

Littlethorpe Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the full council meeting of Littlethorpe Parish Council
held on **Thursday 9th July 2026** at Littlethorpe Village Hall

Attendees: Cllr Orme, Cllr Laughner, Cllr Luck, The Clerk and 4 members of the public.

2627/019 To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence.

Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllr Robinson, Cllr Wood and County Cllr Cunliffe-Lister.

2627/020 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 other than those on the website, or applications of dispensation were received.

2627/021 Chairman's Opening Remarks.

Cllr Orme recognised all the work that Cllr Luck had contributed to the Parish Council and was very sorry to hear of her intention to resign.

2627/022 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7th May 2026 as a true and correct record.

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting were unanimously adopted as a true and accurate record.

2627/023 Public Participation (to include an update on The Wetlands).

A member of the public reported that there were now cattle in the field by Renton's Bridge. As yet there were none on the wetlands. A ramp and platform to observe the starlings had been installed. Both the Wetlands and the Staverley nature reserve were due to feature on an episode of the 1 Show entitled "Access to the Countryside" on a future date. Work on the removal of Himalayan Balsam had commenced. Several rare bird species had been spotted, including 2 white-winged black terns and over 100 Red-Eyed Damsel Flies. Large Dragonflies had also been spotted as well as Bitterns.

Another member of the public reported numerous incidents of dog fouling on the path to Littlethorpe Lane. A member of Ripon City Council would supply the details of the dog warden to the Clerk so he could make them aware of the issue.

Action: The Clerk

The member of the public also made the meeting aware of an overhanging tree snagging the telephone lines opposite his property. Cllr Orme would inform the Hield Trust.

Action: Cllr Orme

It was agreed to take item 2627/032 at this point in the meeting.

2627/032 To receive a report from the Alderman Spence Committee

Two members of the Alderman Spence Committee were present. They reported as follows. The Committee had partnered with the conservation trust from Nosterfield. The Hut at Quarry Moor was due to be demolished on 6th August. It was anticipated that the new hut would be in place by the end of the year. A number of organisations were interested in utilising the new hut. It was planned to install new benches at the site. An Open Day was planned for September, and a Botanical group want to hold a training day there.

Resolved: Following discussions it was agreed unanimously to utilise the commuted sums of £1,254 allocated to Quarry Moor towards the purchase of the benches.

2627/024 To receive an update from our Ward Councillor

County Cllr Cunliffe-Lister was not present to deliver her report but had emailed it to the Parish Council shortly before the commencement of the meeting. This is included as Appendix 1.

2627/0025 To receive the Clerks Report

The Clerk reported as follows:

"I am writing this as the weather has cooled down following the hot spell we have just enjoyed (endured)!

Since our last meeting my time has been taken up with submitting our AGAR to the external auditor and ensuring that all documentation has been posted on either the noticeboard or the website to ensure we are compliant with legislation. I have had acknowledgement from our external auditors that everything has been safely received and there are no further requirements of us. Thus ends 2025/2026!

Following authorisation by the Parish Council, I have taken delivery of a new laptop to which I have taken time to load all files and documents appertaining to the current, as well as previous years of the parish council. This has been supplied by Ripon Laptop Centre, a local business, who provide excellent support.

Correspondence has been received from Keepmoat Homes regarding the proposed development on Harrogate Road, Ripon. As this is not yet a full application, we can note it but can't really comment until it achieves that status. It is good to be forewarned of the proposals, and it is on our agenda to ensure everyone is aware of what it might entail.

A leaflet drop is ongoing to ensure that all parishioners are aware of the Triathlon which is taking place on 12th July and will affect roads in the village. Details of this will also be published on the Parish Council and Village Websites."

The Clerk also informed the meeting that he had raised the invoice for grass-cutting and sent it to North Yorkshire Council for payment of £92.75.

The Clerk's Report was unanimously approved.

2627/026 Financial Matters

a) To approve the bank reconciliation and budget comparison for July 2026

The Clerk had circulated the report prior to the meeting. Following payment of any outstanding invoices the bank balance stood at £8,783.63. Performance against budget was as anticipated considering we had purchased a new laptop for the Clerk, which was not in the budget for this year.

Resolved: The report was unanimously approved.

b) To approve the Schedule of Payments.

Resolved: The Schedule of Payments was unanimously approved.

c) To note the commuted sums available to the parish council (previously circulated).

The commuted sums were noted, and the Clerk was asked to raise the situation regarding the funds available for Ripon Marina, as the area concerned was in the ward when the funds were allocated.

Action: The Clerk

d) To note the receipt of documents by the External Auditor (PKF Littlejohn).

This was noted by the meeting.

e) To update the meeting on the Notice of Public Rights and Publication of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return.

The Clerk reported that he had not received any requests from the public.

2627/028 Planning Matters

- a) To note the Planning Enforcement communication regarding the Telecommunication Mast (o2) at Whitcliffe Lane.

This was noted and a Councillor reported that a number of parishioners had mentioned the noise and smell of the generator to them.

- b) To note correspondence received regarding the proposed development by Keepmoat Homes off Harrogate Road, Ripon.

Resolved: It was agreed to take up the offer of a meeting with the developers and to also invite County Cllr Cunliffe- Lister to the meeting.

Action: The Clerk

2627/029 To receive information on the following issues and to decide on further action where necessary:

- a) To update the meeting on the proposed gully clearing schedule.

It was noted that the gully on Pottery Lane had not been cleared. The Clerk would take up with Highways.

Action: The Clerk

- b) To update the meeting on the flooding at the bypass

This was carried forward.

- c) To update the meeting on 20mph speed restrictions in the village.

The Clerk reported that the proposals for the scheme had gone through informal consultation without any issues. The next step is to draft up the legal order / notices for formal consultation. Cllr Laugher at this point informed the meeting that, following the rescue of a hedgehog, widely publicised on the Village Website, she would be getting in contact with the Hedgehog Society to get some hedgehog warning signs which could be installed on private property.

Action: Cllr Laugher

- d) To update the meeting regarding dog waste bins.

This item was carried forward.

2627/030 To discuss arrangements for the Ripon Triathlon 12th July 2026.

The village had been leafleted by Councillors prior to the event, explaining where the road closures would be. Details had also been posted on the Parish Council website and the Village Website. Cllr Orme thanked Cllr Robinson in his absence for all the work he had undertaken in liaising with the Triathlon Committee.

2627/031 To receive a report from the Village Hall Committee.

Cllr Laugher reported that the AGM had taken place, and that the same Committee was in place for the forthcoming year. It was planned to update the Ladies Washroom. All the blown double glazing had been replaced. Plans going forward included the possibility for a new porch area.

2627/033 To confirm the date of the next meeting as Thursday 3rd September at 17:00.

This was confirmed.

The meeting closed at 17:45.

Following the meeting Cllr Luck confirmed her resignation. The Clerk would put the process in place with North Yorkshire for co-option.

Action: The Clerk

Appendix 1

Cllr Felicity Cunliffe-Lister Parish Report Littlethorpe: July 26

Connectivity

The digital officer at NYC has been liaising with Quickline to establish the extent of the current project's (Gigabit) delivery. They are assessing whether or not any additional dwellings can be included, those that might be very close to other dwellings that have a connection. Properties which are not included after this "change request" to the contract will then be passed to Openreach as part of what BDUK term a 'Type C' procurement. There is not yet a timescale for this next phase.

Julian Smith has been liaising with the Minister for Digital Connectivity on my behalf about the need for further mobile masts in the area, and the alternatives that are being considered in way of providing mobile coverage. I am waiting for a further response.

I have established that there might be CIL funding for mobile mast installation. I am liaising between the telecoms agent and the NYC officers to establish how this might be possible. What would first be required is a site with planning permission. Are there any sites around Littlethorpe where mobile coverage is poor that might be suitable for this where a landowner might want to engage with this?

Community Led Housing

The Mashamshire CLH Trust has been established, and we submitted a bid to purchase a derelict school outside Fearby. We are also investigating the option of developing council house garages into small housing units. There is one in Masham that might be a suitable pilot, and there is a new tranche of Mayoral brownfield funding that might assist with this.

Don't Spark Disaster

Both the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks have launched this campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of wildfires and how to avoid them. A link is here :

[https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/plan-your-visit/essential-information/fire-safety-in-the-yorkshire-
dales/](https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/plan-your-visit/essential-information/fire-safety-in-the-yorkshire-dales/) In light of the current dry weather I thought this might be useful to share.

North Yorkshire Parish Council website

This has recently launched. Parish Clerks will need to register to gain access to it. It is hoped that it will be a more convenient platform for information and engagement between NYC and parishes. Please let me know how you find it.

Access to Banking

This Mayoral Banking Fund has been recently announced. supports projects that reintroduce or enhance physical banking and cash services on high streets. Approximately £1.2m available in total, individual grants of £30k to £400k. Capital, revenue, or a mix and match funding is required above £50k of total project cost. Capital schemes need a 3-year commitment to run services.

Ripon to Fountains Cycle Route

The report is now complete, and the recommended route is the one we were hoping for. The Uredale Transport & Connectivity Working Group are meeting the NYC officer in September to review this and assess what funding is available for which element and review the remaining LCWAIP routes also.

Home to School Transport

I have submitted a motion for Full Council next week, to reintroduce catchment to Home to School transport. This would avoid children on the North Yorkshire boundary being denied transport to a county school if one outside the county is closer, and for children who live just a few metres closer to one school than another (such as the two schools in Ripon) not being provided transport to their school of choice. I am aware this has created costs for the county by way of new taxi routes, and costs for families (and the environment) who are now driving to school every day.

Uredale Transport & Connectivity Group

The Working Group have been asked to circulate the following consultation, please can you encourage everyone to submit their views :

York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority (YNYCA) has been [awarded funding](#) to explore how to deliver better rural and coastal bus services and this study will help to shape approaches to future services.

YNYCA want to hear from people whose voices are often not heard or involved in decisions on transport, whether they use buses or not. Please fill out [this](#) survey and share with your friends and family in York and North Yorkshire: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/t/2ZQA1Y/>

Rocket Science are working alongside Haskoning UK Ltd as part of the commission for Rural Bus Franchising Studies, commissioned by YNYCA.

If you prefer, we can offer phone calls and visits to groups, just call or text: 0191 3002587 or email: lona.Nixon@rocketsciencelab.co.uk

Ousewem Modelling

I have had an update on this project from the NYC Officer. The report is complete but not yet in circulation, it will be presented at the ACC in October. She says the results are compelling, and although measures need to be on a fairly large scale the impact can be demonstrated in terms of preventing downstream flooding. This relates to the catchment areas of the rivers that flow into the Ouse, and the towns and villages that suffer from flooding.

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

I am now a member of the board and attending their Full Authority Meeting last Tuesday, where their Local Plan for the next five years was approved.

Feast : www.northyorkshiretogether.co.uk/feast

FEAST is back this summer, offering holiday activities with a healthy meal for young people aged 16 and under across North Yorkshire. Better yet, if you are eligible for benefits-related free school meals then your place is fully-funded

What's happening when?

- From Monday 15th June – browse activities on the FEAST website or view the offline activity listings to see what's on in your area.
- Midday, Monday 22nd June – vouchers go live. Eligible families will receive a text or email from HolidayActivities to redeem their voucher and request places.
- From Friday 24th June – activity providers begin allocating places.

Funded places are available for children who receive benefits-related Free School Meals (or who are eligible by exception – see the FEAST FAQs for details). Each activity you book includes a free healthy meal for your child.

If you believe your child is eligible and do not receive your voucher on 22nd June, please contact your school office.

Families who are not eligible for funded places may be able to book paid places directly with providers.

Visit the FEAST website to explore what's on this summer.

Executive Meetings

The minutes from the June Executive meeting are here :

<https://edemocracy.northyorks.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1147&MId=20911&Ver=4>

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