

Constable Burton and Finghall Parish Council

The quarterly meeting of the Council held on 17th August 2026 at 7.00pm in The Reading Room, Constable Burton.

Present: Cllrs Smith, Gelder & Beniams, 13 MOP

1. Apologies and reasons for absence. Cllrs Dalton (family commitments), Phillip Iveson
2. To receive any declarations of interest. Cllr Smith declares an interest in item 9.
3. To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 11th May as a true and accurate record. It was resolved to accept these minutes as a true and accurate record.
4. Election of Vice Chairman. It was resolved for Cllr Gelder to take this role, clerk to arrange bank mandate changes.
5. Matters raised by members of the public. Resident reports overgrown area at Wild Hill to Chapel Lane and difficulty with visibility when going over A684, and Constable Burton sign to East is overgrown. Cllr Smith will action both.
6. Crime report. Reports received and forwarded to Cllrs from June.
7. Clerk report. To receive information on the following ongoing issues and decide further action where necessary.
 - Highway update & workshop. Highways Officer has inspected Mill Lane, Constable Burton footway and resolved any issues. Road restrictions for East Hauxwell & Constable Burton, clerk has put on the website & Facebook page. Clerk attended Highways workshop on 28th May, Bridge Officer in attendance and explained that around 50% of their work is planned, and 50% emergency repairs, frustrations with red tape which can often delay works. Finghall bridge is due for an inspection this year.
 - Street Furniture Licence for bench in Constable Burton, Highways highlight that the work will need to be carried out by an authorised contractor. It was resolved to have a concrete pad, the bench size, with added 18" at front and 10" at the back and sides, clerk to get quotes.
 - Hauxwell defib, clerk informs that there is no indicator informing about battery life. Checked and there is a warning light which flashes when low, clerk to find out how long this flashes prior to battery expiring. Resident notifies that these last for around 4 years. Clerk to research more about these defibs, as checked every 3 months and may require further checks, Cllr Beniams offers to help.
 - Resident reports abandoned caravan on A684 layby, reported and resolved.
 - Resident reports drain blocked at the top of Finghall bank and water cascading down the verge and destroying it. Reported blocked drain, now cleared.
 - Resident reported vegetation around milk churn on Finghall bank. Cllr Smith has cleared.
8. Planning Applications
 - Retention of dwelling as built (retrospective) including amendments to the approved development under application ref. 19/00708/FULL (change in description) at Queens Head, Finghall. PC do not support this substitution of UPVC windows and would prefer to see timber windows as agreed in the planning decision notice 19/00708/FULL, resolved under delegated authority (Cllrs Smith & Gelder).
 - Full planning permission for proposed single storey side/rear sun lounge at Beech Cottage, Constable Burton. No objections to this proposal but Cllrs wanted to highlight that this cottage is within the conservation area of Constable Burton, and as such the materials used need to be in-keeping and sympathetic with the rest of the properties on the row and the property it is attached to. Councillors suggest the planning department should consult the Conservation Officer about this proposal, resolved under delegated authority (Cllrs Smith & Gelder).
 - Full planning permission for conversion of adjacent, low storey stone barn to create extended residential accommodation for Low Farm House at Low Farm, South Moor, Garriston. No objections but Cllrs would like to emphasise that the plans should mitigate and be mindful of the habitat destruction for bats and nesting/roosting birds, resolved under delegated authority (Cllrs Smith & Beniams).
 - Full planning permission for change of use and engineering works to lift the land levels of part of agricultural land associated with the re-siting of the Quoits Pitch at Queens Head, Finghall. Cllrs agree that there appears to have been a breach of planning regulations in relation to this application. Councillors were disappointed to see this application as a retrospective planning application

and would have preferred to have seen this proposal prior to work being completed. Resolved under delegated authority (Cllrs Smith, Gelder, Beniams & Dalton).

- Full planning permission for conversion of existing agricultural building to 1 no dwelling house (use class C3) including internal alterations, removal of lean-to extension, external openings, associated works and provision of parking and residential curtilage at Spruce Gill Farm, Finghall. Cllr Smith declares an interest. No objections, resolved under delegated authority (Cllrs Dalton & Gelder).
- Retrospective application to vary use from machinery store to livestock building after the original prior notification submitted under ZD25/00233/AGN at West Moor, Finghall. No objections, under delegated authority (Cllrs Smith & Dalton).

Cllr Sedgewick sent an email stating that she has agreed to act for the PC regarding planning issues, and will let the planning department know. She states she is happy to attend site meetings, committee meetings, etc. Resident gives some history about the Finghall Blewhouse Lane planning application, and previous site meeting which Cllr Gelder attended, she didn't feel that Cllr Sedgewick was supportive of residents' concerns. Resident had spoken with Cllr Les who offered support of an Officer from NYC, resident is happy with this support. A resident emailed about a planning application in Akebar park and the references to St Andrews Church being wrongly named, checked for this application and no application at present.

9. Matters requested by Cllrs & meetings attended by Cllrs & Clerk. Cllr Smith states that a resident has reported the tree in Finghall near the noticeboard as concerning, with branches falling. Reported to Tree Inspector at NYC and waiting for a reply about ownership of this tree. Cllr Gelder reported issues in Donald Smith Court, these have all been resolved. Cllrs Beniams discusses the possibility of a bin in Barden, possibly near the current bench. To find out the ownership of this bench, and discuss the placement of a bin in Barden. Clerk to order when decided. Clerk attended YLCA Branch meeting, two items to be taken to Executive meeting and hopefully NALC: To push for Water Authorities to be Statutory Consultees of planning applications and ask for formal accountability of NY Cllrs. Next meeting 8th October.
10. Financial matters. Balance at 17/8/26 £7985.61 (all Cllrs attending viewed the internal financial controls)
 - Incoming
 - HMRC (VAT reclaim) £951.64
 - Outgoing
 - Constable Burton Reading Rooms (Room hire) £70.00
 - Vicki Raven (May, June, July wages) £1054.44
 - HMRC (PAYE) £200.28
 - Margaret Goldie (Internal audit) £30.00

Pensions Regulator. Clerk to carry out re-enrolment & re-declaration, no pension. SAAA notify about the new Digital AGAR Portal, clerk has registered
11. Safety Review. No quarterly report received, clerk to chase.
12. Adoption of policies: Complaints Policy & Recording of Meeting rules. It was resolved to accept these policies.
13. To consider the following new correspondence received and decide action where necessary:
 - North Yorkshire Council – Home to School Travel consultation (Middleham & Spennithorne schools). Cllrs resolved to encourage the retention of the current home to school transport provision when the age group of the schools change.
 - North Yorkshire Council – Changes to requirements regarding publication of councillors' usual address. All addresses redacted from the website.
 - North Yorkshire Council – Guidance about public right of way consultation. Email from Definitive Map Officer, unable to take our previous comments forward as need to provide evidence that the proposed route is not a public right of way or a different status. Clerk to forward original comments to Cllrs. It was thought that we are unable to provide this evidence.
 - North Yorkshire Council – Community Governance (final). From 1st April, Constable Burton will have two councillors to represent, Finghall, Hutton Hang & Akebar – two Cllrs, Hauxwell, Barden & Garriston – two Cllrs.
 - North Yorkshire Council – Polling District review. No changes for our area.

- ITP – Bus consultation. This was a tight deadline, Cllrs forwarded comments by email including more hubs to more destinations and highlighted the need for transport to the new Catterick Integrated Medical Centre. Coverage of buses to be more useful for main working times to main centres. The bus stop at Constable Burton has no footpath leading to it, more bus stops generally helpful in rural areas. Accurate information – Constable Burton has no bus timetables.
 - YLCA – update re: water authority statutory consultation from planning departments. Water authorities are not statutory consultees on planning applications bar in very exceptional circumstances: boring for oil, but equally it is seen as good practice for the local planning authority to consult for major developments.
 - Rotary Club – Best Kept Village results. Thank you for entry of Constable Burton & Finghall, unsuccessful this time, the competition was very close. Resident highlights that more notification is needed for this competition.
 - Residents – Speeding (Finghall) particularly on Finghall bank and level crossing, Cllr Gelder asks residents in attendance about speeding in that location. It was resolved to ask for 40mph from the bank top to past the level crossing. Query about property boundary, clerk discussed with Cllr Gelder and replied that PC doesn't own this land and to discuss with their solicitors.
 - Tour of Britain cycle race 5th September. Road closure disturbances on West Moor Lane, notice on website and Facebook page.
14. Co-option of two Parish Councillors for Finghall & Constable Burton. Residents in attendance to support applicants, long discussions about long standing residents and newer residents and who would be better placed to be a Cllr. The two applicants in attendance explain why they wish to join the Parish Council. Cllr Smith asks if either of the applicants would like to represent Constable Burton, both would prefer to represent Finghall, one happy to represent Constable Burton. Cllr Gelder explains that it is important to live in the community you are representing, and further adds that she is fairly new to the village (4 years). Cllrs vote, it was resolved for Phillip Iveson to represent Finghall. Resident disappointed with the decision. Cllr Beniams adds that she has only lived in the village for 2 years. One of the unsuccessful applicants would appreciate feedback. Clerk to readvertise for the Constable Burton position.
15. Date of next meeting. Monday 9th November
Meeting closed: 8.23pm