



A routine meeting of the Danby Group Parish Council took place on **Wednesday 17th September 2025** in Castleton Village Hall.

Present : Councillors: J Day (Chair), R Findlay, G Thompson, E Watson, D Murrell, S Medd, I Dodsworth, CClr D Chance, J Preston (Clerk) and one member of the public.

Minutes of the Meeting

1. **Apologies for absence** Cllr's P Stonehouse & R Rudsdale

2. **Declarations of interest** None

3. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday 9th July 2025 were accepted by resolution as true records and were signed by the Chair.

4. **Matters Arising from the meeting held 9 July 2025 2025**

The Clerk was unable to provide any meaningful updates in respect of reported highways issues and expressed his extreme frustration as to the lack of information being provided by the County Council (failure to respond to emails) and about the very poor functionality of the Customer Portal. (Fault reports on the Portal are being closed without updates being added.) There is an apparent disregard of the Parish Charter when it comes to dissemination of information a prime example being in relation to the likely abolition of the Model Agreement payments – County are asking for Precept requirements by the end of December but no information has been released yet with regards the Model Agreement. Another example being the complete failure to provide any information to the Parish Council with regards the closure of New Road.

In respect of the cobbles outside the old bank, again the Clerk had to report his frustration with regards being knocked back and forth between the Consumer Council for Water and Yorkshire Water. Despite numerous telephone calls and emails it has proved impossible to get the issue resolved and it is not viable to spend any more time on this issue.

5. **External Reports**

CClr Chance gave a brief verbal update with regards issues at County level highlighting that much of his time of late had been devoted to the moorland wild fires.

In respect of the Model Agreement the County's Finance department had apologised for the delay in being able to provide further details about the work to provide consistency across the different service aspects that were included in the previous Model Agreement. The Council originally intended to report the outcome of the work to the Parish/Town Councils that were part of the Model Agreement in July, unfortunately this work has been delayed but it is intended to have information available in October 2025 and arrangements will be made to discuss the outcome at that time.

New Road, Castleton - it is still not possible to state what work needs to be done or when such work will commence (there have been difficulties dealing with the land owner), the work will need to be financed as part of the capital expenditure.

6. **Planning Applications**

Members consider the Planning Application below and respond accordingly to the NYMNPAs.

6.1 NYM/2025/0471 Application for installation of seven pole mounted and nine building mounted CCTV cameras to approved petrol filling station and convenience store at Former Central Garage, High Street, Castleton. Resolved – no objection.

Signed as a true record:(Chair) Date:

6.2 NYM/2025/0328 Application for construction of workshop building with parking provision to support tree surgery business together with landscaping at land south east of Park Nook Farm, Langburns Bank, Castleton. Previously supported by the Parish Council, this application has been considered by the Planning Committee and a site visit is planned in advance of the Planning Committee's next meeting. The Parish Council still strongly support this application and Cllr Findlay (if available) will attend the site visit / Planning Committee meeting.

6.3 NYM/2025/0580 Application for the erection of a greenhouse (part retrospective) at Fryup Hall, Fryup. Resolved – no objection

7. Accounts / Financial

- (a) Members consider the statement of accounts for the preceding months and authorise payment of outstanding invoices.
- (b) Clerk's Salary increase in line with the terms of his contract & the Local Government Services pay agreement 2025-26 was approved by resolution
- (c) The clerk presented a paper so as to review income / expenditure for the year to date & projections to the end of the current financial year. As things stand there is expected to be an excess of income over expenditure in the region of £5,700. Going forward however there is uncertainty with regards future payment of the NYMNPA Caretaker Grant and the Model Agreement
- (d) Consideration of budget issues for the next financial year – carried over to a future meeting when more information will be available with regards NYMNPA grants and the Model Agreement.

8. Correspondence (to note receipt / respond

- a) **Mobile Library** North Yorkshire Council have provided an update regarding the new mobile library service. Although the build has been delayed, they now expect to take delivery of the new vehicle in October and will be launching their updated routes at that time.
As part of the expansion, they're adding more communities to the schedule, which has required a review of all existing stops.
The Library Van will visit Castleton on Thursdays, operating on a four-week rota. The duration of the visit will be from 10.00-12.00.
Danby will also be visited on Thursdays, also on a four-week rota. The duration of the visit will be from 10.00- 11.00.
The timing of the stops has been carefully coordinated with visits to nearby communities to ensure the most efficient use of time on the road. NYC will begin promoting the new routes once they have a confirmed delivery date.
- b) **Public Rights of Way Route prioritisation** (Consultation by the NYMNPA) Due to budget cuts the NPA are looking to save money by prioritising maintenance of footpaths. Apart from the Esk Valley Walk path (which is already maintained by the NPA) there are numerous minor footpaths in the Parish none of which fit the prioritisation criteria.
- c) **North Yorkshire Council – consultation with regards registering part of Baysdale Moor, Westerdale as Common Land** The full details of this application was available on the County's web site the application is being made by "The Open Spaces Society). The material available on line was extremely detailed and ran to in excess of 50 pages. The applicant suggests the land in question is "waste land" but as far as member of the Parish Council are aware the land is actually in private ownership and the applicant seeks to gazump the rights of the owner. A previous application to register was refused and the Parish Council resolved to object to this latest application. (Clerk to respond accordingly the the County Council)
- d) **Request to trace relatives** Mr Anthony Williamson from Brotton has contacted the Parish Council seeking help to trace relatives of his late father Mr Leonard William Williamson who was born January 1931 at Fir Tree Farm, Great Fryup Dale and passed away 25th August 2025. If anyone has any information please contact the Clerk and details will be passed on to Mr Williamson

9. Items reported by Parish Councillors

- a) West Lane, Danby almost outside the Duke William PH – large lump in the middle of the road
- b) The cattle Grid at the top end of Westerdale Village (below “Sugar Loaf”) is full of debris and needs clearing.
- c) Sandy Lane – road surface in very poor condition and getting worse.
- d) Ainthorpe lane near Congrave Farm the street light (column 17) is badly obscured by tree branches)
- e) The path behind Castle House to Castleton Church is badly overgrown – to be addressed by the Village Caretaker.
- f) The end top stone on the Primrose Hill retaining wall (cobble car park end) has been dislodged – Chair to investigate and initiate repair if possible.
- g) Grass cutting – designated wild flower areas. Cutting due next week depending on weather collection and ‘dumping’ of clippings being coordinated by Cllr Watson.
- h) Carol Watson & Margaret Marsland have done another species count for which the Parish Council expressed their gratitude.
- i) Issue ref raised iron work in the road mentioned by Cllr Murrell – What 3 Words location and utility company details to be provided.

10. Next meeting

Next routine meeting of the Parish Council will take place **on Wednesday 8th October 2025**