

Baldersby and Baldersby St James Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of
Baldersby and Baldersby St James Parish Council
held on **Tuesday 21st January 2025 at 18:30** at The Mission Room, Baldersby

Attendees; Cllr Hart (Chair), Cllr Brown, Cllr Shaw, Cllr Wilson, The Clerk and 4 members of the public

2425/058 To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence.

Apologies had been received and were accepted from County Cllr Brown and Cllr Whitham

2425/059 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.

2425/060 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2024 as a true and correct record.

The minutes were unanimously approved as a true and fair recording of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

2425/061 To receive a report from our Ward Councillor

County Cllr Brown was unable to attend the meeting owing to illness. However he had been in contact with the Clerk, whom he had asked to make the following points. Firstly, Council Tax for the next financial year was envisaged to be raised by circa 4.9%, although this had yet to be confirmed. One of the contributing factors to this rise was the withdrawal by central government of the Rural Grant. Secondly Cllr Brown was currently involved in discussions with the leadership team regarding potential for cost savings within North Yorkshire Council. Finally, he reminded everyone that he was on the board of Harrogate Hospital and that if anyone had any issues with the running of the hospital, they were welcome to approach him in that capacity.

2425/062 Public Participation

A member of the public reported on the status of the application for lottery funding for new play equipment. Owing to a technicality, the first application had failed, but could be resubmitted. This would take 13 weeks to process. An offer had been received from a professional company to help with the submission, without charging. The member of the public would liaise with the company and then forward the document to Cllr Hart for any additional information. Cllr Shaw and The Clerk would be the names submitted on the application representing the PC. We may be asked to confirm that the land would be available for use as a children's play area for the future to prove that the project has sustainability. Initial discussions indicated that this would not be an issue.

Resolved: The offer was unanimously accepted by the Parish Council.

A member of the public reported that he was looking to arrange a 6- a – side cricket tournament at the ground on the Early May Bank Holiday weekend. This would be to raise monies for the children's play equipment. It was noted that the Cricket Pavilion would not have any electrical supply if it was still in situ. Before the discussion started, the Chairman outlined previous events in relation to the cricket pavilion as follows: The cricket pavilion has been owned by the Parish Council since its construction in 1982 – it is situated on land not owned by BPC so it is allowed to remain on that playing field by the kind permission of the landowners and therefore it is they that determine what activities can take place in the cricket pavilion and on the playing field itself. In the absence of any games of cricket being played in the last 8 or so years, the Cricket Pavilion has fallen into disuse meanwhile BPC has continued to incur costs on insurance and maintaining electricity & water supplies; such costs have become increasingly difficult to justify. A cricket pavilion working party was formed a few years ago and the upshot was that the building was still in reasonable

working order and so BPC agreed to 'mothball' the cricket pavilion for a period of time to give every chance for activities to recommence. Nothing changed over those next few years and all the costs incurred by the BPC increased, most notably on the supply of electricity and so BPC agreed in such circumstances, that it could no longer justify incurring significant costs on a resource that was not being used. Therefore, after waiting as long as was reasonably possible for events to change, a decision had previously been taken by the parish council at the July 2024 meeting that the cricket pavilion should be sold or otherwise disposed of. A discussion ensued as to the selling off of the Cricket Pavilion to a third party. Concerns were also raised regarding health and Safety and the condition of the premises and it was agreed that we should look into taping access to the cricket pavilion off as the steps look unsafe.

Resolved: The decision on sale of the Cricket Pavilion be carried over until the March meeting.

C/F

A member of the public raised the question of a questionnaire that he was proposing to send out to the public regarding recreation areas in the parish and the requirement for a new site. Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the member of the public should send out his questionnaire. It was emphasised that this was not on behalf of the parish council, but he could run the document past the Chairman if he so wished.

C/F

A member of the public raised the issue of the Local Plan. Cllr Brown and The Clerk described the process which was planned to be undertaken by NYC. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to County Cllr Brown enlisting his support regarding any proposed development in the parish. He was also asked to contact NYC to ensure that the Parish Council was aware of who the sponsors were for any land put forward for inclusion in the plan. The item was to be included on the agenda for March.

Action: The Clerk

2425/063 To receive the Clerks Report

The Clerk's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and read as follows.

"January is Governance month, whereby we review the major documents that dictate how the Parish Council is run. The Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct and Risk Assessment documents were circulated to Councillors and are tabled for sign off at the January meeting.

I have been in communication with the planning office regarding the Baldersby Gardens application this is still ongoing.

As requested at the last meeting, I wrote to the new owners of Baldersby St James School welcoming them to the village. I also was in contact with the Mayor's Office, requesting that Wide Howe Lane be included in their list of roads that are under surveillance for speeding motorists. I understand that a van has been seen in the area monitoring vehicle speeds and hopefully this will have some impact.

I submitted our budget requirements to NYC and received an acknowledgement that they had been accepted.

My meetings with Highways continue and I will update the PC on the 21st on any latest developments.

A tree surgeon was identified, and he has been to the children's play area to look at the issue with the trees. He has sent in a quotation, and this is due to be approved at the meeting.

Finally, discussions with SSE and Northern Electric have been ongoing regarding the removal of the electric supply and meter at the Cricket Pavilion.

As ever, thank you all for your support."

2425/064 Financial Matters

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

The clerk had circulated the reconciliation and budget comparison prior to the meeting. The bank balance stood at £7,619.34 following outstanding cheques being considered. The performance against budget was satisfactory.

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

b) To approve the Schedule of Payments as follows (Appendix 3).

6.12.24	DD	Go-Cardless	IT	£	11.99
16.12.24	DD	Scottish Water	Sports Pavilion	£	16.32
23.12.24	DD	PCCC	Room Hire	£	156.00
30.12.24	DD	HMRC	Salary and related costs	£	49.60
30.12.24	DD	Clerk's Salary Dec	Salary and related costs	£	195.40
6.1.25	DD	Go-Cardless	IT	£	11.99
21.1.25	DD	Clerk's Expenses	Office expenses	£	15.50

Resolved: The schedule of payments was unanimously approved.

c) To discuss the use of Commuted Sums.

The Clerk was asked to send out an updated list of sums available prior to each meeting. Councillors were asked to look at where monies could be best utilised.

Action: The Clerk, All

d) To agree the awarding of the grass cutting contract for 2025.

Resolved; Martin Hullah was awarded the contract for the upcoming year. The Clerk was asked to ensure that the first cut took place in late March.

2425/065 Planning Matters

a) To update the meeting regarding the planning application at Baldersby Gardens

The Clerk reported that, following discussions with NYC Planning, no further progress had been made on this application.

C/F

2425/066 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.

No progress

C/F

b) To update the meeting on gully cleaning and jetting with specific reference to Ward's Corner.

No progress

C/F

c) To update the meeting on the merging of drainage, sewage, and surface water in Baldersby St James

Cllr Wilson reported that a member of the public noted that sewage was evident in the outlet pipe which flowed to the river. The Environmental Agency had been notified, as had Yorkshire Water. Cllr Wilson had written to Yorkshire Water regarding their future plans for a new sewage system in Baldersby St James.

C/F

d) To update the meeting on the dropping of the road surface in Baldersby Garth.

No progress

C/F

e) To update the meeting following the letter to Area 6 regarding speeding in Baldersby St James.

The Clerk reported that he had written to the mayor to draw his attention to the issue on Wide Howe Lane. A speed van had since been observed three times in the area. Cllr Wilson reported that he had represented the parish council on a zoom call with the Deputy Mayor. This had resulted in the authorities looking at the option of providing a speed camera in the area and also looking at a 20-mph speed limit. There was also acknowledgment that signage could be improved. The Clerk was asked to write to the mayor thanking him for his assistance in progressing this issue.

Action: The Clerk

f) To update the meeting regarding overhanging branches on the bridleway running parallel to the A1

The Clerk reported that this had been passed on to the Public Rights of Way team at NYC.

C/F

g) To update the meeting regarding the blocked drain opposite Bretton House

h) To update the meeting regarding the status of Brookside.

The Clerk reported that no actionable defects had been found. Residents were asked to monitor the situation.

2425/067 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.

Resolved: It was agreed to ask Cllr Whitham to move the equipment to the east bound carriageway of the A61 prior to the next meeting. Other councillors would be happy to help.

Action: Cllr Whitham

b) To confirm both the defibrillator batteries have been checked
Both batteries had been checked.

c) To confirm the playground equipment has been checked.
Cllr Shaw confirmed the play equipment had been checked.

d) To update the meeting on the application for funding new play equipment.
This had been covered under 2425/062

e) To update the meeting on new noticeboards for Baldersby and Baldersby St James.
The Clerk reported that we had received £500 from County Cllr Brown's Community Fund to go towards the replacement of the notice boards with Baldersby St James being the priority. Cllr Wilson would contact the joiner.

Action: Cllr Wilson

f) To confirm the acceptance of the quote for trees cutting at the Children's Play Area of £495.00.

Resolved: The work had been completed, and the Clerk was asked to pay the invoice.

2425/068 To discuss the situation regarding the future of the Cricket Pavilion.

a) To update the meeting on the removal of the Cricket Pavilion.

This had been covered under 2425/062

b) To update the meeting on the termination of the electrical supply and removal of the meter.
The Clerk reported that the termination of the electric supply was due to take place on 4th February. He would be writing to Northern Powergen to arrange for removal of the meter.

Action: The Clerk

c) To empower the Clerk to seek quotations for insurance without including the Cricket Pavilion.

Resolved: The Clerk was thus empowered.

2425/069 Governance

a) To re-adopt the Standing Orders as circulated prior to the meeting.

Resolved: These were re-adopted, and the Chairman signed the document.

b) To re-adopt the Financial Regulations as circulated prior to the meeting with the amendment of the need to get three quotes for expenditure below £500.

Resolved: These were re-adopted, and the Chairman signed the document.

c) To re-adopt the Code of Conduct as circulated prior to the meeting.

Resolved: These were re-adopted, and the Chairman signed the document.

d) To adopt the Risk Assessment for Baldersby & Baldersby St James Parish Council as circulated prior to the meeting.

Resolved: These were re-adopted, and the Chairman signed the document.

2425/070 Correspondence

a) To discuss the email received from the liaison for Average and Fixed Speed Cameras NY.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to arrange for the parish council to be signed up to the initiative.

Action: The Clerk

2425/071 To discuss Items raised by Councillors.

a) To discuss the potential for a Spring Litter Pick.

Resolved: The date was agreed as Saturday March 15th with the usual arrangements to be made.

b) To discuss the possibility of producing a Parish Newsletter.

Resolved: It was felt that with the website, the new noticeboards and social media, the parish council had enough visibility.

c) To discuss the possibility of employing a company to perform parish caretaking duties.

All were asked to think about compiling a hit list on areas that that needed attention. In addition, the subject of the Mission Room would be on the next agenda.

Action: All

2425/072 To confirm the date of the next meeting as March 25th, 2025, at 18:30 at the Mission Room.

The date for the next meeting was agreed as the Tuesday March 25th at 18:30 in the Mission Room.

The meeting closed at 20:27.