

Flaxton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 15th May 2025 following the annual parish meeting, in Flaxton Village Hall

Parish Councillors Present: Steve Axford (SA)
Ian Craven (IC) Chair
Derek Leetham (DL) Vice chair
Grace Mook (GM)

North Yorkshire Councillors Present: Caroline Goodrick

In Attendance: Anna Jackson (AJ) – Parish Clerk

Public Present: 6

69/25 To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons given

None

70/25 To receive declarations of interest and dispensations

- To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda
SA and GM – Items relating to Greengate
- To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests
None
- To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate
None

71/25 To receive information about the following ongoing initiatives and decide further action where necessary:

- Village Maintenance activity progress:
 - Benches – Three benches on The Green have been sanded and completed. Remaining benches with concrete ends will be worked on by DL at home. SA and DL to coordinate replacement of missing wedges.
 - Gateway Painting – Gates have been sanded; painting will be completed shortly. A rotting post was noted, discussion with Highways and contact with John Dickens to follow.
 - Defibrillator telephone box – IC has contacted the supplier for a date for repainting. Awaiting response.
 - Grass cutting arrangement – Two of three potential contractors are unavailable. IC has purchased a strimmer. DL will provide a risk assessment. IC and DL to carry out the first cut early next week.
- Speeding concerns – Contact made with Speed Watch team. A speed monitoring device was recently in place; the Council is awaiting data and feedback.
- Liaison with NY Highways (Protection of the green)

RESOLVED: A meeting is scheduled with Highways on Thursday, 22nd May.

72/25 Public Session – The Parish Council will, time permitting, adjourn the council meeting for a short time to allow for public comment and questions

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A resident asked whether electric vehicle chargers can cross public footpaths. RESOLVED: Cllr. Goodrick confirmed this is not permitted.

A member of the public praised the emergency services' response to a recent bomb incident but expressed disappointment with communication on road reopening times. RESOLVED: The Parish Council will investigate.

73/25 To receive an update from North Yorkshire Councillor Goodrick if appropriate

- NYCC has lost £16.6 million in Rural Services Grant funding.
- Anticipated further central government cuts may total £30 million, creating budgetary pressures.
- A second homes levy is expected to support new affordable housing, targeting 500 new homes in the first year.
- £70 million has been allocated to re-routing the A59 near Blubberhouses.
- Suggested: Additional funding for Parish projects may require raising the parish precept.

74/25 To consider and decide upon any planning applications received:

Applications:

[ZE25/00456/HOUSE | Demolition of existing porch and construction of new porch, low-level boundary wall/railings and timber gates to front elevation, conversion of storage buildings to rear with first floor extension with installation of 4no. rooflights to Store 1 and formation of new gated entrance to land at rear | Gorteen Cottage Main Street Flaxton North Yorkshire YO60 7RT](#)

RESOLVED: The council have no objections. Councillors noted the need for further clarification regarding access for third parties.

Approved:

[ZE25/00313/HOUSE | Erection of single storey extension | Leckby House York Lane Flaxton North Yorkshire YO60 7QZ](#)

Updates:

75/25 To discuss matters raised by the Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

- AJ had circulated a bookkeeping spreadsheet to 1st May 2025, which showed the Bank Account balance together with the income and expenditure report including variances to budget. The bank statement was duly signed by the Chair and will be fully checked during the next internal audit. The balance of the current account (less any grant monies held for the village plan group and the table tennis club) is £9,992.75.
- RESOLVED: To approve the record of electronic payments submitted by the clerk
- RESOLVED: VM Bank mandate: Original form was replaced following bank advice. New forms were signed by IC and SA.
- NOTED: To note that the VAT reclaim has been submitted for a total of £69.23
- RESOLVED: The internal audit of the year end 2024/2025 has been completed by Adrian Lawrence. AJ and IC to complete the AGAR forms.

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- NOTED: Salary payment (April 2025) for the Parish Clerk and HMRC contribution will be paid.
- APPROVED: Payment to Flaxton Community Hall for village hall hire for the Parish Council (March meeting) £30.
- APPROVED: payment of £214 for the 2025 insurance Policy Renewal.

76/25 To receive feedback from members on their review of council policies

- Social media: To include WhatsApp as a communication channel.
- Records Management: Clerk delegated responsibility to implement the procedure.
- Expenses Policy: Agreement that meal expenses must be pre-approved, not exceeding £20.
- Code of Conduct: Broken hyperlink to be updated.
- Privacy Notice: Clarified references – to indicate “Parish Clerk.”

RESOLVED: All suggested amendments were agreed by Council.

77/25 To report and decide further action, if any, on new correspondence received by the council:

- Speed awareness wheelie bin stickers (Emailed)

RESOLVED: Council resolved not to proceed.

78/25 To receive matters raised by members:

DL: Sought clarification on where slurry resurfacing works will take place.

SA: Any future tarmacking will require planning consent. Highways previously stated there would be no further widening.

79/25 To note agenda items for the next meeting

Emergency use of the Village Hall

Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) – for June meeting

80/25 To confirm the dates of the future meeting(s) of Flaxton Parish Council to be held in the Village Hall starting at 7.30 p.m.

19th June 2025, 17th July 2025, 21st August 2025

The meeting closed at 20.50pm.