agree to such a proposal and thereafter sell a strip of land to NYC. In respect of parking on the verge it is apparent certain residents have permission granted by the Dawney Estate to park. The County Council’s road traffic collision information and statistics for Jan 2019 through to the end of Dec 2023 have been consulted and there were no injury accidents on West Lane, Danby during this period. Statistics for damage only collisions and collisions involving animals are not collated but from memory no such incidents have been mentioned on the circulated monthly Police Reports. All agreed that it was impossible to put a price on someone’s life but the cost of a pavement would be huge and members felt a real need wasn’t made out at this time and therefore it was not considered appropriate to offer support. The person who raised the issue in apparently going to make their own representations to NYC.

10. Items reported by Parish Councillors

- 10.1 Cobbles adjacent to 2 / 4 High Street. The Clerk lodged a complaint with Yorkshire Water in October 2024 about the manner in which the cobbles had been reinstated. Yesterday contractors appeared on site and initiated less than satisfactory repairs. Clerk to raise the issue again with Yorkshire Water.
- 10.2 Westerdale Side / Brown Hill – road surface in a very poor condition
- 10.3 Christy Gate Road, Westerdale – road surface in a very poor condition.
- 10.4 Complaints have been received / concerns for safety raised by local residents regarding the behaviour of an individual in the village. The Parish Council take the issue very seriously but a legally powerless in this instance. The Clerk to raise the issue with the appropriate agencies.

11. Next meetings

Next routine meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 7pm in Castleton Village Hall.

Meeting closed 8.15pm