

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Darrington Parish Council held
Thursday 11 December 2025 at DARRINGTON READING ROOMS,
PHILIP'S LANE, DARRINGTON, PONTEFRACT, WF8 3BH

Present Cllr L. Thompson (LT) (Chair), Cllr F. Gray, (FG), Cllr T. Hirst (PB), Cllr K. Whalley, Cllr L. Dale, Cllr W. Pickup, Cllr P. Batty

In Attendance

Cllr B. Mayhew and 1 resident in attendance.

Action

1. To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence

NOTED apologies received from Cllr D. Burns and approved reasons thereto.

2. To declare a vacancy in respect of the council seat of Cllr V. Stones

RESOLVED to carry forward to the next meeting.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

3.1 To note any declarations of interests not already declared under members Code of Conduct or members register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None received.

3.2 To receive, consider and decide upon any applications for dispensation

None received.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

To confirm the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Darrington Parish Council held on 13 November 2025

RESOLVED to confirm the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 13 November 2025 as a true and correct record.

5. **To receive information on the following ongoing issues**

5.1 To provide an update in respect of the footpath running from North Lodge Lane to Stapleton

NOTED that an updated application has been submitted to North Yorkshire Council with separate A4-sized map portions showing the route of the footpaths more clearly.

DB

RESOLVED to provide a further update at the next meeting.

5.2 To create a new flower bed in the verge of Valley Road and to move the bench further along the verge and face it towards the field and not the road

RESOLVED to carry forward to the next meeting.

PB

5.3 To implement the proposed auto-response and adjust as necessary

RESOLVED that no further action is required.

5.4 To bring hi-vis jackets for wearing on the litter picking day

RESOLVED that no further action is required.

5.5 To purchase 2 additional defibrillators, for the first to be placed outside The Spread and the second to be placed on a resident's wall on the east side of the village

NOTED that the first defibrillator is purchased and is awaiting installation, and that the location of the second defibrillator is still to be determined. **RESOLVED** to provide an update at the next meeting.

TH

5.6 To request support from The Spread's landlords, to raise funds for the defibrillators through a raffle in the pub

NOTED that the landlords are in the process of raising funds through a raffle and **RESOLVED** to provide an update at the next meeting.

TH

5.7 To join Pontefract Civic Society's scheme for the purchase and replacement of batteries and pads as and when needed

RESOLVED that no further action is required.

5.8 To obtain a quote for the installation of the cable for each defibrillator

RESOLVED that no further action is required.

5.9 To liaise with the owner of West Park to encourage them to purchase a defibrillator

RESOLVED to carry forward to the next meeting.

TH

5.10 To add Wakefield Council's 'Assistance for Wakefield residents' to the village notice boards

RESOLVED that no further action is required.

5.11 To follow up on the invoice for the Council's use of the Reading Rooms

RESOLVED to advise the church of the amount to invoice.

FG

5.12 To add a filter to the planning register, to allow for newer items to be shown at the top

RESOLVED that no further action is required.

5.13 To ascertain the cost for the tree to be planted by the Village Field Trust in memory of Cllr V. Stones

NOTED that the Village Field Committee elected to install a hedge instead of a tree, and that the cost has been financed by the Village Field Trust.

RESOLVED that no further action is required.

5.14 To ascertain the cost for the tree plaque to be installed in memory of Cllr V. Stones

NOTED that the Village Field Trust will be financed by the Village Field Trust and that discussions are underway with Cllr V. Stones' son in this respect.

RESOLVED to provide an update at the next meeting.

TH

5.15 To engage with the relevant resident for the repair for the notice board by the bus shelter that is rotting at the bottom of the posts

NOTED that the resident has agreed to repair the notice board once the weather has improved and **RESOLVED** to table on the agenda once again for the March 2026 meeting.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Wakefield Council – Community Safe Places Project

RESOLVED that no further action is required.

6.2 Offer of free dementia workshops by Home Instead

RESOLVED to invite Home Instead to the next meeting to provide more detail in respect of the workshops.

JJ

7. Financial Matters

7.1 NOTED payments to be approved for December 2025

Date Approved	Item	Payment Method	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
13.11.25	38-2526	TRF	White Rose Plants	Lamp Chris trees (extra 5 plus brackets	1,663.23	0.00
11.12.25	39-2526	TRF	Nick Dyas	Nov gardening/maintenance 4hrs @ £16	64.00	0.00
11.12.25	40-2526	TRF	PontyVA 925	Nov admin services	330.00	0.00
26.11.25	41-2526	Card 35	B&M 064	Refreshments Tithe Barn Carol Service	7.00	0.00
26.11.25	42-2526	Card 35	Aldi 16 779	Refreshments Tithe Barn Carol Service	47.36	0.00

7.2 **NOTED** payments made for November 2025

Date Approved	Item	Payment Method	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
13.11.25	33-2526	TRF	Nick Dyas	Gardening/maintenance Oct – 6hrs @ £16	96.00	0.00
13.11.25	34-2526	TRF	Carter Jackson	630 newsletters November	125.20	0.00
13.11.25	35-2526	TRF	PontyVA 925	Oct admin services	330.00	0.00
13.11.25	36.2526	Card 31	JRB Enterprises	10x packs 800 dog waste bags	297.60	49.60
16.11.25	37-2526	Card 31	Hungry Horse	Refreshments following litter pick	41.26	6.88
					£890.06	£56.48

7.3 **NOTED** income of £4.36 including £4.00 received from a donation and £0.36 Virgin Money cashback

NOTED the bank balance at 30 November 2025 as £26,199.86

7.4 **To receive and approve the bank reconciliation and review spend against the budget to 31 March 2026**

RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliation to 30 November 2025 and spend against budget to 31 March 2026.

7.5 **To consider and decide upon the 2026-27 precept**

NOTED the revised budget for 2026-27, including removal of the election costs and reduction of the cost of the defibrillators. **NOTED** further that a provisional amount of £5,000 has been included for the possible purchase of a Smiley Sid.

RESOLVED to approve the proposed 2% increase in precept and to approve the final precept demand at the next meeting.

7.6 **To consider and decide upon a new banking mandate following the passing of Cllr V. Stones**

RESOLVED to approve Cllr D. Burns as the replacement third signatory for the Parish Council bank account. **FG**

8. **To consider planning applications received**

8.1 None

9. **To receive information on finalised planning applications**

9.1	CYC Reference	Address/Description	Wakefield Council Decision
	25/01776/TPO	15 Beech Crescent - Crown Reduce the entire canopy of 1 Sycamore Tree by 2metres. Remove all deadwood	Refused with alternative works given

10. Reports – School, Police, Gardening Club, Village Field, Newsletter

10.1 To receive update from Village Traffic Working Group

NOTED an update in respect of the Working Group.

10.2 To consider school report

NOTED no update from Cllr L. Dale.

10.3 To consider Gardening Club report

NOTED the Gardening Club report presented by Cllr F. Gray.

10.4 To consider Village Field report

NOTED a report provided by the Village Field Trust Chair.

10.5 To consider newsletter report

NOTED that Cllr V. Stones' son has offered to support Cllr K. Whalley with the newsletter in memory of his mom. **NOTED** further that the next newsletter is to be published in February 2026.

10.6 To consider Church report

NOTED the Church report as presented by Cllr L. Thompson.

10.7 To note Newsletter-worthy items

RESOLVED to include an item in respect of Cllr V. Stones.

11. Governance matters

11.1 To review the 2026 Policy Review Schedule

NOTED and approved no changes to the 2026 Policy Review Schedule.

12. Matters requested by Councillors

12.1 To consider and decide upon holding an annual scarecrow festival / competition

NOTED Cllr W. Pickup's proposal to host an annual scarecrow festival and **RESOLVED** to table this for further discussion at the next meeting.

WP

12.2 To consider and decide upon future social events

NOTED Cllr L. Thompson's proposal to host a "talent" event, inviting people that have a talent they would like to showcase, to participate.

RESOLVED to include an invitation in the newsletter, for interested performers to come forward to ascertain the level of interest in such an event.

KW

13. Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting

13.1 To add a usage report for the additional defibrillators.

JJ

13.2 To consider and decide upon additional guardians for the defibrillators (TH).

14. Date of Next Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the next ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 8 January 2026.

Meeting closed at 20h08.