

Baldersby and Baldersby St James Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of
Baldersby and Baldersby St James Parish Council
held on **Thursday 30th November 2023** at The Mission Room, Baldersby at 18:30

Attendees: Cllr Hart, Cllr Brown, Cllr Shaw, Cllr Whitham, Cllr Wilson, The Clerk and 2 members of the public.

Prior to the meeting a closed session of the Parish Council was held to discuss arrangements for setting the budget for FY 2024/2025.

2324/037 To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence.

Resolved: Apologies were received and accepted from County Cllr Brown.

2324/038 Declarations of interest

a) To receive any declarations of interest not already declared under council's code of conduct or members Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

b) To receive, consider and decide upon any applications of dispensation

Resolved: There were no declarations of interest or any applications of dispensation.

2324/039 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27th September 2023 as a true and correct record.

Resolved: The minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.

2324/040 To receive reports from our Ward Councillor

Cllr Wilson reported on the Parish Forum that he had attended on the 28th of November on behalf of the parish council. The main areas of concern raised were, Highways, the performance of Yorkshire Water regarding sewage, traffic management (especially from those parishes that had large lorries traversing their boundaries) and the NYCC Planning process. County Cllr Brown was keen to set up a Ripon & District Safer Neighbourhood Group. He also wanted to arrange an annual meeting where various representatives of NYCC functions would make themselves available for questions. The next meeting was to be in February and Cllr Wilson would attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

Action: Cllr Wilson

2324/041 Public Participation

A member of the public raised the issue of gully cleaning in Baldersby St James. One had been cleared outside Tudor Cottage. The Clerk would check whether any further work was planned, as he had been led to believe that Baldersby St James had been put on an annual gully cleaning schedule for all gullies.

Action: The Clerk

A member of the public raised the issue of the overhanging hedge and pathways in Baldersby St James. The Clerk reported that, in his meeting with Highways, he had been promised that the Highways Officer would contact Cllr Wilson to meet and look at these issues. He would try to escalate the situation.

Action: The Clerk

Regarding the potential new defibrillator in Baldersby St James it was felt that the telephone kiosk would provide better protection from the elements.

2324/042 To receive the Clerks Report.

The Clerk had circulated his report prior to the meeting. It was unanimously approved . In addition the Clerk reported that he had raised the issue of the signs to both villages with Highways and had asked Councillors to provide some pictures so he could send to the relevant department in NYCC.

Action: The Clerk

2324/043 Financial Matters

a) To approve the bank reconciliation and budget comparison for November 2023.

The Clerk reported that, after considering the outstanding cheques, the balance at the bank stood at £6,323.00. The situation against budget was as expected, although expenditure would eat into reserves again this year. Consequently, this would need to be considered when setting next year's budget.

b) To approve the Schedule of Payments and Receipts.

The following payments and receipts were approved.

28.9.23	Clerk's Salary (Sept)	Salary and related costs		£	191.86
28.9.23	HMRC	Salary and related costs		£	47.80
29.9.23	NYCC	Precept	£ 3,060.00	£	-
6.10.23	Gocardless	IT		£	11.99
13.10.23	Southern Electric	Sports Pavilion		£	148.83
24.10.23	M Hullah (0056)	Grasscutting		£	410.00
28.10.23	Clerk's Salary (Oct)	Salary and related costs	£ -	£	191.66
28.10.23	HMRC	Salary and related costs		£	48.00
06.11.23	Gocardless	IT		£	11.99
28.11.23	Clerk's Salary (Nov)	Salary and related costs		£	191.66
28.11.23	HMRC	Salary and related costs		£	48.00
30.11.23	Clerk's Expenses	Office expenses		£	43.32
30.9.23	J Gibson Electrical	Defibrillator		£	120.87
28.11.23	M Hullah (0064)	Grasscutting		£	165.00

In addition The Clerk was given authority to pay up to £100 for the hire of the Mission Room for the calendar year 2023 and expenditure for the Christmas lights was unanimously approved.

c) To agree the 2024/2025 budget and the precept for 2024/2025.

There followed a discussion regarding the setting of the budget for the next financial year. Costs had risen dramatically over the last couple of years and the parish council was using reserves just to balance fixed expenditure. In addition it was recognised that work would need to be performed at least every two years to keep the children's play area safe for children to use. Monies also needed to be put aside for any unforeseen expenditure. Finally, NYCC's decision to make parishes pay for any contested bye-elections meant we had to allocate monies in order to cover this not insignificant cost.

Resolved: The Parish Council agreed unanimously to set the Precept at £8,500 and the Clerk was asked to request the amount from NYCC accordingly.

Action: The Clerk

d) To discuss the current bank mandate

Resolved: The Clerk had received a new mandate from the bank and Cllrs Shaw, Brown, Wilson and Whitham were appointed signatories to the bank account.

2324/044 Planning Matters

a) To discuss application 6.11.16.E.TPO ZC23/04141/TPO Works to Tree Preservation Order R61/2023 (HAR) G1 9 Sycamore – at Brooms Farm Baldersby St James.

Resolved: The Parish Council agreed that they had no objection to the tree works.

2324/045 To receive information on the following ongoing issues and decide further action where necessary:

a) To update the meeting on the situation regarding Marlpit Lane.

The Clerk had been in contact with Highways. Regarding the potholes, a works order was being costed up. Regarding the issue of speeding, Engineers were due to assess the site.

b) To update the meeting on gully cleaning/ street cleaning in Baldersby St James

This had been dealt with under 2324/041.

C/F

c) To update the meeting on the issue of overhanging branches at Baldersby St James.

This had been dealt with under 2324/041

C/F

d) To update the meeting on the setting up of a Community Speedwatch Group.

Cllr Wilson reported that he had had no response despite repeated attempts to contact the relevant authorities. It was unanimously agreed that he should take the matter to the Police Commissioner. The clerk would find the email address and advise.

Action Cllr Wilson / The Clerk

e) To update the meeting on the operation of the VAS equipment.

Resolved: The VAS equipment was due to be moved on 2nd December. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Whitham for all his efforts in managing the switch.

f) To confirm the defibrillator battery has been checked.

Resolved: The battery was now working, the equipment was dry. The repairs to the heater had made a difference.

g) To update the meeting on the bi-monthly check of the Playground Equipment.

Cllr Shaw had performed the check and noted that there was slight movement on the hanging tyre support. It was agreed that an independent check on all of the equipment should take place in April, via a contact of Cllr Hart.

Action: Cllr Hart

h) To update the meeting on the provision of a second defibrillator at Baldersby St James.

The Clerk reported that he had been unsuccessful in obtaining a grant from the British Heart Foundation. He had approached the DHSC for a grant. In addition he had contacted County Cllr Brown's office to apply for a £500 grant from his locality budget.

C/F

2324/046 Correspondence

a) To discuss correspondence received from a parishioner regarding flooding on the A61 by Wards Corner.

Resolved: The Clerk had contacted Highways and the gully had been cleared.

b) To discuss the Playground Inspection Annual Report

This had been covered under 2324/045g).

2324/047 To discuss Items raised by Councillors.

a) To discuss the state of the path from Wards Corner to Baldersby St James and the offer to clear it (AW)

This had been dealt with under 2324/041.

C/F

b) To discuss the clearance of weeds on various roads in the parish (VS).

The Clerk had reported that he had raised this at his Area 6 Highways meeting and had also forwarded Cllr Shaw's pictures of the affected areas. A Highways Officer would look at the sites.

C/F

2324/048 To discuss the 80th anniversary of D-Day Celebrations

The Clerk reported he had been in contact with neighbouring parishes, all of which were considering their options but had not come to any decision yet. It was agreed to discuss the subject at the next meeting.

C/F

2324/049 To confirm the date of the next meeting.

The next meetings were agreed as follows:

Wednesday 24th January at 18:30

Wednesday 20th March at 18:30

The meeting closed at 19:58.