
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 22nd April 2025 at the Village Hall, Main Street, Bishopthorpe.

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.05 pm.

Two members of the public attended the meeting: Laura Holmes of Keble Park South and Claire Millea of Sim Balk Lane, to discuss the issues surrounding Celkom Transport.

The depot for Celkom Transport Limited is based in Acaster Malbis. Lorries travelling to and from the depot have always come through Bishopthorpe, travelling over the bridge on Copmanthorpe Lane to access their premises. When the bridge underwent restrengthening work in January 2025, the lorries were diverted to Appleton Roebuck and Copmanthorpe thus putting focus on the issue. The problem then worsened when Celkom launched a new 50,000 square foot warehouse in Acaster Malbis which led to bigger, more frequent lorries using unsuitable access roads through neighbouring villages. The Appleton Road bridge has now been strengthened and Mrs Holmes commented the lorries have reappeared in the village but are much bigger than previously. Mrs Holmes acknowledged that Celkom are not breaking the law in any way but asked the Parish Council if an agreement could be reached which would see them only allowed to come through the village during school hours and in the evenings – primarily to keep children safe when travelling to and from the Infant and Junior Schools.

Cllr. Harrison commented that Celkom operate from a potentially unsuitable location. The lorries are using rural roads through small communities when they should be located at a depot in close proximity to major roads and motorways. Whilst acknowledging that the company are not in breach of the law and the lorries cannot be prevented from using the village to access their premises, it would be helpful if the volume could be shared equally between the villages to alleviate Bishopthorpe of the majority. When Copmanthorpe Parish Council were asked previously to agree to this suggestion, they refused.

Cllr. Harrison stressed that it is difficult to do anything about the situation because the Traffic Commissioner, a national body, has granted an international licence to Celkom and do not look at the micro-level where the vehicles are actually going, or if the roads are suitable. It would need a change in national legislation to force the company to relocate to a suitable location. Bishopthorpe Parish Council is willing to work with all locally affected Parish Councils and the Ward Councillor Cllr. Nicholls, to present a united front to resolve this issue. Ward Councillor Cllr. Nicholls has requested an urgent meeting with representatives of Celkom to ask that they only come through Bishopthorpe at certain times and to also stress that the lorries must keep within the 20mph speed limit.

In conclusion, it was agreed that the Parish Councils should speak as one collective voice and ground rules for traffic management must be set. The York Outer MP, Luke Charters, has also been asked to help with the campaign to relocate Celkom away from Acaster Malbis.

Mrs Holmes and Mrs Millea thanked the Parish Council for their help and left the meeting at 7.22pm.

The April meeting of Bishopthorpe Parish Council commenced at 7.25pm.

Council Members Present:

Cllr. Harrison, Cllr. Thornton, Cllr. Jemison, Cllr. George, Cllr. Nicholls, Cllr. Astbury, and Cllr. Johnson.

25/55 1 **Recording the Meeting**

The right to record, film and to broadcast meetings of Bishopthorpe Parish Council, its committees, sub committees and any joint committees is established under the Openness of Local Government Regulations 2014. Bishopthorpe Parish Council is committed to being open and transparent in the way it conducts its decision making and therefore such recording is permitted under the lawful direction of Bishopthorpe Parish Council. Full rules for recording are available from the Clerk and those people recording any meeting will be deemed to have accepted them whether they have read them or not.

All recording must be undertaken in an obvious way and the wishes of any members of the public who do not want to be recorded must be respected. All persons recording the meeting are reminded that the 'Public Participation' period at the beginning of the meeting is not part of the formal meeting.

25/56 2 **Apologies for absence.**

Cllr. Stephen and Cllr Gajewicz.

Cllr. Harrison informed the meeting that following thirty years' service to Bishopthorpe Parish Council, Cllr. Carole Green has submitted her resignation. Carole's contribution to the Parish Council and the village of Bishopthorpe has been vast and thanking her for her involvement Cllr. Harrison confirmed she will be much missed.

25/57 3 **Declarations of Interest**

At this point Councillors are asked to declare any prejudicial interests they may have in the business on this agenda. *No items were declared.*

25/58 4 **Minutes of Meeting, 25th March 2025**

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Cllr. Astbury and seconded by Cllr Nicholls . Carried unanimously by all who attended the meeting. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

25/59 5 **Consideration of Planning Matters and recommendations of the Planning Group**

5.1 Notice of Applications received

5.1.1 **38 Keble Park North.** Single storey side extension and conversion of garage to habitable space. 25/00692/FUL. **No Objection**

- 5.1.2 **The Co-operative Food, 47 Main Street.** External chiller, replacement canopy and plant to rear, replacement shutter to front, replacement lighting. 25/00613/FUL. **No Objection**
- 4.5.2 Notice of decisions given (*Parish Council decisions are highlighted in red*)
- 5.2.1 **13 Sim Balk Lane.** Single storey rear extension. 25/00068/FUL. **No Objection.** Approved
- 5.2.2 **The Vicarage, 48 Church Lane.** Various crown pruning, lifting works to two Sycamore trees in a Conservation Area. 25/00317/Tree Conservation Area. **No Objection.** Approved
- 5.3 Large Householder Extension Notifications
- 5.3.1 None
- 5.4 Other Planning Matters
- 5.4.1 *PROW – Section 53 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1989 – Application to record a public footpath from Chantry Lane, Bishopthorpe to Ferry Lane, Bishopthorpe – No update to report.*

25/60

6

Services6.1 Village Hall Management Committee6.1.1 *Management Committee Report – Cllr Thornton*

- Following the vandalism to the lift caused by local children (as reported in the March minutes) Cllr. Thornton contacted their parents asking for a contribution towards the repair cost. None of the parents responded. Therefore, the cost of the lift repairs must be funded by the Parish Council from the precept.
- Dennis King Limited will replace the broken outdoor light with a new, more efficient, LED version.
- The damaged floor has been ironed to repair the dents caused by a child's train. The 'party train' will now be banned from all future children's parties.
- Cllr. Thornton is investigating the installation of solar panels on all Parish Council owned buildings, to include the Village Hall.
- Martyn's Law is the commonly used name for the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 that seeks to improve the security and preparedness of public venues and events against terrorist attacks. The Act received Royal Assent on 3rd April 2025. Cllr. Harrison stated that the Village Hall falls outside the scope of the Act, specifically because there is never an occasion when 200 people, or over, use the hall at any one time. Cllr. Thornton, as Chair of the Ebor Players, will ensure that the group (during performance times) do not exceed this specific criteria.

6.2 Sports and Leisure Management Committee

6.2.1 *Management Committee Report* – Cllr. Nicholls reported the new toilet will be plumbed in later this week. Mice are currently a problem inside the building.

6.2.2 *Update on reimbursement from former builder* – Cllr. Harrison contacted TimCo asking for a financial reimbursement for poor work. An offer to pay back £2,000 to the Parish Council was made by TimCo. which will be paid back in stages. Should TimCo default, the Parish Council will consider referring the matter to the Small Claims Court.

6.3 Finance Committee

6.3.1 *Committee Report* – Following the completion of this year's accounts, Cllr. Harrison noted an overall increase in expenditure of £42k. Many items of expenditure were exceptional such as roof repairs and floor repairs at the Village Hall and internal refurbishment at the Sports Pavilion. £9k was spent on the Play Area. The year-end balance of £40.1k is within the Parish Council's policy to keep one year's precept in reserve.

It was agreed that it will be necessary to increase rental fees at the Village Hall and Vernon House in the upcoming financial year.

6.3.2 *Annual Audit request from PKF Littlejohn* – The Clerk has completed the annual audit, which is now with the Internal Auditor.

6.4 Leases

6.4.1 *Update* – The blue barrel on the riverside will shortly be removed.

6.5 Youth Support and Children's Recreation

6.5.1 *Monthly Park inspection* – Cllr. Johnson had the inspection bag for April and removed some overhanging branches and tidied up the area in general. The kick boards need repairing again.

Following the annual inspection a quote was received from Playdale for £3,284.35 (Vat inclusive of £547.39) for: Bark replacement £1,316.00, new edging boards £465.00 and delivery and fitting costs of £930.00. A further cost of £25.96 for replacement nuts and bolts was added. The Parish Council will instruct repairs of £25.96 to Playdale and will seek to save costs by employing local contractors to supply / repair all other items. **Action Cllr Harrison**

The bag was passed to Cllr Harrison for the upcoming month.

6.6 Allotments

6.6.1 *Monthly report* – Cllr. George reported there are thirteen villagers and one non-villager on the waiting list. One allotment has been swapped and one allotment has been split into smaller plots. Two further allotments have been let to new tenants.

6.7 Senior Citizens Support, Vernon House and Accessibility Issues

6.7.1 *Monthly Report* – Cllr Harrison reported there was a query at the recent AGM about iPad users not being able to easily access the internet at Vernon House. Unfortunately, this is an iPad issue that cannot be resolved by the Parish Council.

6.7.2 *Wooden bench* – It was confirmed that a new bench at a cost of £978 will be placed outside Vernon House. The Clerk was asked to place an order. **Action Clerk.**

6.7.3 *Vernon House sign* – Nothing to report.

6.8 Web Site Management

6.8.1 *Monthly Report* – The website is up to date.

6.9 Bishopthorpe Library

6.9.1 *Monthly update* – Nothing to report

6.10 Environmental and Sustainability

6.10.1 *Monthly Report* – the City Council are beginning a smoke control area consultation which will affect residents in Bishopthorpe.

Further details of the proposals are available at www.york.gov.uk/SmokeControlAreaConsultation

Any comments on the proposals can be submitted online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CYC-SmokeControlArea>

The closing date for comments is **Tuesday 3rd June 2025**

6.11 Community Emergency Planning

6.11.1 *Monthly Update* – Nothing to report.

6.12 Bishopthorpe Orchard

6.12.1 *Committee Update* – Nothing to report.

25/61 7

Financial Transactions

7.1 Payments to approve

7.1.1 **Cheque / Direct Debit payments**

Amounts paid

H3G – Internet provision – Vernon House	12.26
GoCardless, York Wi-Fi Solutions – Village Hall internet maintenance	24.00
B-Online – Internet provision Village Hall	40.13
Monthly direct debit to E-On Sports Pavilion Electricity (A-CA601F36)	277.77
Monthly direct debit to E-On Village Hall Electricity (A-BB34F196)	227.41
Monthly direct debit to E-On Village Hall Gas (A-724142FO)	539.54
Ecotricity – Vernon House electricity supply	400.70

Total Amount paid

£1,521.81

7.1.2 **On-Line Banking payments**

Amounts paid

Clerk’s Salary	888.00
Clerk’s Expenses	0.00
M Haynes - Village Hall Facilities Manager	437.50
Village Hall Facilities Manager expenses	75.04
C Julie Bradley - Vernon House Caretaker	250.00
C Julie Bradley - Vernon House Caretaker expenses	0.00
C Henk – Sports Pavilion cleaning	120.00
C Henk – Sports Pavilion cleaning expenses	0.00
City of York Council Rates – Vernon House	868.26
City of York Council Rates – Village Hall	347.30
City of York Council Rates – Sports Pavilion	1556.88
Campaign to Protect Rural England – annual subscription	36.00
York Elevator Services – Village Hall lift repairs	132.00
Ainsty Drainage Board	1.75
Sports Turf Services (York) Ltd – grass cutting	78.00
BT Clerk’s internet, Jan, Feb and March	90.60
Yorkshire Local Councils Association annual fee	859.00
Ben Lishman – park maintenance	62.20
City Council – waste, Sports Pavilion	77.84
Yorkshire Local Councils Association – Webinar training Cllr. George	18.20
Andrew’s Garden Services – Play Area grass cuts	350.00
Yorkshire Local Councils Association – Cllr. George webinar	10.00
City of York Council - waste collection for Village Hall	84.60
HMRC – Employer’s PAYE	53.82

On-line payment total

6,396.99

Payment Total

£7,918.80

7.2	Income Receipts	
	Amounts Received	
	Village Hall rental income	2374.10
	Double Taxation refund from City of York Council	9,315.03
	Vernon House rental income	304.10
	Total Income	£11,993.23

Approval of financial transactions proposed by Cllr George and seconded by Cllr Jemison. Carried Unanimously.

- 25/62 8 **School Governors**
- 8.1 *Infants School* – Cllr. Nicholls reported that in a recent school Easter competition, Martha Nicholls won a prize for her beautiful easter hat.
- 8.2 *Junior School* – Nothing to report.
- 25/63 9 **Gordon Watkins Community Award**
- 9.1 *Committee Report* – Cllr Thornton will advertise the award on Facebook. Depending on the response, a decision will be made whether to continue with the award in the future.
- 25/64 10 **Pinfold**
- 10.1 *Committee Report* – Nothing to report.
- 25/65 11 **Sensory Garden**
- 11.1 *Committee Report* – New bark needed is needed to mulch the plants. **Action Cllr Harrison.**
- 11.2 *Mosaic repairs* – Research is being undertaken as to how a community-made mosaic can become part of the Parish Council’s stall at the Gala.
- 25/66 12 **Police Liaison**
- 12.1 *Ward Manager’s Report* – Cllr. George reported the force is currently trying to rectify the issues with data provision.
- Cllr. Nicholls reported a new PCSO, Toni Wadsworth, has been appointed for the village.
- 12.2 *Mayor David Skaith commits to delivering safe places for all as he publishes his first Police and Crime Plan* – Noted
- 25/67 13 **Local Council Association**
- 13.1 *Yorkshire Local Councils Association* – Cllr. Harrison attended the last meeting.

- 13.2 *White Rose updates* – National Lottery Funding may be available for solar installation on community buildings. Cllr. Thornton will look into this.
- 13.3 *Yorkshire Local Councils Association upcoming training dates* – Cllr Harrison will attend the course for the Role of Parish Councils for Charity Trustees.

25/68

14 Highway Matters

- 14.1 *Floral displays* – Cllr. Astbury emailed Brunswick Organic Nursery for confirmation that they will undertake summer planting in the barrels on Main Street.
- 14.2 *Celkom Transport Ltd Operations* – Item discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

25/69

15 Correspondence**15.1 City of York not covered elsewhere**

- 15.1.1 *Copmanthorpe Neighbourhood Plan* – Noted.

15.2 Others

- 15.2.1 *None*

25/70

16 Ward Committee – Ward Committee update report from Ward Councillor Cllr. Nicholls:

- The date for the next Ward Council meeting will be announced shortly.
- The surveys consulting on the proposed 20mph speed limit in the village have been returned and are being analysed.
- Various proposals to make the Bus 11 a more efficient, reliable service to the village are being investigated by the bus provider and the City Council.
- Ward Councillor Cllr. Nicholls introduced himself to the residents of Middlethorpe. It is the first time a Ward Councillor has made this connection with the residents.
- White line painting has been only been put down to half of Main Street. Cllr. Nicholls is chasing completion of the job.
- Double yellow lines on the corner of Main Street / Acaster Lane has pushed the car parking problem lower down Acaster Lane to Montague Road, as expected.
- A request has been made for the Community Speed Watch team to cover the whole village.
- John Galvin will be granted an ‘Alderman Award’ on 8th May.
- Ward Councillor Michael Nicholls can be contacted at cldr.mnicholls@york.gov.uk

25/71 17 **Any other business, which the Chairman considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972**

- The Ebor Players is putting on a Spring Show entitled 'A night of Murder, Mirth and Mayhem' at the Village Hall on Friday 9th and Saturday 10th May. Cllr. Thornton encouraged all to attend what is promised to be fun evening's entertainment.

25/72 18 **Date and time of next meeting – Tuesday, 27th May 2025 at 7pm at the Village Hall.**

Meeting closed at 8.31pm