

Constable Burton and Finghall Parish Council

The quarterly meeting of the Council held on 3rd November 2025 at 7.00pm in The Reading Room, Constable Burton.

Present: Cllrs Smith, Allinson, Hale & Gelder, 1 MOP

1. Apologies and reasons for absence. Cllr Dalton, family commitments
2. To receive any declarations of interest. None
3. To confirm the minutes of meetings held on 4th August & 27th August 2025 as a true and accurate record. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record of both meetings.
4. Matters raised by members of the public. Resident asks if the PC had got any further with replacing some grit heaps for grit bins in Barden, no response has been received as yet. Clerk to chase, resident felt that an additional bin in the village would be useful, as well as ones at Friars Ing and Hillcrest. It was resolved to go ahead with this provided the price is under £400.
5. Crime report. Reports received and forwarded to Cllrs from August, September & October.
6. Clerk report. To receive information on the following ongoing issues and decide further action where necessary.
 - Update re: retention of phone kiosks. Email from NYC informing that all payphones will be retained due to inadequate mobile coverage. Clerk to request all kiosks are cleaned and maintained. Defib discussed at Barden, and this now looks unlikely as the phone kiosk was to be used to house this. Resident will make some queries.
 - Constable Burton bench. Cllr Gelder will action this.
 - Community Emergency Plan adoption. Some items to be resolved: Cllr Allinson will ask if The Queens Head would like to be involved; Cllr Gelder will discuss with the resident involved with the Chapel and ask if they want to be included. Also, ideally more volunteers required.
 - Highways/Streetworks updates. Cllr Gelder asked for clarification about Openreach works and if any permits had been applied for. Streetworks replied that none had but that there is provision to submit an urgent permit. Cllr Hale reported temporary traffic lights at Constable Burton, which we hadn't been notified about, this was causing problems with parking and traffic flow. Streetworks replied and stated that this was not on PC designated land and so we weren't notified. Cllrs pleased to see work has started to repair the bridge at Constable Burton, but equally damage likely to happen again. Clerk to enquire about road markings/signage with Highways.
 - Cllr Gelder reported large branch down at Donald Smith Court. Clerk reported and NYC dealt with promptly, they will assess the health of this tree also. Street furniture on Blewhouse Lane reported. Clerk checked area, the water hydrant box at an angle but stable. Clerk to report paths at Donald Smith Court as slippery with algae/moss.
7. Planning Applications.
 - Permission in Principle for the residential conversion of a modern agricultural building to a single dwelling – Chapel Lane Farm, Finghall. No objections, under delegated authority (Cllrs Allinson & Smith).
 - Full planning permission for conversion of an existing stone barn to form a dwelling, including an extension in matching materials to provide two bedrooms and a bathroom. The works also involve installation of services, construction of a stone-built garage/workshop, redirection of existing farm track and change of use from agricultural to residential. Revised plans at Pump Street, East Hauxwell. No objections, under delegated authority (Cllrs Smith & Hale). This application has now been withdrawn.
 - Tree Preservation Order at Pump Street, East Hauxwell. No objections.
 - Full planning permission for conversion and extension of the former Reading Rooms, to include new access/parking and the removal of trees within the curtilage of the property at Reading Room, East Hauxwell. Cllrs support the development of this building, however they felt that the proposed extension is excessively large in proportion to the current building.
 - Retention of development as built, including submission of a post-construction contamination assessment and substitution of approved timber windows with UPVC 9 units replicating the original

design, including glazed bars (retrospective) at Queens Head, Finghall. Councillors do not support the substitution of UPVC windows and would prefer to see timber windows as agreed in the planning decision notice 19/00708/FULL.

Granted: FPP for outbuilding, stable & annex at Southwick Grange, Finghall; FPP for the change of use of existing building from agricultural to equestrian (retrospective at Hutton Ghyll, Hutton Hang

Refused: FPP for replacement of glass houses with ancillary residential and amenity building at Hauxwell Hall, West Hauxwell

Not allowed under permitted development: Application to determine if prior approval is required for proposed conversion of existing barn to create 5 no individual dwellings at Southwick Farm, Finghall. Letter sent to planning department following the 27th August meeting, also discussed with NYC Liaison, awaiting a response.

8. Matters requested by Councillors & meetings attended by Councillors & Clerk. Cllr Gelder – problems with Openreach and Broadband supply in Constable Burton. This happened over the summer and involved 19 households which were without Broadband for around a month. Cllr Gelder contacted Rishi Sunak's Office and the issue was resolved within days. It was also highlighted that Openreach communication systems are very poor.

Cllr Smith to replace the noticeboard at Barden with the larger one in storage.

9. Financial matters. Balance at 3/11/25 £7689.84 (all Cllrs viewed the internal financial controls via email)

Incoming

- NYC (Precept 2nd payment) £5000.00

Outgoing

- VCS Websites (Web hosting) £124.00
- Vicki Raven (August, September, October wages) £1191.94
- HMRC (PAYE) £80.08
- Zurich (Insurance) £406.13

- Forecast 25/26 & precept setting. Forecast forwarded to Cllrs. Cllr Hale explains the financial review from August 2023, and that it was decided (from this review) to hold the precept at £10,000 for the next 3 years; this was to increase the contribution the PC can offer to benefit the community and to access grants. It was resolved to set the precept at £10,000, this will equate to an approximate increase of 1.61% of the PC precept payment by residents (Band D property). The NYC policy relating to Election recharges has recently been approved, this would equate to estimated charges for a bi-election of £2250 and a contested election between £600-£1000.

10. Safety Review. Quarterly reports received, April – June & July – September. Very low risk levels items: some plastic caps missing from slide and the slide is showing some rust areas.

11. To consider the following new correspondence received and decide action where necessary:

North Yorkshire Council Spennithorne & Middleton Primary Schools Consultation, no objections.

Radio Teleswitch Meter Phase-out, posted on website & PC Facebook page; Footpath & Bridleways Modification Orders - Garriston, Barden West Hauxwell. Information relating to recent proposals, the only relevant comments from the PC are to provide evidence to show why the route is a different status to that claimed in the application. Community Governance Consultation, posted on the website and PC Facebook page, also residents have received a letter. The letter didn't include the proposals and residents needed to look at the website to find any details, this was felt to be unhelpful. Clerk to add this comment and that the PC has no objections to the proposals. Local Government Boundary Commission – Draft recommendations. No further changes for our area. North Yorkshire Citizens Advice & Law Centre – Information and donation request. It was resolved not to donate. YLCA – Digital & Data Compliance. Clerk to forward IT Policy to adhere to this new notification. Resident – Planning advice. Referred to NYC Planning department.

12. Co-option of Parish Councillor. Application received from Sheila Beniams; it was resolved to co-opt Shelia onto the PC as the Hauxwell representative.

13. Date of next meeting. Monday 9th February

Meeting closed: 8.34pm