

Whashton Parish Meeting – Annual General Meeting - Minutes.

Date: Wednesday 4th June 2025, Dalton & Gayles Village Hall, 19:00h.

Present: Ian Mains, John Moore, Richard Osborne, Kathryn Guy, Sue Amery, Christine Taylor, Sally Zaranko, Tad Zaranko, Cherry Mains, Sian Moore, Denise Newman, Richard Newman, Graeme Heald, Trevor Brown, Rosie Anderson, Bill Anderson.

By invitation: PCSO Elliot Brown & Councillor Angus Thompson.

Apologies: Sue Fielder, Alan Fielder, Christine Nesham, Jonathan Nesham, Richie Smith, Emma Smith, Anne Mothersill, Peter Mothersill, Sean Connors, Jane Connors, Ed Ford, Hannah Longworth, Janet Clipsham, Rob Clipsham.

AGENDA ITEM No.	ITEM	ACTION
1	<u>Welcome</u> Ian Mains welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting for 2025, and in particular our guests PCSO Elliot Brown & Councillor Angus Thompson.	
2	<u>Parish Crime Report – PCSO Elliot Brown</u> PCSO Brown referred to the latest monthly Parish Crime Report issued to the Parish today, again advising that Whashton is covered within Gilling West Ward for reporting purposes. There were no recent reports of criminal activity in the Parish, including off-road motor bikes using the bridleway. Elliot reminded residents to use the 101 and 999 telephone numbers, depending on level of suspected criminal offence. Ian thanked Elliot who left the meeting at this point.	
3	<u>North Yorkshire Council – Councillor Angus Thompson</u> Angus thanked the Meeting for inviting him and made comment on the following topics of interest to Whashton Parish.	
3.1	<u>A66 Dualling</u> An announcement on the project will be made by the Chancellor in her Spending Review on 11 th June. He was of the opinion that this is unlikely to go ahead for a number of financial reasons. Post-meeting note – there was no announcement on 11 th June and a decision will be made on the £1.5 billion project by the Department of Transport at a later date.	
3.2	<u>Planning Applications</u> Despite objections from residents, the granting of a Certificate of Lawfulness for Drystones was inevitable. Should problems arise at the facility when it is used to house homeless children, then complaints should be made to Ofsted, the Regulatory Body. Delays in the planning proposal for Whashton Farmhouse, submitted by Mr & Mrs Mothersill, were unacceptable and Angus continues to support them. There are clearly different methods of reviewing proposals for listed buildings across North Yorkshire which he intends to follow up. The application by the developer of Whashton Farm Buildings, Neville Bird, to remove elements of the planning obligations (section 106) will be reviewed. The performance of NYC's Planning Department has been poor and Angus meets on a regular basis with their senior management, in an attempt to improve this. Ian asked Angus to ensure that adjacent planning developments in Whashton are considered together by the Planning Department to avoid multiple building activities such as utilities provision, are coordinated.	AT AT AT
3.3	<u>North Yorkshire Council – Unitary Authority</u> Angus advised the meeting that since the Authority came into being in 2023, some £60m/annum of savings have been achieved. However, dwindling reserves continue to be a major financial concern, which will inevitably lead to a reduction in services unless the level of funding from Central Government to Local Authorities is addressed. The Home to School Transport Policy continues to cause concerns and Angus is meeting with the Governors of Richmond School. Comments on the proposed changes submitted by the Boundary Commission can be made up to 9 th June, although there is no impact on Whashton. The decision on the proposed re-opening of Gayles Quarry by Stainton Quarry Ltd continues to be delayed. Angus advised that if the proposed A66 dualling project is cancelled, the reopening is unlikely to go ahead because the Highways Agency will not allow the lorries to turn onto the A66 at the Ravensworth junction.	

3.4	Angus will advise on whether two bids to his Locality Budget, for the Quoits pitch in Whashton and the Holmedale Nature Network activity, will be granted. Ian thanked Angus who left the meeting at this point.	AT
4	<u>Planning Applications (not covered in item 3.2)</u> Two units within the Farm Buildings development have been sold on by Neville Bird and to-date we have been unable to identify the new developer; Trevor Brown offered to help. A proposal had been submitted by Lesley Miles to extend the parking space available adjacent to Clarence Cottage, to alleviate vehicle parking on the main road. Because the land involved is part of the Village Green, John Moore explained the legal position regarding this request. A photograph explaining the proposal was circulated and approval was given by a show of hands to extend the car parking area to the telegraph pole. John will arrange for the necessary legal documentation to be drafted including the photograph which shows the extent of the proposal agreed by the Meeting.	TB JM
5	<u>Highways</u> Ian has yet again reported the blocked gully opposite the bridleway. Post-meeting note, the work has been completed. He added that residents should report future floods, etc directly to Highways on the NYC website..... www.northyorks.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/roads-and-pavements/road-drains-gully-cleaning-and-report-flooding	
6	<u>Election of Officers</u> The following Officers were elected unopposed: Chair - Ian Mains proposed by Sue Amery and seconded by Christine Taylor. Treasurer - John Moore proposed by Tad Zaranko and seconded by Rosie Anderson. Clerk – there were no proposals from the meeting, so the role again remains vacant. In the interim, Ian Mains will act as Clerk, supported by John Moore. Ian suggested that should anyone consider standing as Clerk they should get in touch to discuss the role.	
7	<u>Minutes of the last Parish Meeting held on 21st May 2024</u> The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting, proposed by Sian Moore and seconded by Sally Zaranko. All matters would be covered in this meeting.	
8 8.1	<u>Financial Report</u> Annual Audit for year 2024/25 John explained the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) process. The accounts for 2024/25 have been prepared, audited by Alan Fielder and are now available for inspection at Moss Cottage. Ian thanked Alan for again undertaking the internal audit task on behalf of the WPM. The following AGAR documents were then approved for signature by the Chair: Certificate of Exemption 2024/25 Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/25 Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 Accounting Statements 2024/25 These documents will be uploaded to the WPM website and posted on the Village Notice Board.	JM
8.2	<u>Outturn 2024/25 and Budget 2025/26 (Financial Report issued separately with these minutes)</u> John presented his financial report highlighting a number of key issues. WPM was solvent for the current year, but cash flow needed to be managed carefully, as the major source of income (the 100 Club) did not produce its cash until later in the year. Given the cost pressure in the Core Section of the Budget, funded by the 100 Club, it was agreed that the cost of a ball for the 2026 draw be increased to £25 and that the second prize each month be increased from £10 to £15. Based on the sale of 50 balls the net additional income would be £190. Grass cutting costs are covered by voluntary contributions. It is estimated that this 'pot' will be exhausted by the end of the 2025 cutting season. A request for voluntary contributions to fund next year will therefore need to be made at the end of this current year. Following an explanation of costs incurred under the Environmental Improvements category, a request was made by Kathryn Guy concerning the need for urgent repairs to the Telephone Box that houses the Defib as well as the library. Provisional costs for painting (£180) defib signage panels (£60) and repairs to the woodwork of the door (TBA) were agreed. Funding for this work will be confirmed. As in previous years the proceeds of the BBQ will be allocated to the Defib Fund. The cash held in the Social Fund is available to subsidise any future social events. The Meeting agreed to continuation of holding HNN funds while a new HNN bank account is set up. Alan Fielder is happy with this temporary position.	RO KG/JM
9 9.1	<u>Social Events</u> The annual BBQ will take place on the Village Green on Saturday 5 th July.	

9.2	<p>A joint Whashton-Kirby Hill Pub Quoits Team has joined a local league. Matches are now taking place on alternative Wednesday evenings on Whashton Green. In response to a query, John reiterated that no expenditure has been or will be incurred by WPM for repairs to the pitches. Trevor Brown advised that Kirby Hill Parish Meeting has recently agreed to reinstating the Quoits pitches in their village; what impact this will have on the Whashton pitches will be investigated, in view of the grant application mentioned in 3.4 above. Post- Meeting - this matter was raised with the Clerk of Kirby Hill PM and he advised that the request was in fact not approved. Complaints about Quoits players urinating at the back of the Green will be addressed and a Quoits/Sports day on August Bank Holiday Monday will be considered.</p>	<p>JM</p> <p>JM</p>
10	<p>Holmedale Nature Network (HNN) & Biodiversity Projects</p> <p>Ian reminded the meeting that John and he were Trustees of HNN and that the recent success of achieving charitable status will help with funding applications. A first aid training programme run by The Red Cross is scheduled to take place on Monday 16th June at 12:00h in Dalton & Gayles Village Hall; anyone interested should contact Ian.</p> <p>Sally updated the meeting on environmental projects within Whashton Parish and plans for additional activity in the future. Removal of Himalayan Balsam is planned for Saturday 21st June and all are invited to help and meet at 10:00h at Whashton Bridge on Comfort Lane. Ian thanked everyone who helps with this work and in particular Sally, Tad and John.</p>	
11	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Please note that all Whashton matters can be viewed on our website.... www.whashtonparish.co.uk</p> <p>Thanks to Rachel and Sally for maintaining this on behalf of the Parish. Our website also hosts HNN material, and this is currently under review with a fee towards maintenance to be imposed.</p> <p>The loss of two of our residents, Avril Clark & Pam Metcalfe, was recalled and our thoughts are with Andy Kerr, residing at The Terrace.</p>	
	Ian thanked everyone attending and the meeting closed at 20:55h.	

Ian Mains, Chair & Interim Clerk
Whashton Parish Meeting
18th June 2025