

Flaxton Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 21st May 2026
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)
Dave Hudson (DH)

North Yorkshire Councillors Present:

In Attendance: Anna Jackson (AJ) – Parish Clerk

Public Present: 1

37/26 To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons given

None

38/26 To receive declarations of interest and dispensations

- To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda
Councillors declared interests in relation to planning application **ZE26/00293/FUL – Construction of new access at Flaxton Meadows, York Lane.**
It was agreed that:
 - Flaxton Parish Council (FPC) would submit comments based on legal considerations.
 - Any personal interests in the application would be submitted as individuals.
- To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests
None
- To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate
None

39/26 To receive information about the following ongoing initiatives and decide further action where necessary:

Village Maintenance activity progress:

- Speeding/ Vehicle activated signs
 - A draft tender had been circulated by IC.
 - Three companies, pre-screened by North Yorkshire Council (NYC), were identified.
 - It was agreed to proceed with issuing the tender.
 - SA confirmed that no specific consents for installation of the poles or sign would be required from the Public Trustee
- Camera Van locations
 - The revised locations had been communicated to the Camera Deployment Officer but no response had been received
- Village emergency plan
 - No further progress reported
- Grass cutting

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- AJ to contact NYC regarding cutting at Cross Lane or perhaps to do the work in a personal capacity having an interest in the Dog Park.
- A member of the public had asked about cutting back overgrown cow parsley opposite the nursery; IC has cut this back.
- It was agreed that contracted grass cutting will commence at the beginning of June.
- Change of building use – York Lane
 - Matter raised with Anne (NYC). An enforcement case has been raised for investigation
 - A case has also been raised for the barn on Cross Lane.
- Flaxton sign damage
 - DL reported that the sign has been straightened following the damage. However, a small piece had been lost from the top of the sign
- Clerk and RFO Vacancy
 - Advertisement circulated and agreed to post to website and advertise with YLCA.
 - Some informal discussions held with villagers, but no applications received.
 - Clerk handover meeting scheduled for **1st June** (AJ, DH, IC).

40/26 Public Session – The Parish Council will, time permitting, adjourn the council meeting for a short time to allow for public comment and questions

Members of the public raised the following:

- Damaged sign on Scotchman Lane to be reported.
- Vehicles blocking the footpath outside the pub.

41/26 To receive an update from North Yorkshire Councillor Goodrick if appropriate

- CG had given a brief update at the Annual Parish Meeting.

43/26 To consider and decide upon any planning applications received:

[ZE26/00293/FUL | Construction of new access | Flaxton Meadows York Lane Flaxton North Yorkshire YO60 7QZ](#)

Flaxton Parish Council met on 21st May 2026 and resolved to object to the application on the grounds that the applicant does not own or have the necessary consents to construct or use the proposed entrance which passes over common land.

Decisions/Determinations:

(No Objection): ZE26/00274/CAT | Prospect House Main Street Flaxton North Yorkshire YO60 7RJ Removal of 7no. Trees; 3no. Common ash (T11, T14 and T17), 2no. London plane (T12 and T15), 2no. Cedar (T25 and T26) and re-pollard back to existing pruning points of 1no. Weeping willow (T4)

Updates:

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APPEAL: [ZE25/01413/HOUSE | Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and erection of replacement single storey extension | Eastlands Main Street Flaxton North Yorkshire YO60 7RP](#)

43/26 To discuss matters raised by the Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

- AJ had circulated a bookkeeping spreadsheet to 30th April 2026, 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 is £10,244.70
- RESOLVED: To approve the record of electronic payments submitted by the clerk
- To note/approve payments as follows:
 - NOTED: VAT reclaim has been submitted for a total of £180.66 and has now been received.
 - NOTED: receipt of the first instalment of the precept from North Yorkshire Council (£3,750)
 - APPROVED: the invoice to North Yorkshire Council for grass cutting (£878.21) PO Number 73558
 - APPROVED: Salary payment (April 2026) for the Parish Clerk and HMRC contribution.
 - APPROVED: payment to Flaxton Community Hall for village hall hire for the Parish Council (March meeting) £30.
 - APPROVED: payment of £214 to Zurich Insurance for the annual insurance renewal (Renewal date June 1st, 2026)
 - APPROVED: payment of £120 to Account Solutions (York) for the independent examination of 2025/26 accounts

44/26 To discuss the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2024/25

- To certify Flaxton Parish Council as exempt from external audit for fiscal year 2025/26
RESOLVED: that Flaxton Parish Council is exempt from external audit for the fiscal year 2025/26. AJ to send scanned copy of signed form to external auditor via email.
- To approve Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 for Flaxton Parish Council on page 5 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26
RESOLVED: that the Annual Governance Statement of the AGAR 2025/26 for Flaxton Parish Council be approved and signed and dated by the Council Chair and Council Clerk.
- To approve Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2025/26 for Flaxton Parish Council on page 6 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26
RESOLVED: that the Annual Accounting Statements of the AGAR 2025/26 for Flaxton Parish Council be approved and signed and dated by the Council Chair and RFO.
- To note the Annual Internal Audit Report for 2025/26 included at page 4 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26
The Annual Internal Audit Report of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26 for Flaxton Parish Council was noted.
 - To agree the wording of the Explanation of Variances Form (attached)
 - RESOLVED: Wording reviewed and agreed.

45/26 To discuss litter picking activities in the village and decide on further action

RESOLVED: Agreed to revisit after grass cutting has been completed by the Green Gait Owners.

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46/26 To discuss clearing the village footpaths and decide on further action

RESOLVED: IC to speak with Martin regarding doing the work after the GG has cut the grass to the level crossing

To consider and decide further action, if any, on addition of cladding and fenestration at barn on Cross Lane – raised enforcement has been seen

- Enforcement concerns noted.
- Matter has been raised and acknowledged.

47/26 To receive matters raised by members:

No additional matters recorded.

48/26 To note agenda items for the next meeting

None. Two councillors will not be available for the next meeting so it was proposed to see if any urgent business arises in the meantime before deciding whether to cancel the meeting.

49/26 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.

18th June 2026 STA (10th June will be a deciding date), 16th July 2026, 20th August 2026.

The meeting closed at 21:10pm