

Baldersby and Baldersby St James Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of
Baldersby and Baldersby St James Parish Council
held on **Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 18:30** at The Mission Room, Baldersby

Attendees: Cllr Hart (Chair), Cllr Brown, Cllr Shaw, Cllr Whitham, Cllr Wilson, County Cllr Brown, The Clerk and 7 members of the public

2425/073 To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence.

No apologies had been received.

2425/074 Declarations of interest

- a) To receive any declarations of interest not already declared under council's code of conduct or members Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
- b) To receive, consider and decide upon any applications of dispensation

No declarations of interest and applications for dispensation were raised.

2425/075 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2025 as a true and correct record.

With one minor amendment, the minutes were unanimously approved as a true and fair recording of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

2425/076 To receive a report from our Ward Councillor

County Cllr Brown updated the meeting on the call for sites local plan document. After speaking to the Planning Policy & Place Manager, he confirmed that this was very early in the process. Around 1,600 sites had been identified, with discussions likely to continue until the end of 2026. Parish Councils would be included in the list of consultees, once that stage had been reached. He also emphasised that sustainability would be key to any decision making. County Cllr Brown told the meeting that his locality budget had been halved for the next financial year. He also reminded the meeting that the £14.3m Rural Services Grant had been axed by Central Government: hence the increase in council tax for the new financial year. Cllr Hart noted, that of the three aspects of the council tax, the Parish Council's increase was the lowest.

The forum secretary had been off sick since November and had since handed in her notice. Hence no date had been set for the next forum.

A member of the public asked about plans for the Alanbrooke barracks. County Cllr Brown informed him that no concrete plans had yet been made for the site but noted the increase by Central Government for annual housing targets.

2425/077 Public Participation

A member of the public asked about the plans for the biomethane facility on Skipton Old Airfield, near Sandhutton. Her concern was the increase in traffic running through Baldersby. She had attended the meeting, as had Cllr Brown, who had registered a concern regarding traffic levels on the A61. He stated that there must be a traffic management plan at the planning application stage. He also had concerns regarding facilities for overnight parking, emphasising that lorry drivers should not be allowed to park indiscriminately in lay-byes or other areas in the parish. Instead, suitable areas should be provided onsite, or drivers should be directed to the existing overnight parking facilities. In addition, there were concerns about the capability of the bridge at Skipton-on-Swale of coping with the increased traffic. The Clerk was asked to respond to the email from Skipton on Swale Parish, stating our concerns and seeking these assurances, although not objecting to the site per se.

Action: The Clerk

A member of the public raised the issue of his survey regarding the provision of green space for community usage. It was pointed out that his covering letter implied that the survey had been requested by the Parish Council. It was drawn to his attention in the strongest terms that this was definitely not the case, and that there had been no involvement of the parish council, other than to be made aware that this survey was been circulated under the member of the public's own initiative. The parish council expressed their disappointment that the covering letter had not made this fact plain. Furthermore, the survey included reference to the cricket pavilion, currently owned by the parish council. A decision had already been made by the parish council to either sell or demolish the cricket pavilion and the subject should not have been put forward for debate. It was also pointed out that the recent request for sites for the Local Plan may well have an effect on the availability of sites for the provision of greenspaces for community use. The member of the public reported that, following the results of the survey, he was looking to reform the Recreational Committee. Any retention by that committee and transfer of ownership of the cricket pavilion would depend on the landowner's consent. It was noted that the electricity supply had been cut off and that the parish council would not be continuing to include the building in the schedule of insurance.

Resolved: Following extensive discussion, it was agreed that the parish council would hold off on selling, or demolishing the pavilion until the status of the Recreational Committee was confirmed, and the landowner's consent had been obtained.

2425/078 To receive the Clerks Report

The clerk's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. It read as follows.

"We are now well and truly into the run up for year end and I have been spending time ensuring that we are in a fit state to be audited in April. I have also confirmed with the Internal Auditor that she is still happy to audit us for this year.

Following the last meeting I followed through on various actions I had; I wrote to the Mayor's Office thanking him for his support over speeding issues in Baldersby St James. I have also been in communication with Northern Powergrid and SSE regarding the electrical supply to the cricket pavilion and it would seem that we have the matter virtually resolved.

I have written to the Local Plans Office to gain further detail on the current draft local plan and have signed the Parish Council up as a consultee. In addition, I have chased the Planning department for further information regarding the planning application at Baldersby Gardens.

The monthly meetings with Highways have continued and I have raised the issue of the overgrown footpath by the A1 with NYC. I can also report that the hole at Wards Corner has finally been filled! In addition, I have also raised the incident of fly tipping on the access to the A1 as reported by a member of the public.

The equipment for the litter pick was eventually sorted out in time for the event. Following transfer of the operation, this was a much more painful task than it should have been, taking at least 4 emails to elicit some kind of response from the new organisers. As I write, the bags have yet to be collected.

Finally, regarding the application for funding for the new play equipment, I provided an external party with further detail to enable the application to be completed.

As ever, thank you all for your support.

The Clerk's report was approved unanimously.

2425/079 Financial Matters

a) To approve the bank reconciliation and budget comparison for March 2025.

The clerk had circulated the reconciliation and budget comparison prior to the meeting. The bank balance stood at £5,203.98 following outstanding cheques being considered. The performance against budget was satisfactory. It was noted that we had yet to receive an invoice for grasscutting from NYC.

Resolved: The bank reconciliation and budget comparison were unanimously approved.

b) To approve the Schedule of Payments as follows.

| | | | | | | |
|---------|-----|-------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|---------|
| 22.1.25 | DD | NR Trees | Playground | | £ | 495.00 |
| 28.1.25 | DD | Clerk's Salary January | Salary and related costs | | £ | 198.40 |
| 28.1.25 | DD | HMRC | Salary and related costs | | £ | 49.90 |
| 4.2.25 | DD | Steven Dresser | Christmas Lights | | £ | 240.00 |
| 6.2.25 | DD | Go-Cardless | IT | | £ | 11.99 |
| 28.2.25 | DD | Clerk's Salary February | Salary and related costs | | £ | 198.40 |
| 28.2.25 | DD | HMRC | Salary and related costs | £ | - | £ 49.60 |
| 28.2.25 | 681 | Northern Power | Cricket Pavilion | | £ | 776.59 |
| 6.3.25 | DD | Go-Cardless | IT | | £ | 11.99 |
| 14.3.25 | DD | Scottish Water | Cricket Pavilion | | £ | 16.14 |
| 28.3.25 | DD | Clerk's Salary March | Salary and related costs | | £ | 255.00 |
| 28.3.25 | DD | HMRC | Salary and related costs | | £ | 51.00 |
| 25.3.25 | DD | Clerk's Expenses March | Office expenses | | £ | 61.35 |

Resolved: The schedule of payments was approved unanimously.

c) To discuss the use of Commuted Sums.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that monies be utilised to put fencing around the children's play area. The Clerk would check to ensure that the monies could be used for this purpose and Cllr Brown would source a quote for the work.

Action: The Clerk / Cllr Brown

d) To agree the increase in the Clerk's Salary for the upcoming year of £7 per month.

Resolved: Following Cllr Hart's email to the Clerk and him accepting the figure, this was unanimously approved. All thanked the Clerk for his hard work and dedication to the role.

2425/080 Planning Matters

a) To update the meeting regarding the planning application at Baldersby Gardens.
This was to be carried forward as no progress had been made.

C/F

2425/081 To receive information on the following ongoing issues and decide further action where necessary following the visit by Area 6.

a) To update the meeting on the situation regarding Marlpit Lane.

The Clerk reported that Area 6 Highways were still debating what constituted non-hazardous plainings, so there had been no progress.

C/F

b) To update the meeting on gully cleaning and jetting with specific reference to Ward's Corner.
Area 6 were still awaiting an engineer's report.

C/F

c) To update the meeting on the merging of drainage, sewage, and surface water in Baldersby St James
Area 6 were still awaiting an engineer's report.

C/F

d) To update the meeting on the dropping of the road surface in Baldersby Garth.
Area 6 were still awaiting an engineer's report.

C/F

e) To update the meeting following the letter to Area 6 regarding speeding in Baldersby St James.
No further action this time from Highways as the matter had been raised with the Mayor's Office.

f) To update the meeting regarding overhanging branches on the bridleway running parallel to the A1.
The Clerk was asked to write to NYC again, pointing out that, as per the 2012 court case resolution, they were the landowners, and they had responsibility to keep the bridleway clear.

Action: The Clerk

g) To update the meeting regarding the blocked drain opposite Bretton House Area 6 were still awaiting an engineer's report.

C/F

2425/082 To discuss the following ongoing items and to decide further actions.

a) To update the meeting on the operation and the positioning of the VAS equipment.

Cllr Whitham would take ownership of the padlocks, currently with Cllr Hart. The equipment would be moved prior to the May meeting.

Action: Cllrs Whitham / Hart

b) To confirm both the defibrillator batteries have been checked

It was confirmed both batteries had been checked.

c) To confirm the playground equipment has been checked.

Cllr Shaw confirmed the play equipment had been checked. The Clerk was asked to enquire about the play equipment check by NYC.

Action: The Clerk

d) To update the meeting on the application for funding for new play equipment.

It was reported that the application was approximately halfway through the cycle of approval.

C/F

e) To update the meeting on replacement noticeboards for Baldersby and Baldersby St James.

Resolved: It was agreed that the Baldersby St James noticeboard be repaired. An estimate had been received by Cllr Wilson, and it was agreed that if this was confirmed as between £100-£150 the work could commence.

Arrangements would also be made for the contractor to meet with Cllr Hart and Cllr Brown to look at the Baldersby Noticeboard.

Action: Cllrs Wilson / Hart / Brown

f) To discuss the potential areas that could be assigned to a parish caretaker.

This was carried forward.

C/F

2425/083 To discuss the situation regarding the future of the pavilion.

a) To update the meeting on the removal of the pavilion.

This had been covered under item 2425/ 077.

b) To update the meeting on the termination of the electrical supply and removal of the meter.

This had been covered under item 2425/ 077.

2425/084 To discuss the future of the Mission Room

This item was carried forward as we were awaiting details of insurance costs.

C/F

2425/085 Correspondence

a) To discuss the email received from a representative of Skipton on Swale Parish regarding the biomethane facility on Skipton Old Airfield, near Sandhutton.

This had been covered under item 2425/ 076.

b) To note the email regarding the Town and Parish Council Survey for NYC, Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2024/2025.

Resolved: It was agreed to leave any response to the individual.

c) To note the questionnaire sent out by a member of the public on recreational areas within the parish.

This had been covered under item 2425/ 077.

d) To note the correspondence regarding the Local Plan from the Local Plans Team.

This had been covered under item 2425/ 077.

e) To discuss the email from HAMS regarding local grass cutting and agree a response.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that NYC should be asked to continue to cut the grass areas for which they had responsibility.

2425/086 To discuss Items raised by Councillors.

a) To discuss the outcome of the Spring Litter Pick.

Cllr Hart reported that the litter pick went well, although there was not a great turn out of volunteers. 20 bags were collected. Thanks were expressed to all who helped, Cllr Brown for the collection of the equipment and Rosemary Carter for teas.

b) To discuss the lack of road signage on A61 coming from Ripon, turning right to Baldersby St James. The sign is at the wrong height. The Clerk would take this up with Highways.

Action: The Clerk

c) The future of YLCA branches.

Cllr Shaw reported that the next meeting is in June, and she would attend.

2425/087 To set the date of the Annual Parish Meeting, Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and next Ordinary Meeting in May 2025.

The date was set as 18:00 at the Mission Room on 19th May.

The meeting closed at 20:29.