

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Monday, 29th September 2025

Present: Councillors A Ayres (Chair), J Cooke, B Hird, A Pledge & C Robinson

1. Visit by our Police Community Support Officer Elliot Brown

The Chair welcomed PCSO Brown to the meeting

Elliot explained that he had held his current role for five and a half years, part of which involved producing a monthly report outlining crime in the locality. He was pleased to say that the latest report indicated there had only been two crimes in and around Ravensworth, both of which involved theft/attempted theft. Good progress was being made in these matters, and it was expected that arrests would be made soon.

The meeting heard that North Yorkshire Police use an email alert system to let the community know about what is happening in the area. Elliot advised that anybody could sign up to receive alerts about events, crime appeals, safety advice etc, by going to '*northyorkshirecommunitymessaging*' and following the sign-up now instructions.

Attendees raised their concerns about a number of matters relating to road use:

- The speed of some vehicles travelling through the village;
- The dangerous bend adjacent to Sunset Cottage;
- The size and number of farm vehicles travelling through the village;
- The fact that the Local Authority will not reduce the speed limit to 20 mph;
- The fact that some farm vehicles do not adhere to the reduced speed limits the law requires of them when using the public highway.

Various examples of dangerous situations were given, and it was felt that in some cases the vehicles being driven through the village were too large to be safe.

It was also noted that more vehicles, including lorries, were being driven through the village so as to avoid the lengthy delays being experienced on the A66 on Gilling Bank.

Elliot said that the Police needed evidence to support our concerns and advised that the Police could put test strips onto the road through the village to assess the volume and speed of vehicles. If the Parish Council wished him to process a request to do so, they should let him know in due course.

An attendee suggested that the Police publish a request to those driving large vehicles, that they should drive with caution. Elliot agreed that this was a good idea and said he would arrange for it to happen.

The Chair thanked Elliot for attending and his response to the meeting's concerns. PC Brown then left the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

None received.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Agreed: that the previously circulated Minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

4. Matters Arising

[a] Dog 'Poo' Signage

Councillor Pledge confirmed that the signage had been purchased and distributed around the Village.

[b] Open Reach Update

Councillor Pledge reported that the majority of the village had now been connected to the superfast broadband but the properties around the top half of the Green were still awaiting connection.

It was noted that an engineer from Open Reach had now inspected the poles to the rear of the properties and deemed them unusable; some needed replacement and others were metal poles. The engineer had recommended that a better solution would be to dig a trench across the road adjacent to the pub and then use a mole drill to take the supply along the top of the Green to connect the properties.

The Parish Council still awaits a formal alternative proposal, for consideration.

A request has now been sent to Open Reach asking whether progress has been made.

5. Open Forum

It was agreed that as all matters to be raised by residents were already on the agenda these would be discussed later in the meeting.

6. Finance And Payments

The PC's account had received £2700, 1st part of our NYC precept, £239 from NYC for cutting visibility splays, £1189 from HMRC for a vat claim and £4 bank interest. £151 had been spent on our annual YLCA subscription and £21 on plants for The Green. The bank balance was in credit, £14180.

The next meeting will need to agree a figure for our 2026-27 NYC precept request.

7. Planning Applications and Update

[a] A66 Upgrade

It was noted that no timetable had yet been published by the Government. Ken Bell said that he had tried to obtain further information regarding the timescale but had been told that an update would not take place before Spring 2026.

[b] Gayles Quarry

A decision regarding this application has been deferred until 31st October 2025.

[c] Holiday Lodges at the Former Garden Centre

The meeting was reminded that planning approval for 40 holiday lodges had been dependent upon the owner creating a footpath from the development to the village, prior to the development commencing. The developer was now challenging the need for a footpath at this stage. A decision is still awaited.

[d] Proposed Development for 7 Houses on Former Ravensworth Nursery Site

The developer has now proposed an alternative solution to alleviate flooding, which is currently being considered by North Yorkshire Council.

The Chair reminded the meeting that Ravensworth Parish Council had already made representations to the Local Authority regarding flooding, the inadequate sewerage system, together with concerns relating to the increased volume of vehicles, particularly as approval has already been given for 40 holiday lodges in that area.

[e] Proposed Siting of 5 Holiday Pods on Land Off Flatts Lane

This planning application has a response deadline of 6th October.

Members of the community expressed the following concerns:

- This is an area that suffers from flooding;
- Additional traffic will use a single-track lane which has very few 'passing places' on it;
- There seems to be no provision for on-site supervision of facility.
- There is nothing to stop groups hiring the pods en masse, which could easily lead to noise from social gatherings.
- There are already numerous holiday facilities in and around Ravensworth, which is within a Conservation Area.

AGREED:

[a] that the Parish Council should submit the above concerns about item 4[e] to the Planning Authority;

[b] that residents be encouraged to make their own representations to the Planning Authority

[f] The Methodist Chapel

No further information available.

8. Track Around the Village

The Chair reported that he and a resident, with considerable experience of groundworks, had inspected the tracks. Unfortunately, since the track must remain as traditional un-metalled road, its maintenance remains an ongoing issue. It is estimated that repairs will cost between £7000-8000 and any work should not be undertaken until next Easter. The Chair would also investigate the idea whether the various entrances to the tracks might be metalled i.e. using a tarmac top. A rough costing for this was £2000 per entrance.

Councillor Robinson informed the meeting that a highways grant had become available, linked to the upgrade of the A66.

AGREED: that Councillor Robinson and the Chair should investigate the criteria for bidding to the above fund and, if appropriate, submit a bid for the work required on our tracks.

9. Village Hall

Councillor Robinson reported that the new disabled access door had been fitted, with work also undertaken to 'make good' the previous entrance.

It was noted that:

- the Village Hall continued to be used for a range of regular events;
- a new 'Chair Yoga' class was now taking place every Tuesday morning at 11:30 am and was proving to be very popular;
- a number of wreath-making classes were scheduled for the run-up to Christmas;
- the annual Xmas event, with music and refreshments, is being organised.

Councillor Robinson asked that anybody who felt able, help to pull weeds from around the Village Hall, to tidy the area up.

10. Any Other Business

[a] Request for Financial Support from Citizens Advice & Law Centre aka CAB

The Chair said that he had received a request for financial support from CAB, who had informed him that they had given support to two members of the Ravensworth community over the last 12 months on financial matters. The Parish Council discussed the appropriateness of giving donation given that there were many other voluntary organisations within the community who were also struggling financially.

It was noted that the support provided by CAB was also available to individuals within the community via other organisations, including GP surgeries.

AGREED: that the Parish Council is not able to make a financial donation to the Citizens Advice Bureau.

[b] Environmental Updates

Councillor Robinson reminded everybody that she was involved in the Holmedale Conservation Group. One of her assigned tasks is to regularly assess the quantity and range of aquatic creatures living in the river. Although the river had been extremely low this year, there was concern that the latest survey had shown the number of species had reduced. Our river remained two points above a trigger alert, but nobody currently knew whether the reduction in numbers was due to the hot summer and/or pollution.

Ken Bell informed the meeting that work to reduce the amount of Himalayan Balsom on the river bank continued, and he would be seeking volunteers to continue the work of removing the growth in the Spring.

[c] Defibrillator

A resident asked whether provision had been made in the budget to replace the Defibrillator when it came to the end of its life. The Chair confirmed that RPC had approved an annual sum of £200 be saved towards the replacement of this equipment.

[d] Digital and Data Compliance

The Chair reported that RPC had recently received a letter from North Yorkshire LCA informing it of the need to use email accounts compliant with Assertion 10.

[e] Land Behind Village Hall

The meeting discussed uses for the land to the rear of the Village Hall. Since the demise of the Quoits Club, the old pitches were in very poor condition. Some of the options suggested included:

- Community Garden
- Orchard
- Patio and seating area
- Outdoor function area

AGREED: that this matter be revisited in due course, and after the remedial work is done to the Methodist Chapel.

[f] Parcel Lockers

Councillor Robinson said that she had been approached about installing lockers to the rear of the Hall. While this could generate £800-£1,000 per annum, electricity costs would be about £200. The installation would require Planning approval.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 10 November at 7pm
There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:41

