

Baldersby & Baldersby St James Parish Council

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING
held on **Monday, 13 July 2026 at 18:30 to 20.55**
at The Mission Room, Baldersby

Present: Cllr Hart (Chair), Cllr Bramley, Cllr Jones, Cllr Wilson, Cllr Butterworth, Cllr Brown (North Yorkshire Council), the Clerk and 8 members of the public

2627/106 Welcome and apologies: The Chair welcomed all attendees, in particular Cllr Katie Butterworth, a new member, the new Clerk and Cllr Nick Brown from North Yorkshire Council. There were no apologies.

2627/107 Declarations of interest: There were no declarations of interest.

2627/108 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2026 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

2627/109 North Yorkshire Council Report: Cllr Nick Brown from North Yorkshire Council said that he had come along to hear people's views about the poultry farm (item 26267/112(a)). He holds parish forums for the 16 parish councils in his ward area of Bishop Monkton and Wathvale, and said that the Corporate Director for Business and Environmental Services, Karl Battersby, whose remit includes Highways, would be speaking at the forum on 21 July. Cllr Brown said that he was concerned with the 7.5t limit on the roads, which he thought was contributing to the potholes problem due to heavy traffic using the smaller roads. Cllr Wilson said that the road to Baldersby St James could get busy with heavy lorries if the A1 was shut. Cllr Brown added that he had a budget of £300 which could be used for Baldersby Parish Council projects. The Chair expressed thanks for this money being made available to Baldersby PC said this could be used towards the purchase of a bench which was agreed by all councillors..

2627/110 Clerk's Report

The Clerk thanked the parish council for employing her, and said she works for three other parish councils, which is beneficial because she can share information and experience with Baldersby from the other parish councils. She said she is enjoying getting to grips with understanding the issues in the parish, and found it useful and interesting to experience a guided tour around Baldersby with the Chair. She has been trying to save money on the parish council's insurance premium, and has reported a number of issues to Highways. She spoke to a local farmer about the curse of ragwort, and reported a missing manhole cover. She now has official guidance on volunteers regarding the grass-cutting at Beech Close and has reported the tree problems to Highways, as she understands it's a Highways responsibility. On the IT front, she set up a new email address for Cllr Butterworth, and has kept the website updated.

Public participation. Members of the public spoke for and against the proposed poultry farm. A local farmer said modern poultry farm buildings are highly sophisticated and said that British farming standards are very high. He said that any emissions coming from the buildings would be strictly controlled. He said that if chicken was not farmed here, we would have to import it from countries with lower standards. Others were concerned about pollution: noise, smell and light pollution, and the birds' welfare was mentioned, as well as the risk of bird flu spreading to the parish.

2627/111 Financial matters:

a) **Bank reconciliation and budget comparison.** The Clerk said she had not been able to access the bank account, so was unable to give an update. DEFERRED.

- b) **Schedule of payments and receipts.** The Clerk did not have this as her Mac is not compatible with the hard drive passed on to her by the previous Clerk but said that to her knowledge there were three payments to approve: the insurance quote, (item d) the compost bin (item h) and the Clerk's salary. The Clerk's salary was approved. Cllr Hart and the Clerk signed two copies of the Clerk's contract of employment.
- c) **Commuted Sums:** the Clerk said she had received an update from the Commuted Sums team. The following funds are available: play equipment (£909.21) bench and bin (£365.84) and planting (£668). APPROVED: the purchase of a bench costing up to £600, with funds coming from Commuted Sums and Cllr Brown's locality budget. Cllr Jones to research bench options.
- d) **Insurance:** The Clerk said she had spent a lot of time trying to revise downwards the premium quotation of £731 from broker Gallagher's because cover was no longer needed for the cricket pavilion. She got another quote from Clear Councils for comparison which was more expensive, and had made several phone calls that day to Gallagher's without success. She had been assured that a reduced premium was possible, but was still awaiting confirmation of this. She suggested that the current quote should be paid but that she continued to lobby Gallagher's for a reduction. RESOLVED: to pay the insurance premium. Cllr Brown noted that one of the benefits of having a parish council forum was that parish councils could share services such as insurance cover.
- e) **Memorial plaque:** APPROVED: donation of £150 towards the purchase of a plaque to commemorate Colin Benson.
- f) **Equipment for the Clerk:** RESOLVED: Cllr Jones and the Clerk to research the purchase of a second-hand Windows laptop.
- g) **Bank access:** Chair to phone bank to progress change of signatories.
- h) **Compost bin:** the purchase of a compost bin was approved. See also item 2627/115 (g).

2627/112 The following planning applications were considered:

- a) **26/02174/EIAMAJ** - erection of a poultry farm comprising 6 poultry houses and associated infrastructure, land south of York Gate Farm, Underlands Lane, Melmerby YO7 4PS. RESOLVED: Clerk to send an objection to Planning on environmental grounds. Councillors voiced concerns over air pollution, light pollution and noise pollution, as well as the longer-term consequences for local poultry keepers whose birds will be affected by any outbreak of bird flu.
- b) **26/02752/FUL** - proposed single storey extension to the rear, Beech Garth Baldersby Garth, Baldersby. RESOLVED: The parish council neither supports nor objects to this planning application. Clerk to send response to Planning.

2627/113 The following planning notices and decisions were noted:

- a) **26/02492/DISCON** - approval of details under the deemed condition applied under an Informative (Statutory Biodiversity Condition (Single Phase Development), Condition 6 (habitat management and monitoring plan) and Condition 7 (habitat creation and enhancements) of planning permission 25/01716/FUL - formation of new farm track and widening of existing access, Brooms Farm Wide Howe Lane To The Brooms, Baldersby St James.
- b) **26/01879/DVCON** - section 73 application for the Variation of Condition 2 (Approved drawings) of Planning Permission 25/04103/FUL (Proposed front extension, loft conversion, alterations to fenestration and driveway widening) to allow for alterations to the front extension depth to be increased by a further metre, Dunelm, Baldersby Garth Baldersby. (permitted).

2627/114 Highways issues:

- a) Sewage collecting tank at Baldersby St James: The Clerk received this response from Highways: "Highways are not aware of any plans to install a sewage collection tank in Baldersby St James – if your councillors have any more details to share about this please let

me know and I will make further enquiries.” Clerk to investigate further with Highways and Yorkshire Water.

- b) Bollards restricting the footpath width on Wide Howe Lane. The Clerk received this response from Highways: “We have written to the resident to request they trim their hedge which will make more space where the verge markers are located. The team are looking to remove the bollards; a works order needs to be raised.”
- c) Footpath from the Settling Pond, south to Wards Corner (between Humphrey Baulk and The Hergill Lane), which is blocked by overgrowth. The Clerk received this response from Highways: “The footpath A61 to phone box in Baldersby St James was sided out on 2 June 2026.” Clerk’s note: ‘Sided out’ means the removal of grass, soil, vegetation and debris that has built up over time and is now covering some or all the footpaths. Therefore, this action exposes the full width of the footpath once completed.
- d) Flashing ‘School’ signs for Darwin School: The Clerk received this response from Highways: “A standard school warning sign was installed 27/05/26. However, the request for flashing signs has been assessed by Traffic Engineering and unfortunately declined as the site does not meet the criteria for this type of sign.”
- e) Roadside ragwort: The Clerk received this response from Highways: “The engineer has confirmed that an order to treat the ragwort is being progressed. We are awaiting a quote from our contractors, but we will get this and when it is we will get them on site as soon as possible.”
- f) Update on missing manhole cover (reported 06/07/2026). Clerk to chase Highways.

2627/115 The following ongoing items were discussed:

- a) Overhanging trees and possible overcrowded trees at the entrance to Beech Close (Highways case ref 101011516406, reported 6/07/2026). The Clerk said that this matter had been passed to a trees officer at North Yorkshire Council.
- b) Use of historic telephone boxes: the Baldersby telephone box, which is owned by the parish council, is locked so cannot be used. RESOLVED: Councillors to track down the key.
- c) Vehicle activated speed sign: Cllr Bramley moved the VAS sign in mid-June to the Ripon end of the village. Cllr Jones said it would be useful to have access to the data from the sign. The Clerk said she would contact the manufacturer for access to the data.
- d) Defib checks: Cllr Jones said both defibrillators were up to date. He would get some quotes to move the defib at the Mission Room inside the porch where it would not get damp.
- e) Defibrillator training: this did not take place.
- f) Playground equipment check: Cllr Butterworth said all was in good order.
- g) Grass cutting/compost bin: The Chair thanked two villagers for keeping the grass cut. He had received a comprehensive history of the open land at Beech Close from villager Tim Helps, and thanked Tim for his service to the village over many years. Tim had kept the land tidy and looked into acquiring it for the parish. There was a discussion about the implications of taking ownership of the land. The Chair said that the pros and cons of such a move should be investigated. Cllr Brown said the Clerk could contact Rocliffe Parish Council, which had been through a similar experience, and the Chair suggested contacting the YLCA. Clerk to report back to the next meeting; Chair to provide more information about the bin to one of the villagers.

2627/116 Correspondence:

- a) Old maps of Baldersby for sale: Clerk to ask for further information and pass on to councillors.
- b) Neighbourhood plan consultations: Clerk to forward to councillors.
- c) YLCA emails: Clerk to forward to councillors.
- d) Mobile post office: no service on 14 July but it will be back on 21 July.
- e) Road closure at Hergill Lane, Baldersby, for excavation work to install approximately 90m of new duct and associated chambers. The restriction will be in place 5-7 August.

2627/117 The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 21 September 2026. Cllr Bramley said he was unable to attend as he will be away. **(Minutes to be confirmed at that meeting).**