



A routine meeting of the Danby Group Parish Council took place on **Wednesday 9th April 2025** in Castleton Village Hall.

Present : Councillors: J Day (Chair), E Watson, R Rudsdale, S Medd, P Stonehouse, R Findlay, Village Caretaker / Cleaner Mr M Jackson (part of the meeting) and J Preston (Clerk).

Minutes of the Meeting

Mr Simon Taylor, the retiring Caretaker / Toilet Cleaner was in attendance and prior to the meeting formally commencing the Chairman made a short speech and presentation to Mr Taylor by way of expressing the gratitude of the Parish Council and community as a whole for his many years of loyal and dedicated service.

1. **Apologies for absence** Cllr's D Murrell, I Dodsworth, G Thompson & CClr Chance.

2. **Declarations of interest** None

3. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday 12th March 2025 were accepted by resolution as true records and were signed by the Chair.

4. **Matters Arising from the meeting held 12th March 2025**

(Updates below as per information on the NYC Customer Portal)

- Issue re water running onto / damaging the pavement on Ainthorpe Lane – resolved and cleaning of 3 gullies to be actioned by Highways.
- Hob Hole river ford – loose / missing cobbles in the ford resolved
- Dibble Bridge x roads – visibility splay issue resolved.
- Langburn's Bank (downhill left hand bend near Firbank House – visibility issue resolved.
- Road surface beyond Danby Castle (Castle Lane) in poor condition, resolved

5. **External Reports** None

6. **Planning Applications**

Members considered the following Planning Application.

- 6.1 NYM/2025/0077 Application for erection of agricultural building for storage and livestock housing purposes at Hollins Top Farm, Danby. Resolved – no objection.
- 6.2 NYM/2025/0148 Application for temporary widening of existing access and bell mouth to facilitate Yorkshire Water works and rebuilding of dry-stone wall and installation of gate once works are complete (part retrospective) at land between 42 and 50 Church Street, Castleton. Resolved – no objection
- 6.3 Consultation only (pre Application) regarding the proposal to build a Shared Rural Network Base Station and site upgrade on land at Hall Farm, Westerdale. Following debate, it was generally agreed that a future application would likely be supported by the Parish Council however at this stage it needs to be stressed that improvement to mobile communication in the area is essential and it is hoped various network providers (and not just the emergency services) will support the project and utilise the mast / equipment.

7. **Accounts / Financial**

- 7.1 Members consider the final Balance Sheet for the financial year ending 31st March 2025 and were informed that the accounts had been submitted for internal audit. The full accounts and

Signed as a true record:(Chair) Date:

the internal auditor's report will be for consideration as an agenda item for the May meeting of the Parish Council. Payment of outstanding invoices was approved by resolution.

The Clerk went on to inform members that expected income for the 25 / 26 financial year will increase slightly from the previous year (the Precept was increased and some other County Council grants are index linked.) Routine expenditure is expected to be very similar to last year. Looking further ahead however income sources will undoubtedly change – the County is going to abolish the Model Agreement Grant (report from County expected soon) and the National Park Caretaking and toilet grants are also going to be abolished in their current format. The NPA will be introducing a new grant application process details of which are yet to be finalised.

- 7.2 Members discussed the terms of the Toilet Cleaning Service Level Agreement between the Parish Council and the former Scarborough Borough Council. Members were aware the Clerk had been in discussions with Mr Jackson with regard the ordering of cleaning materials / consumables and rather than receive a bulk deliver of materials at the start of the year (which caused storage issues) the Clerk and Mr Jackson were willing to take on the ordering of necessary cleaning materials and consumables on a as and when needed basis, which it is believed will be more cost effective in the long run. This course of action will however need the approval of County.

On the issue of finance, it was recognised the cleaning SLA was entered into some considerable time ago and whilst the Parish Council acknowledge the level of payment has increased year on year in accordance with the Retail Price Index, Members felt County should be asked if an increase in the payment to the Parish Council could be considered? The increase sought being an extra £1,200 per year.

- 7.3 The Clerk informed members that the Court Leet had donated £500 to the Parish Council for their work in maintaining areas of Common Land. Members expressed their gratitude. For the donation and for the work undertaken by the Court Leet.

8. Village Caretaker / Toilet Cleaning

Mr Matt Jackson, the newly appointed Caretaker / Cleaner was in attendance. The formal 'Agreement' documents ref Caretaking and Toilet Cleaning were signed by Mr Jackson and the Chair on behalf of the Parish Council. Mr Jackson has had the benefit of a handover meeting with Mr Taylor and was able to highlight areas where grass would / would not be cut on a regular / routine basis. Cllr Watson reminded all regarding the Parish Council's commitment to the Biodiversity Policy. Mr Jackson will source and replace the damaged door at Comondale toilets.

9. Correspondence (to note receipt / respond

9.1 At last month's meeting Members considered a letter from a member of the public requesting the Parish Council 'adopt' a bench seat sited in memory of her late husband. Members declined to accept responsibility for the bench as access was considered dangerous. A small footbridge which allowed access to the 'island' on which the bench was sited has gone (possibly washed away) making access practically impossible. Since making the decision however the bridge has been replaced and the parish Council has been asked to reconsider the matter. Members considered the request and were sympathetic however the decision was taken not to adopt the bench because of ongoing access concerns. It was suggested the lady concerned may wish to consider making an approach the 'Mens Shed' as her late husband had been a member.

9.2 **Mobile Library Service.** North Yorkshire Library Service has received external funding to replace the existing mobile library. To meet the funding requirements, County need to increase the number of communities visited with the Mobile, hence all existing stop times have been reviewed. When the new vehicle is introduced in the Summer, stop times will be adjusted, based on the number of customers. In line with data collected the stop time in Castleton will be 2 hours and in Danby 1.5 hours. Additional information is available from Mr Lee Taylor Library Manager – Development lee.taylor@northyorks.gov.uk

10. Items reported by Parish Councillors

Blocked gullies the length of High Street / Church Street, Castleton

11. Next meeting

Next routine meeting of the Parish Council will take place **on Wednesday 14th May 2025** immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.