

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Darrington Parish Council held Thursday 11 June 2026 at DARRINGTON READING ROOMS, PHILIP'S LANE, DARRINGTON, PONTEFRAC, WF8 3BH

Present: Cllr D. Burns (DB), Cllr L. Thompson (LT), Cllr F. Gray (FG), Cllr T. Hirst (TH), Cllr K. Whalley (KW), Cllr L. Dale (LD), Cllr P. Batty (PB) and Cllr W. Pickup (WP).

In Attendance

No residents in attendance.

Action

1. To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence

NOTED apologies received from Mrs J. Jones and approved reasons thereto.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

2.1 To note any declarations of interest not already declared under members Code of Conduct or members Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None received.

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

None received.

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

To confirm the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Darrington Parish Council held on 14 May 2026

RESOLVED to confirm the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 14 May 2026 as a true and correct record.

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

4.1 To notify Wakefield Council of Cllr D. Burns' and Cllr L. Thompson's re-election as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively

RESOLVED that no further action is required.

4.2 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

4.3 To arrange for re-decorating of the telephone box

RESOLVED to request that the resident re-decorates inside and outside of the telephone box.

TH

- 4.4 To re-send the school newsletter to councillors
RESOLVED to carry forward to the next meeting. LD
- 4.5 To amend the Financial Regulations to reflect the Responsible Financial Officer, the Chair and 1 other councillor as authorised for a Council debit card
RESOLVED that no further action is required.
- 4.6 To send the website, .gov.uk domain and email support agreement to Cllr D. Burns for signature
RESOLVED to carry forward to the next meeting. DB
- 4.7 To arrange the boards for the Feast & Fayre stall and prepare the rota for the day
RESOLVED to coordinate the rota and boards, including bunting for the day. LT/FG
- 4.8 To update posters to reflect that the Scarecrow Competition has been cancelled and to refund residents that have paid their entry fee
RESOLVED that no further action is required.
- 4.9 To put the arrangements for the Evening of Entertainment in writing and share with the Council
RESOLVED to select the £12.50 meal option and that desserts will be provided by the Council.
- NOTED** and **RESOLVED** to agree with the proposed arrangements including liaising with the Darrington Golf Club DB/LT
- 4.10 To contribute £1,000 towards the installation of a footpath across the village field
NOTED that there was a potential conflict of interest that had arisen during the previous meeting when the decision to contribute towards the footpath was made.
- RESOLVED** to investigate further and carry forward to the next meeting. JJ
- 4.11 To request that Nick Dyas picks up the maintenance of the land to the side of the footpath to the church, at the end of the cul-de-sac in Wentworth Park Rise
RESOLVED to carry forward to the next meeting. LT
- 4.12 To liaise with Wakefield Council in respect of the planned road resurfacing in Valley Road

NOTED feedback received in this respect and **RESOLVED** that no further action is required.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Phonely – PSTN landline switch-off checklist

RESOLVED to place the checklist on the notice boards and website, as well as include information regarding the switch-off in the newsletter.

TH/JJ
/DB

6. Financial Matters

6.1 NOTED payments to be approved for June 2026

Date Approved	Item	Payment Method	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
11.06.26	15-2627	TRF	N. Dyas	Gardening & Maintenance May - 11hrs @ £16ph	176.00	0.00
11.06.26	16-2627	TRF	PontyVA 925	Admin Services May '26	350.00	0.00
12.06.26	17-2627	TRF	Amberol Ltd	3x Lamp post brackets	126.00	21.00
25.06.26	18-2627	TRF	Habro Printing	Newsletter inserts x 630	78.50	0.00
25.06.26	19-2627	TRF	White Rose Plants	Summer baskets, planters & watering	5,881.00	0.00
					6,611.50	21.00

6.2 NOTED payments made in May 2026

Date Approved	Item	Payment Method	Payee	Reason	Amount	VAT
14.05.26	06-2627	TRF	N. Dyas	Gardening & Maintenance April - 9hrs @ £16ph	144.00	0.00
01.05.26	07-2627	D/D	ICO	ICO Annual Data Protection Renewal	47.00	0.00
14.05.26	08-2627	TRF	PontyVA 925	April Admin services	350.00	0.00
14.05.26	09-2627	TRF	Gallagher Ins Broker	Hiscox Ins Policy 8188182 1.6.26	724.89	0.00
19.05.26	10-2627	TRF	Lee Craggs	Refund Scarecrow Fest reg fee	5.00	0.00
19.05.26	11-2627	TRF	Wayne Pickup	Refund Scarecrow Fest reg fee	5.00	0.00
19.05.26	12-2627	TRF	Darr' Golf Club	Refund Scarecrow Fest reg fee	5.00	0.00
20.05.26	13-2627	Card 31	JRB Enterprises	Dog waste bags x10 pks = 8000	297.60	49.60
16.05.26	14-2627	Card 31	Hungry Horse	Litter Pick Refreshments	36.44	6.03
					1,614.93	55.63

6.3 **NOTED** the following income received in May 2026:

- Sales – Darrington Golf Club – Scarecrow Festival – £10.00

6.4 To receive and approve the bank reconciliation to 31 May 2026 and to review spend against the budget to 31 March 2027

RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliation to 31 May 2026 and spend against budget to 31 March 2027.

NOTED further the final bank balance at 30 April 2026 as £38,696.77.

7. Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

7.1 To approve and sign the Certificate of Exemption (AGAR Form 2)

NOTED that a Council with income of less than £25,000 may apply for exemption of an external audit.

RESOLVED to approve and sign the Certificate of Exemption

7.2 To approve and sign Section 1 of the AGAR – Annual Governance Statement 2025-26

RESOLVED to approve and sign Section 1 of the AGAR.

7.3 To approve and sign Section 2 of the AGAR – Annual Statements 2025-26

RESOLVED to approve and sign Section 2 of the AGAR.

7.4 Electors' Rights – To note the dates of the Exercise of Public Rights as 15 June 2026 to 24 July 2026

NOTED the dates of the Exercise of Public Rights as 15 June 2026 to 24 July 2026.

8. To consider planning applications received

CYC Reference	Address/Description	For/Against	Council Decision
26/00766/CPL	26 Sotheron Croft - Proposed single storey extension to rear, porch to front & alteration to soil vent pipe	8/0	No objection
26/00805/FUL	Stone Leigh Manor, Manor Park - Alter and Extend existing detached single storey dwelling house into two storey detached dwelling house with secondary access and extended driveway	8/0	No objection

9. To receive information on finalised planning applications

CYC Reference	Address/Description	Wakefield Council Decision
24/01830/S7301	12 Hillcroft Close - permission 24/01830/FUL, dated 11/12/2024 (which granted permission for the demolition of existing detached garage. Proposed detached garage and single storey side/ front extension to bungalow	Application Approved
26/00660/CPL	20 Beech Crescent – Conversion of integral garage	Application Approved

10. Reports

10.1 To receive update from Village Traffic Working Group

NOTED an update from Cllr D. Burns, that he is once again liaising with the Roads Engineer, who has advised that he would like to resume their quarterly reviews and queried if the Council will be inviting the new leader of Wakefield Council to attend meetings.

10.2 To consider school report

NOTED no update since the last meeting.

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 updates to contact details and that the next newsletter will be published in July 2026.

NOTED further that all submissions need to be received by 24 June 2026.

10.6 To consider Church report

NOTED a report provided by Cllr L. Thompson.

10.7 To note Newsletter-worthy items

RESOLVED to include the following items in the next newsletter:

- The October 'Evening of Entertainment'
- Advertising the councillor vacancy
- Year-end Chair report, including defibrillator update and training, and the passing of an ex-Chair and Councillor
- Farming update
- Usage of dog waste bags

10.8 Defibrillator usage

NOTED no usage since the previous meeting.

11. Governance matters

11.1 To consider and approve any changes to the Publication Scheme Policy

NOTED no changes to the Publication Scheme Policy.

11.2 To consider and approve any changes to Transparency Code

NOTED that the Transparency Code has been updated to include the new gov.uk website and email addresses.

12. Matters requested by Councillors

12.1 To consider and decide upon dog waste bag usage in the village

NOTED that 2,000 bags have been taken from the dog waste stations over a period of 2 weeks.

RESOLVED to include an item on this in the next newsletter, as detailed under agenda item 10.7.

12.2 To consider and decide upon request from Pontefract Civic Society regarding a Blue Plaque for Frank Sotheron

NOTED a request from a resident to purchase a Blue Plaque for Frank Sotheron.

RESOLVED to advertise the proposal at the Feast & Fayre stall, request feedback from residents in this respect and discuss responses at the next meeting.

TH

12.3 To consider and decide upon clearance of the notice boards

NOTED that the noticeboards are regularly overcrowded with notices and outdated advertisements.

RESOLVED to continue to clear the noticeboards on a regular basis.

12.4 To consider and decide upon responsibility for clearing Council mail received to the Reading Room post box

RESOLVED to request that the Council receives a key to the Reading Room post box.

LT

12.5 To consider and decide upon supporting a resident's request to push Wakefield Council to protect the private cemetery in Darrington

RESOLVED to communicate to the resident that the Council will support her request.

DB/LD

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

13.1 To consider and decide upon supporting the creation of hedgehog highways in the village (FG)

13.2 To consider and decide upon a donation to Yorkshire Ambulance Service Charity for the defibrillator training provided by them (FG).

13.3 To consider and decide upon contacting Highways England to request industrial litter picking along the A1 (PB)

13.4 To consider and decide upon adding Cllr L. Dale to the list of bank signatories (FG)

13.5 To consider and decide upon re-joining the YLCA (JJ)

13.6 To provide an update on the Oil and Gas Networks Hydrogen Scheme (LD)

14. Date of Next Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the next ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 9 July 2026.

Meeting closed at 20h28.