

## BARTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

29<sup>th</sup> January 2026 7.00pm AT BARTON VILLAGE HALL

**Present: Chair Frank Walsh, VC Jones, Cllr Lee, Cllr Burns, Cllr Dobinson, Cllr Cross, P Lucy Mills and Residents. Parish Clerk: Charlotte Liversedge-Gell**

<b>82 Apologies</b> - with approval for apologies	None
<b>83 Declaration of Interest</b> – to receive & consider then decide upon any applications for dispensation	<b>Item 88 Planning:</b> Cllr Cross ref ZD25/00755/AORM
<b>84 Minutes</b>	Minutes of the meeting held 27th November 2025 were approved and signed.
<b>85 Matters Arising</b>	Matters Arising from the previous meeting minutes - none
<b>86 Correspondence</b>	<p><b>(i)</b> Appeal sent regarding NYC refusal for the PC to carry out tree works ref ZD25/00575/TPO. On completing the appeal, it was indicated to expect a 27 week wait for an outcome. The PC agreed that this was an unreasonable length of time.</p> <p><b>(ii)</b> Jo Foster update from STAG following the last PC meeting was circulated</p> <p><b>(iii)</b> Christmas Tree - feedback regarding the PC not providing a Christmas Tree. After discussion it was agreed to progress with the decision made in the November meeting to have a power post installed at the Cross/Cherry Trees. A light display will then be hung amongst those trees for the whole Village to enjoy. Clerk to request update from NYC for the power post install.</p> <p><b>(iv)</b> Property Marking - NYP offered to carry out a Property Marking event within the Village. This is going to take place at this years Armed Forces Day.</p> <p><b>(v)</b> Speed Camera Campaign - email circulated around this North Yorkshire wide campaign. It was agreed to add Barton PC's support to the campaign. Clerk to arrange.</p> <p>Data from the Village Matrix Boards is still unable to be downloaded despite several attempts. Chair Walsh shall contact the supplier of the boards to assist with the download.</p> <p><b>(vi)</b> Urban Grass Cutting letter received from NYC - offer of £533.68. Cllr Wool shared concern that on the map circulated, Waterfall Tce was not listed as being NYC responsibility. Clerk to contact NYC.</p> <p><b>(vii)</b> NYC Highways Parish Liaison workshops looking to be held in March. Clerk to circulate the date when informed.</p> <p><b>(viii)</b> NYC Boundary Commission final edit circulated to the PC.</p> <p><b>(ix)</b> Proposed drainage works on Kneeton Lane 9th February 2026 for 5 days. Information also circulated on the Village email network.</p> <p><b>(x)</b> Age-friendly town and Parish guide circulated for PC consideration.</p>

	<p><b>(xi)</b> Garden Waste bin license information circulated. £42 for the year – fortnightly collections and the license can now be purchased from NYC.</p> <p><b>(xii)</b> Email circulated on a public consultation on the Council’s draft Local Planning Enforcement Plan (LPEP). The consultation is open from Monday 26 January 2026 and ends at midnight on 9 March 2026, running for a period of 6 weeks.</p>
<p><b>87 Public Participation</b></p>	<p><b>(i)</b> Chair Walsh thanked Mr Hall for placing the boulder at the end of Back Lane to prevent Fly Tippers.</p> <p><b>(ii)</b> A resident spoke at the meeting suggesting a Youth Club be setup within the Village to give younger people a place to go and things to do on an evening – and this may alleviate some of the issues recently experienced within Barton with some youths causing disruption. The resident suggested funding could be gained from Children in Need. Questions raised were; people would need the correct qualifications to run the club, is there enough teenage children within the Village to make a Club viable, could Barton join other Villages and run Clubs on alternate weeks. The PC agreed that they support the idea and would be happy to meet anyone who may come forward to help setup/run the club to discuss they’re ideas.</p> <p><b>(iii)</b> Ava Bell attended the meeting to inform the PC that Armed Forced Day will be held again this year in Barton on 27<sup>th</sup> June 12-4pm. There will be activities for everyone to enjoy including BBQ, NYP Property Marking, face painting, leek club, ration packs, REME will be in attendance, teas, coffees and cakes provided by the Mardis Club and more. There will also be a bike club that teaches youngsters how to ride motor bikes performing a free show. Ms Bell asked if the bottom corner of the Village Green could be used for this and that if any damage was sustained this would be put right. The PC agreed to this. Ms Bell will provide the Clerk with a Risk Assessment to be forwarded to PC insurers.</p> <p>All money raised will be divided between the Mardis Club, the fireworks display, the school outdoor play area and the Chapel. The PC thanks Ms Bell for all her hard work and efforts going into setting this day up for the Community. The PC agreed to donate £250 towards the running/setup of the day.</p>
<p><b>88 Planning</b></p>	<p>To consider the planning applications within Barton Parish - <b>Ref ZD25/00755/AORM</b></p> <p><b>PROPOSAL:</b> Approval of reserved matters (appearance, layout, landscaping and scale) further to application 21/00133/OUT (allowed on appeal)</p> <p><b>LOCATION:</b> Rose Villa Farm Wells Lane Barton Richmond</p> <p><b>APPLICANT:</b> Mr and Mrs Farrow</p> <p>Cllr Cross wrote to NYC Planning with his own comments/observations. Following discussion Clerk to contact NYP Planning with the following:</p> <p>The Affordable Homes portrayed in the planning are proposed to be built together, in one section. Would it be feasible to build</p>

	<p>these properties in a more integrated layout throughout the development rather than being put in one area?</p> <p>It has been noted from the plans that there is no footpath proposed for the East Side of the road opposite Wells Green. With the increase in traffic and pedestrians that the development would bring, the PC would like to ask why a footpath has not been factored into the planning?</p> <p>Works to this development will create disruption and inconvenience to residents already residing in the area. the PC would like to be informed of what measures are being put in place to minimise the disruption? Await response from NYC Planning.</p>
<p><b>89 Police &amp; Crime Update</b></p>	<p>December Crime within the PARISH: 2 x theft from a vehicle, 1 x interfering with a vehicle.</p> <p>PC Lucy Cross attended the meeting from NYP to discuss the nine ASB reports within the Parish that had been reported since the start of January and includes the burglary at the school, e-Scooters Being driven recklessly, tampering with vehicles, egg throwing and banging/kicking of front doors.</p> <p>PC Cross reiterated that the Police need names of perpetrators to progress tackling the problems with e-Scooters. To drive an e-Scooter legally the driver needs to be 17 years old+ and to have insurance if they are driven on public highway. They cannot be driven on footpaths.</p> <p>The balance bikes stolen from the school have been recovered and the school have repaired the shed.</p> <p>VC Jones requested an update from NYP on the positive actions undertaken for them to be circulated on the village email network.</p> <p>PC Cross discussed a trend that has been noticed in that burglaries within rural areas seem to be having a spike on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings between 00:00-05:00. There will be an increased police presence in villages and the surrounding areas at these times until the end of February.</p> <p><b>It is important that if you witness any crimes being committed or ASB please report it to NYP on 101 and they can act.</b></p>
<p><b>90 NYC Update</b></p>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR'S REPORT JANUARY 2026</b></p> <p><b>TOURISM TAX</b></p> <p>It has been suggested by government that we implement a 'Tourism Tax'. This would be a levy of £2 per night per person charged on accommodation within the County and the City of York, be it a hotel room, B&amp;B or an Air B&amp;B.</p> <p>If it goes ahead it is estimated that it will generate £52 million per annum and the revenue will go to the Mayor. Needless to say he thinks it is a very good idea. One interesting statistic is that it is estimated that 75% of the revenue will be raised in North Yorkshire and 25% in the City of York.</p>

I am not sure that it will be well received by small businesses. It will be just another tax in most peoples' eyes. Please let me know what you think. Email address is below.

**THE BUDGET.**

NYC like all authorities, is legally bound to produce a balanced budget. We are, taking all things into account like the loss of grants and the employer's NI increase, £42.5 million worse off than we were two years ago. An increase in council tax is the only way to increase our spending power. The message from Westminster is, 'Increase your council tax by 4.99% ie. the maximum allowed without a referendum of residents, or we will assume that you don't need any more funding from us'.

A number of councils up and down the country have asked and been granted permission to increase their council tax by more than 4.99% without a referendum.

This can only mean that they are perilously close to a section 114 bankruptcy. Not a club we want to be in.

The government have given an indication that they will fund SEND ie. Special Education Needs from 28/29. This is most welcome news, if correct, as SEND is a substantial cost to NYC and all other councils, with a significant overspend being a problem every year. We have been told that further details should be forthcoming by mid February.

So, assuming we implement a 4.99% council tax increase over the next 3 years, the draft shortfall will be: 26/27 27/28 28/29  
£17million £34m £59m

On the above forecast, we will have used £59 million of reserves by April 29. At that point we will have £40 million of useable reserves left. We are confident that we can deal with this. You have heard me say previously that we could be facing bankruptcy as an authority by in 3 years, but the position has improved to bankruptcy in 4.5 years if we don't take corrective action.

The savings in the current year are now £34 million and the new savings already identified going forwards are:

26/27 £15 million

27/28 £3.5 million

28/29 £2.185 million.

A 4.99% increase in council tax will mean that a band D property will be charged £2,036pa. plus the police and crime charge, and if applicable the parish precept. A 4.99% increase gives an estimated yield of £5.14 million to NYC. So there is no option but to implement a 4.99% council tax increase. Overall however, it is fair comment to say that the outlook going forwards is a little less bleak than it was even 3 months ago. My eye is constantly on the fact that if the figures above prove to be correct then in 2029 we will only have £40 million of useable reserves left.

**PLANNING.**

I am cautiously optimistic that we may have turned a corner in terms of the staffing issues that have plagued us over the last 5 years or more. The team which were working from Mercury House are now working as Richmond and Hambleton Planning from County Hall. Three new members of staff started after the Christmas Break and provided we don't lose any staff..... But who knows?

The one thing which I can be clear about is that the dept. is not under resourced in terms of the budget which is allocated by the council which has shown an underspend in recent times because of staff vacancies. It is a problem up and down the country.

Whilst on the subject of Planning, I would just like to explain that as a member of the Richmondshire Planning Committee I am very careful about attending PC meetings where planning applications are on the agenda. Whilst I support PCs wherever possible with their aspirations in terms of planning applications, I am very careful not to get into the debate regarding the merits or otherwise of individual applications as they may come before the planning committee on which I am sitting, for determination. I could then be accused of pre determining an application, rather than going to the planning meeting and making a decision on the basis of a site visit and the evidence, both in favour and against the application, based on what is laid on the table on the day.

An obvious example of an exception to this rule is the Hope Moor Wind Farm application for 20 wind turbines above Newsham. This is to be determined by the Secretary of State, not the County Planning Authority, and therefore I can get actively involved in resisting this application.

**HOUSING.**

NYC is landlord to 8,500 council homes. We currently have 4% voids. This is higher than our target of 2.5% maximum because as houses come vacant we are doing whatever upgrades are necessary to the property in order to get to a position of EPC C which will almost certainly be the minimum requirement by 2030. So we have 7 additional contractors across the county in order to get the upgrades done as quickly as possible, thus avoiding vacant properties where there is both a loss of rent to the council and people are waiting for a home.

In summary, the council will not let substandard properties.

**BOUNDARY COMMISSION.**

The final recommendation by the Boundary Commission has now been published and contrary to what I thought there have been changes to my current division of North Richmondshire. Stapleton and Cleasby, together with Barton and Skeeby will become part of the new North Richmondshire division which comprises of all villages

	<p>to the west of these villages right up to Newsham. It will also take in the north part of Richmond ie. the Gilling Road end. Middleton Tyas, Moulton, Croft, Dalton-on-Tees and North Cowton will go into a new division of Brompton and Scorton, together with East Cowton, Scorton and Brompton-on Swale. There will be no further alterations or consultations as only Parliament can overturn the Boundary Commission's decisions.</p> <p><b>SCOTCH CORNER</b> I'm afraid I have nothing further to report here. The last news I heard was that the developer is hoping to have their financial support in place by the end of February.</p> <p><b>BUS TRANSPORT.</b> I have as I have told you in previous reports been trying to get alterations, in some cases minimal, so that school children as well as residents can make greater use of public transport. The cost to parents of students using public transport was outlined by me in a previous report at approx. £394pa assuming the pupil attends every school day of the year. The Mayor stated at a Richmond Area Constituency Committee earlier last year that he was going to have a public consultation in the autumn asking residents what they wanted in terms of public transport. This would have been an ideal opportunity for residents to give their views for a service which school pupils could use, in many cases by a small re-tweaking of timetables. As you are no doubt aware the promised consultation hasn't materialised. So I am going to have further discussions with officers and Executive Officers regarding what is required at a local level. I think it should be remembered that the Mayor has been given £6 million by the government to develop rural transport.</p> <p><b>RICHMOND AREA CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE.</b> These meetings are held quarterly in County Hall and any member of the public may attend. The agenda topics relate to the area covered by the Richmond and Northallerton constituency. At the last meeting in November for example, Arriva gave a presentation as a result of much negative feedback regarding many cancellations of the X26 and X27 services between Darlington and Richmond, and what they are doing about the problem. I asked them to consider the above services going through Middleton Tyas village, rather than going from Barton via Scotch Corner then to Skeeby. This they agreed to look into. Anyone interested please come back to me and I will forward you the agenda before the next meeting scheduled for 2nd March. Best wishes, Angus Thompson. 21st January 2026. My email address <a href="mailto:cllr.angus.thompson@northyorks.gov.uk">cllr.angus.thompson@northyorks.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>91 Carl Les Q&amp;A Update</b></p>	<p>Q&amp;A hosted by Carl Les at County Hall, Chair Walsh attended and raised the issues on the appeal made to carry out works on a tree</p>

	within a TPO (item 86i) and the Lond Bridge refurbishment. There was not update on the progress of the Designer Outlet at Scotch Corner.
<b>92 Grass Cutting Tender Estimate</b>	Grass Cutting Tender Estimate received for 2026/27 from CE Walkers. £278+VAT/cut with 14 to 15 cuts for the season. It was agreed to accept. Clerk to inform CE Walkers.
<b>93 Play Area Inspections</b>	The annual Play Area inspection is to be scheduled for the Spring. The area around the new additions to the Play Area will be re-seeded in the Spring.
<b>94 Financial Matters</b>	<b>94(i)</b> Clerk Salary £296, WJP .gov.uk email setup £56.40 <b>94(ii)</b> Current bank balance as of 20/01/2026 £14578.32
<b>95 Next Meeting</b>	To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting due to be held on Tuesday 24th February at 7pm held in the Village Hall

**MEETING CLOSED 8:40pm**