

**BARTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED**

**28th April 2026 7.00pm AT BARTON VILLAGE HALL**

**Present: Chair Frank Walsh, VC Jones, Cllr Lee, Cllr Burns, Cllr Dobinson, Cllr Cross, Cllr Wool**

<b>123 Apologies</b> - with approval for apologies	None
<b>124 Declaration of Interest</b> – to receive & consider then decide upon any applications for dispensation	None declared
<b>125 Minutes</b>	Minutes of the meeting held 31st March 2026 were approved and signed
<b>126 Matters Arising</b>	Matters Arising from the previous meeting minutes/; - none
<b>127 Correspondence</b>	<p>Review any correspondence received in the previous month</p> <p><b>(i)</b> NYC notification letter with location plan for proposed footway maintenance works West of Barton circulated to the Parish Council &amp; Village email network</p> <p><b>(ii)</b> NYC notification letter with location plan for Footway Slurry Sealing – Various roads Barton circulated to the Parish Council &amp; Village email network</p> <p><b>(iii)</b> Message regarding new defib pads required for the defib at St Cuthberts Green. Clerk purchased. Battery currently showing at 50% - replacement to be considered for next meeting.</p> <p><b>(iv)</b> Annual Website Agreement circulated to PC for approval – this was approved at the meeting. Clerk to sign and return to WJP Software (Website/email providers)</p> <p><b>(v)</b> NYC confirmation that the full refurbish works for the Long Bridge at the Ford are scheduled for Summer 2027. Following the Bridge being listed with Historic England, the works can only be carried out in the summer months due to specialised materials that must be used due to the Listing.</p> <p><b>(vi)</b> Response from the Tree and Hedges Planning Inspectorate regarding the PC appeal for works on APP/TPO/P2745/11011 - Chapel Row, The Green. Second form to be completed and returned by 4/05/2026. Clerk to arrange.</p>
<b>128 Public Participation</b>	No members of the public present.
<b>129 Planning</b>	<p>To consider the planning applications within Barton Parish –</p> <p><b>ZD25/00728/FULL</b></p> <p><b>PROPOSAL:</b> Full planning permission for rear extension and loft conversion</p> <p><b>LOCATION:</b> 2 Waterfall Terrace Barton Richmond North Yorkshire</p> <p><b>APPLICANT:</b> Mr James Knowles</p> <p>No objections given</p>

	<p><b>ZD2600121FULL for Half Moon Inn</b> – the PC extended they're thanks to Cllr Cross for his work on the PC objection to the above planning application.</p>
<p><b>130 Police &amp; Crime Update</b></p>	<p>Crime Bulletin reviewed for the Parish. March and April combined:  4 x Theft, 1 x Burglary, 1 x Robbery, 1 x Vehicle offence  1 x Stolen motor vehicle, 1 x Sexual offence, 1 x Violence</p> <p><b>Matrix Board Report</b>  Cllr Cross circulated a report from data downloaded from the Matrix Board at Silver Street / Wells Lane – from an incoming direction. The Traffic Analysis Summary is as follows:</p> <p><b>Reporting Period 28 December 2025 to 2 March 2026</b></p> <p><b>Traffic Volume:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Total vehicles: 84,662</li> <li>- AADT (Annual Average Daily Traffic): 1,322</li> <li>- Average daily traffic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5-day average: 1,425</li> <li>- 7-day average: 1,308</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Peak Periods:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AM peak: 09:00 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5-day: 142 vehicles</li> <li>- 7-day: 114 vehicles</li> </ul> </li> <li>- PM peak: 17:00 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5-day: 135 vehicles</li> <li>- 7-day: 118 vehicles</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Speed Data:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Speed limit: 30 mph</li> <li>- Average speed: 22.98 mph</li> <li>- 85th percentile speed: 28 mph <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 85 percent of vehicles travelled at or below 28 mph</li> <li>- 15 percent travelled above 28 mph</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Maximum recorded speed: 55 mph (09 February 2026 at 22:15)</li> </ul> <p><b>Speed Compliance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Percentage exceeding speed limit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Range: 2.5 percent to 4.2 percent across the week</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Vehicles exceeding speed limit (daily counts): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monday: 329 (2.5 percent)</li> <li>- Tuesday: 327 (2.6 percent)</li> <li>- Wednesday: 360 (2.7 percent)</li> <li>- Thursday: 340 (2.6 percent)</li> <li>- Friday: 355 (2.6 percent)</li> <li>- Saturday: 349 (3.3 percent)</li> <li>- Sunday: 371 (4.2 percent)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>- Average speed of vehicles exceeding limit: approximately 33 mph</p> <p><b>Interpretation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The 85th percentile speed (28 mph) is below the posted 30 mph limit, indicating that the majority of drivers are travelling within a reasonable and compliant speed range.</li> <li>- Average speeds are significantly below the speed limit, suggesting generally cautious driving behaviour.</li> <li>- The proportion of vehicles exceeding the speed limit is low, indicating high compliance.</li> <li>- Overall, the data suggests that vehicle speeds are well controlled and that there is no evidence of widespread speeding based on this dataset alone.</li> </ul> <p>PC agreed to monitor the data over time. If these figures increase over the next 6 months then the creation of a Community Speedwatch may be considered.</p> <p>Clerk to forward the data onto the Resident who had queried speeding within the Village in July 2025 – establish if a response had been received from Rishi Sunak MP Office who were raising the residents’ concerns with NYC.</p> <p>Cllr Lee suggested getting traffic data from the opposite end of the Village. Chair Walsh to contact the Matrix Board suppliers for a quote for a possible second board after reviewing the sight lines/potential positioning of a board.</p>
<p><b>131 NYC Update</b></p>	<p><b>NYC COUNCILLOR’S REPORT APRIL 2026</b></p> <p><b>NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL.</b></p> <p>This month sees the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the coming in being of the Unitary Council, know of course as North Yorkshire Council. I think three years down the line, we can say that it has been on the whole, a great success.</p> <p>There will always be residents who say that we had a better service under the old RDC days, but we always need to be mindful of the fact that it was done principally to save on costs.</p> <p>The Unitary is now showing savings of very nearly £70 million per annum. So where would we be if we hadn’t gone down this route? The answer is almost certainly bankrupt. There was in the run up to the new Council coming into being, a plan brought forwards for a ‘two unitaries’ system in North Yorkshire. One would have encompassed the district councils of Hambleton, Harrogate, Craven and Richmondshire which would have been based in Northallerton, and a second unitary taking in Scarborough, Ryedale, Selby and the City of York which would have been based in York.</p>

There were two factors in my mind which made me vote for the single unitary. Firstly and most importantly, there would not have been anything like the financial savings which we were aiming for and have achieved through one council. Whilst other counties, Surrey for example, have been split into three unitary councils, have been driven by the sheer population size. We have in North Yorkshire the largest geographical area in England, but a population of some 700,000 which is considered at the top end of the scale for one council.

The other, but less important factor in my mind, was the fact that the City of York was fiercely resisting the proposal. As it happens, the single unitary has worked out well and interestingly, has been help up as a shining example of what can be achieved by the government. They are forcing other counties like Surrey, who still operate a two tier system of district and county councils, to bring forward proposals to merge councils into a unitary. So it looks as though we in North Yorkshire would have been forced down this route had we not opted to do so four years ago.

#### **HIGHWAYS.**

At the meeting of the Combined Authority, that is NYC, City of York and the Mayor, on 27<sup>th</sup> March there was an exchange of views as the Mayor stated that NYC will in 26/27 receive £63.8m for highways maintenance, up from £57.8m in the current year. The City of York will receive £7.1m in the same period, up from £4.4m in the current year. So York will have an increase of 61% whilst we will have an increase of 10%. But NYC says it will inspectors overturn a decision made by the council and awards costs to the appellant because the authority fails to follow planning policy, imposes unreasonable conditions, or it wastes time or money.

A good number of these 38 appeals will of course relate back to the District Councils prior to April 2022. A good example of such a decision which was overturned on appeal was what is now named Copperfield Park at Middleton Tyas. This was pre 2019 but the then RDC Planning Committee refused permission, largely because of the opposition to the development within the village and the from the PC, but this was overturned by the Inspector and costs awarded against RDC.

Another one which was post 2019 was the Ashes proposed development in Barton. So this will be one of the 38 cases. In defence of NYC Planning, officers have stated that, 'As the country's largest county by geographical area, we handle more applications than most authorities. In 24/25, we made decisions on about 4,700 applications compared with the national average of 1,365 for English unitary authorities'.

In my January report I said that I was hopeful that the Richmond Planning Office had turned a corner in terms of staffing. Sadly, I

	<p>think I was being a little optimistic here in that with the former Hambleton and Richmond Planning Offices effectively combined, vacancies for qualified planning officers do not appear to be any lower than six months ago. The one real step forwards has been in IT which is more or less on a level and workable playing field across the county. This means that staff from say Harrogate can pick up Richmond cases, if needs be.</p> <p><b>HOPE MOOR WIND FARM.</b>  The proposal to put 20 two hundred meter high wind turbines on the beautiful moor between Newsham, Arkengarthdale and the Stang across from Barningham has stunned residents, not just in the immediate area but right across the county. When you consider that it will be possible to see these monsters from Hartlepool, Skipton and the Lake District, you can perhaps envisage the scale of what is proposed. Community input into Scoping is vital not only for the Secretary of State's decision but also in any subsequent plans for monitoring and mitigation of various impacts.  I urge you to listen to the following for more information.  <a href="#">will-hope-moor-affect-you.mp4</a></p> <p>If you wish to receive my reports which I send out usually every second month, then please forward your email address to:  <a href="mailto:Cllr.angus.thompson@northyorks.gov.uk">Cllr.angus.thompson@northyorks.gov.uk</a>.  Best wishes,  Angus Thompson.  NYC Councillor for North Richmondshire.  2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026.  E &amp; OE.</p>
<p><b>132 Zurich Insurance</b></p>	<p>Parish Council Annual Insurance Review – renewal quote of £2015.08 up from £1938.36 the previous year. An increase of £77.</p> <p>The question was raised whether the Policy covers Public Liability for damage/injury from tree's that the PC are responsible for. Clerk to contact Zurich for clarification.</p>
<p><b>133 Play Area Inspections</b></p>	<p>Works will be carried out on some of the linkage on the swings that were raised in the Annual Playground Inspection Report. Chair Walsh to speak to Streetscape regarding this maintenance.</p>
<p><b>134 Financial Matters</b></p>	<p><b>134(i)</b> Salary Payment &amp; Accounts Payable: NYC £100 Field Rent, Clerk Salary £296, Clerk Stamps £6.96, Clerk defib pads repay £79.20  <b>134(ii)</b> Current bank balance at 20/04/2026 £13924.92</p>
<p><b>135 Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>To confirm the date of the Annual Parish Meeting and Normal Parish Council meetings are due to be held on Tuesday 26th May 2026 time tbc in the Village Hall</p>

