

Littlethorpe Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the full council meeting of Littlethorpe Parish Council
held on **Thursday 3rd September 2026** at Littlethorpe Village Hall at 17:00

Attendees: Cllr Orme, Cllr Laugher, Cllr Robinson, Cllr Wood, Cllr Buck, The Clerk, County Councillor Cunliffe-Lister and 4 members of the public.

Prior to the meeting Cllr Buck signed the relevant paperwork in order for him to be co-opted to the council.

2627/034 To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence.

Apologies had been received from the Ripon City Councillors who sit on the Alderman Spence Committee.

2627/035 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.

2627/036 Chairman's Opening Remarks.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Buck, as a newly co-opted councillor.

2627/037 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2026 as a true and correct record.

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

2627/038 Public Participation (to include an update on The Wetlands).

A member of the public reported on the Wetlands. The Belted Galloways had been taken away in case there were to be a flood in the area. A ramp was being constructed to aid observation of the starlings. It was proving difficult to count birds owing to the intrusion of the willows and there was concern that it would affect the numbers of bird watchers visiting the area. A rare migrant butterfly, the Clouded Yellow, had been observed along with a Wall butterfly, of which there had been a 90% decline in the last 30 years. In addition, over 100 Red Eyed Damsel butterflies had been spotted. Thankfully there had been no further vandalism at the site. Visitors were asked to take care due to the heavy construction equipment that was currently being used on site.

A parishioner asked about the ash tree on Littlethorpe Lane which was enveloping phone lines. Cllr Orme was in contact with a representative of Carter Jonas regarding the tree and would escalate the matter.

Action: Cllr Orme

The streetlight at the junction of Littlethorpe Lane by the church was almost obscured by greenery. The Clerk would take the matter up with Highways.

Action: The Clerk

2627/039 To receive an update from our Ward Councillor

County Cllr Cunliffe-Lister gave her report which is attached as Appendix One.

2627/040 To receive the Clerks Report (Appendix 1)

The Clerk reported as follows.

"I have been involved in several initiatives over the past couple of months. I have been in contact with NYC regarding our casual vacancy for a councillor and have received the go – ahead to co-opt a new councillor which will bring us up to full strength going into the remainder of this financial year, before next year's elections.

I have also had a meeting with Highways to discuss the outstanding issues and will update all at the meeting.

The insurance policy for the parish council has been renewed with Zurich for the upcoming year.

As you are all aware, I have decided to relinquish my post as Clerk and RFO to the council after nigh on 10 years. I feel that I have come to a natural conclusion and believe it would be good to have someone in place prior to the next elections in May. Consequently, although my contract allows me to give one month's notice, I am prepared to remain in the position until 31st December, whilst the Council seeks a replacement. Should someone be identified before that date, I would have no issue in stepping aside. I would not wish to continue after December. An advert for the position has been posted on the YLCA website, and I would hope that we would be able to identify a suitable candidate sooner rather than later.

I would like to thank all the councillors and parishioners with whom I have worked with, past and present, over the last 10 years for their support, fellowship and camaraderie. It's been a highly enjoyable experience!"

Resolved: The Clerk's Report was unanimously accepted.

2627/041 Financial Matters

a) To approve the bank reconciliation and budget comparison for September 2026 (Appendix 2).

The Clerk had circulated the report prior to the meeting. Following payment of any outstanding invoices the bank balance stood at £7885.57. 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 (Appendix 3).

8.7.26	DD Village Hall	Unrestricted	Room Hire		£	18.00
3.8.26	DD K Pettit (August)	Unrestricted	Salary and related costs		£	192.73
3.8.26	DD Zurich Insurance	Unrestricted	Insurance	£	-	£ 214.00
4.8.26	DD Village Hall	Unrestricted	Room Hire		£	12.00
6.8.26	DD HMRC	Unrestricted	Salary and related costs		£	48.20
11.8.26	DD YLCA	Unrestricted	Office expenses	£	-	£ 20.00
1.9.26	DD K Pettitt (September)	Unrestricted	Salary and related costs		£	192.73
4.9.26	DD Clerk's Expenses	Unrestricted	Office expenses		£	52.00
6.9.26	DD HMRC	Unrestricted	Salary and related costs	£	-	£ 48.20

Resolved: The schedule of payments was unanimously approved.

c) To note the correspondence from NYC regarding the setting of a budget for 2027/28.

The correspondence was duly noted. The Clerk would prepare a draft budget for circulation prior to the November meeting.

Action: The Clerk

2627/ 042 To update the meeting on the arrangements for employing a new clerk.

The meeting was informed that a successor to the clerk had been identified and had accepted the post following an interview with several councillors. Rob Bareham would take over the role on 1st November. The current clerk would arrange for a handover in October and would prepare the documentation for the November meeting. He would also attend the November meeting to support the new Clerk.

Action: The Clerk

2627/043 Planning Matters

a) To discuss the response, if any, from Johnson Mowat on behalf of Keepmoat Homes to our request for a meeting regarding their proposed development on Harrogate Road.

The Clerk had written to Johnson Mowatt requesting dates during w/c 7th September for a meeting with County Cllr Cunliffe-Lister and the Parish Council and was awaiting a response.

2627/044 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.

The Clerk would ensure that the two gullies of which there was concern about were on the gully clearing list. Cllr Laugher would supply the "what three words" locations.

Action: Cllr Laugher, The Clerk

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

This was a capital project and as yet there was no funding available.

C/F

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

Following the meeting the Clerk received confirmation that the new speed limit order will come into effect in January 2027.

d) To update the meeting regarding dog waste bins.

The situation remained as was. Cllr Laugher reported that the Pinfold bin needed changing.

Action: Cllr Orme

2627/045 Correspondence.

a) To note the correspondence from the organisers of the Ripon Triathlon, following the event.

Cllrs reported that the event had passed off with no issues. The Marshalls had proven very helpful and litter had been collected after the event.

b) To discuss the correspondence from Ripon City Council regarding the abandoned car in the River Ure.

The Parish Council noted that this had been resolved and the matter was now considered closed.

c) To discuss the maintenance of the communal areas in the proposed Keepmoat Homes development.

This would be taken up at the meeting with Johnson Mowatt w/c 7th September.

2627/046 To discuss the problem of dog fouling in the parish.

Resolved: The Clerk would write to the Motorboat Club, The Campsite, The Marina and The River Trust regarding the issue, which seems to peak in the summer months when there are visitors about.

Action: The Clerk

2627/047 To discuss training requirements for councillors

Resolved: It was suggested that all councillors attend the "Off to a Flying Start" courses which are advertised by the YLCA each week.

Action: All

2627/048 To receive a report from the Village Hall Committee.

Cllr Laugher reported on the work that had been done at the village hall. There was a new porch, the ladies' washroom facilities had been updated to include a hand dryer, and soap dispensers had been installed in both the ladies and gents. The outside area and the kitchen had been tidied up. The main lock had been changed and a key safe had been installed.

2627/049 To receive a report from the Alderman Spence Committee

No report had been received, but it was noted that there had been a great improvement at the site.

2627/050 To confirm the date of the next meeting as 5th November at 17:00.

The next meeting was confirmed as 5th November at 17: 00 at the village hall.

A litter pick was scheduled for 17th October.

The meeting closed at 18:07

Appendix One – County Councillors Report

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.

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 and if the mobile phone operators might be persuaded to develop additional masts if CIL funding were available.

I am aware that a resident near Masham has been provided with a smart meter connection using broadband connection, by Octopus. This is very good news and worth pursuing with Julian Smith if any other residents are unable to get a connection via mobile.

Community Led Housing

The Mashamshire CLH Trust has been established, and we have submitted a bid to purchase Kell Bank near Fearby. Planning has yet to be granted for change of use. Whilst we have been advised that we do not qualify as an alternative community use, I have asked the NYC offer to reconsider this, and there is a chance that some new funding streams enable us to approach the Diocese again. 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-daales/>

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.

Keepmoat Homes

I have been approached by the agent acting for this developer in relation to a proposed development on Harrogate Road. I hope a meeting to discuss this further can be arranged.

Highways

I note that the draft Order has been advertised for the proposed new speed limits in Littlethorpe, and that the date for objections has now passed.

Toothbrushing in Schools

I have put the Head at Grewelthorpe School in touch with the NHS coordinator who funds the provision of daily toothbrushing in schools. This has been successful in other schools in my division, so I very much hope it gets off the ground.

Access to Banking

This Mayoral Banking Fund has been recently announced. It 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. The Masham Community Office and Peacock & Verity have met recently to establish if Masham might qualify for the funding – an update will follow.

Quarry Moor

I have attended recent Working Group meetings where I am a non-voting member. Work is in progress with regard to raising funding and managing the site.

Home to School Transport

I submitted a motion for Full Council in July, 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. The chair proposed that this be deferred to Scrutiny Committee rather than debated on the day and sadly this was supported by the Conservatives and the majority of Labour members. The Committee is meeting in September, when the Policy Implementation Review will also take place. What is unfortunate is that any chance in policy now won't be made in time for next year's school intake.

Uredale Transport & Connectivity Group

We are meeting next week to review the proposed cycle route from Ripon to Fountains Abbey.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy Alignment with Sustainable Farming Incentive

Ahead of the expected opening of the second application window (Window 2) for the Sustainable Farming Incentive 2026 (SFI26) in September, NYC are circulating a guidance document which highlights the potential alignment between the nature recovery priorities identified in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), and their associated measures (or actions), and the paid actions under SFI26. I can provide a copy on request and hope it will be a useful resource for landowners, land managers and farmers, and their advisors, to understand how the paid actions under SFI26 may be able to support the delivery of enhancements for nature and biodiversity across North Yorkshire and York.

Call for Sites

The link below takes you to the fourth release of the public sites map, over 2,300 have been put forward for consideration. Once these have been reviewed the decision will be made as to whether or not to reopen the Call for Sites.

NYC are not consulting on the release of the sites at this stage and are not accepting comments on them. They are making the information available to ensure greater levels of transparency and to allow you, the community and other interested parties the opportunity to have sight of the submitted sites as early as possible. A comprehensive consultation will take place later that will seek the views of the community on all sites – at which stage further work will have been completed to give a greater direction as to whether such sites are likely to be recommended for allocation or dismissed. You will be able to share your views at that time

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/3bfe654621e2451a97797c51217d9f84?draft=true>

Mayoral Local Transport Plan Consultation

David Skaith has launched a 10-week public consultation on his Local Transport Plan.

The Mayor's Local Transport Plan sets out a longterm vision for improving transport across York and North Yorkshire, helping people travel more easily, safely and sustainably.

This plan will guide future transport investment and priorities across the county and be supported by a delivery plan setting out how improvements will be made across all modes of transport, including walking, cycling, buses, rail and roads. The consultation opens today (26th August) and will run for 10 weeks. Residents, businesses, visitors and stakeholders can share their view by completing an online survey

yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/local-transport-plan-consultation/ .

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 attended their Full Authority Meeting in July where their Local Plan for the next five years was approved.

Executive Meetings

The minutes from the August Executive meeting are here :

<https://edemocracy.northyorks.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1147&MIId=21027&Ver=4>

The project ensures that households have access to competitive deals through a hassle-free process. Suppliers compete for the opportunity to offer households the lowest energy tariff, and there is no need to compare different tariffs as everyone registered receives a personal offer.

Since 2012, the Big Community Switch has seen more than 2.1 million people register their interest in switching energy contracts.