

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 24th February 2026, held at the Village Hall, Main Street, Bishopthorpe.

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.00 pm.

Twelve parishioners were present at the meeting. Ten attendees expressed interest in discussing the potential sale of Field 84, while two parishioners wished to address a planning application concerning Moor Lane.

The Parish Council has received several emails expressing objections to the potential sale of Field 84 (see item 6.4 below). In response to the concerns outlined in these messages, the Chairman delivered the following statement:

“It has been commented that the sale of Field 84 was first mentioned in the February edition of the Bishopthorpe Link. The article does however clearly state it is a potential sale.

It is incorrect to say that this was the first notification of the sale – it was included within our agenda for the November 2025 and January 2026 as “Sale of Field 84”.

Our Agenda is posted on the Bishopthorpe Parish Council Website and Notice Board on the Village Hall wall.

Our minutes are only posted on our website following agreement by the Parish Council following the subsequent meeting. Therefore, the November minutes would not be published until after the January meeting as we do not hold a meeting in December.

However, our January 2026 minutes were published in Draft form in early February.

Just to be clear Field 84 is not designated as a Public Open Space and as such the Parish Council may sell, lease or transfer any land it owns but must obtain the consideration reasonably obtainable.

It has been owned by the Parish Council since 1987, subsequently leased to Third parties over the years and care and maintenance of the site has been the responsibility of the Lessee. However, as the ultimate owner of the site the Parish Council has responsibilities to ensure it is safe for use – therefore by selling the site, albeit with conditions, the Parish Council would remove this liability.

The land is split by a pedestrian Public Right of Way along the riverside. This right of way should be maintained by City of York Council but due to financial constraints this has never been undertaken.

Field 84 is also split by a large open drainage channel, is subject to flooding and is waterlogged for a proportion of the year.

The land is within the Bishopthorpe Conservation Area, is not serviced by utilities and due to the limitations of the PROW i.e. pedestrian only; planning permission would be difficult to obtain.

We have discussed the potential sale with a solicitor to get views on implementing restrictions on the use of the field going forward. These include:

Ensuring it is not used for residential purposes;

The riverbank should remain tidy and not be let for residential mooring – this is the current situation and allows visibility of the river;

Potential maintenance of a footpath from the riverside to the sports fields. This is currently under review as the path appears to be used mainly by dog walkers and dogs are not allowed on the sports fields. This is probably confirmed as the Parish Council notice banning dogs has been defaced.

The sale of Field 84 will provide further investment funds to modernise and upgrade the well used toilets in the Village Hall and Vernon House, ensure we are able to replace major items within Keble Park Play Area after over 15 years of enjoyable use by children in the village. We would also like to provide some funding for the proposed Multi Sports Development on Ferry Lane. If this money is not forthcoming, we will need to increase our precept substantially over the next few years.

This brings me on to the Petition with the headline “Stop Bishopthorpe Parish Council From selling Field 84”

I understand there are 517 signatures – just short of 20% of the electorate of 2,626 in Bishopthorpe. Does this mean 80% are in favour of the sale?

Just out of interest, as mentioned above the electorate in Bishopthorpe will be asked to pay Parish Precept going forward – so how many of the 517 actually live in Bishopthorpe. I ask because it is important because they are the one’s who will be required to pay the increased precept and I noticed that people were asked to copy the petition to other networks as well as the Bishopthorpe Community Facebook page.

*The Petition also states Field 84 “ is home to rare wildflowers and a variety of wildlife “**that thrive here thanks to the tireless efforts of our community members**”*

I just wondered who had been doing any work in Field 84?”

The floor was then opened to questions / statements from parishioners:

- The Parish Council was questioned about its refusal to help remove Himalayan Balsam from the riverbank. (The Parish Council commented on this request in the May 2024 minutes.)
- Field 84 is untidy and should be regularly maintained, but community involvement for Field 84 has not been sought. Cllr Harrison responded, the potential buyer plans to use the site for recreation and will keep it tidy.
- If the Parish Council sells the field without strict covenants, it may lose control of the area and the new owner could restrict public access.
- It was stated the Parish Council has indicated their intention to sell the field on the grounds it is regarded as a liability. However, a parishioner contested this view, maintaining the field constitutes an asset to the community.
- Some questioned why the precept could not be raised instead of generating funds from selling the field. In response, Cllr Harrison explained without the sale proceeds, the precept might need to increase significantly in future years. The sale proceeds would be allocated to upgrading the toilets in the Village Hall and Vernon House, repairing a leak in the Village Hall roof, contributing to possible development at the Sports Pavilion and providing new equipment for Keble Park Play Area (to replace items originally installed in 2009).
- A question was raised regarding whether the sale would proceed on the open market or if a buyer had already been identified. Cllr Harrison confirmed a prospective purchaser has already expressed interest.
- A parishioner inquired about the origins of Parish Council ownership of the field dating back to 1987 and whether it was originally donated for the benefit of the village. The Parish Council was unable to provide an immediate answer but will conduct further investigation into the matter.

- It was stated this land holds significant value to the community, with trees having been planted by villagers during the Millennium Celebrations for future generations to appreciate. There are limited open wooded areas in the village that are freely accessible for public use.
- Children from the Brownies use the field for recreation and teenagers meet friends there. Cllr Harrison stated the lessee has no objection to this usage.
- It was claimed other Parish Councils are seeking to acquire land for recreational use, rather than sell it.
- Councillors were asked whether there is an intention to preserve the right of access across the middle of the field, rather than redirecting the path. Cllr Harrison responded no decision has been made at this time and the Parish Council remains receptive to recommendations.
- The Parish Council was invited to consider the creation of new moorings at the lower end of the site as a potential means to generate additional income. Cllr. Johnson replied that if the Parish Council were to relinquish the lease and install multiple moorings, these would have no access to electricity, water, or drainage facilities. Furthermore, the costs associated with acquiring and maintaining the moorings are unlikely to provide financial benefit to the Parish Council. Additionally, it remains a priority for the Parish Council to ensure the riverbank stays open and is not obstructed from public view.
- The Parish Council was questioned about whether it had decided to sell the land before consulting the village's opinion. A parishioner reminded the Councillors that each has an equal vote, just like the Chairman and should use it to express independent views. Several Councillors responded with disbelief at the need for this reminder and affirmed Bishopthorpe Parish Council functions democratically. The parishioner then asked the Councillors to share their individual views on the sale with the meeting. Responding on behalf of the Councillors, Cllr Stephen explained the decision to sell the land was made by majority vote.
- It was reiterated that, while parishioners recognise the neighbouring land has been redeveloped to a high standard, they remain worried selling Field 84 could mean losing overall control of the area.
- A parishioner suggested treating the land as 'Public Open Space' and recommended public consultation, as well as requesting a district valuer's assessment. Cllr Harrison responded a verbal valuation confirmed planning permission would be difficult since Field 84 floods regularly. Another parishioner claimed log cabins could be occupied for up to 60 days without planning permission; Cllr Harrison said this would be verified.
- Cllr Harrison stated he has consulted the Parish Council's solicitors to obtain legal guidance concerning the restrictive covenants intended for inclusion in the sale document.
- A parishioner noted strong opinions have been voiced about selling the field. While the Parish Council appears eager to proceed, it should recognise some community members view the field as a valuable village asset and are calling for the sale to be paused in favour of public consultation. Should the village ultimately support the sale, those attending tonight's meeting will respect the outcome. However, if the council urgently need funds, alternative solutions should be explored before permanently giving up this asset. Once sold, the field cannot be reclaimed and the village's biodiversity deserves protection and improvement. The Parish Council was encouraged to consult the residents of Bishopthorpe to gather their views before proceeding.
- The Parish Council was asked whether they had conducted a cost-benefit analysis. Questions again arose about community support for the sale, whether the land had been gifted and if an offer of £50k had been made to the Parish Council by chance. The Council was encouraged to consider its long-term financial strategy and how it would raise funds. In reply, Cllr Harrison explained a Parish Council can obtain funding through grants or Public Work Loans. For instance, the Play Area in Keble Park was financed by both and the Parish Council is open to exploring these options once again if necessary. However, given the current economic situation, grant opportunities are limited.

Cllr Harrison thanked the parishioners for their participation in the meeting and supported conducting a public consultation before moving forward with the sale. At the request of a parishioner, the Parish Council was asked to vote on this matter: Cllr Harrison proposed Bishopthorpe Parish Council carry out a public consultation to gather opinions from Bishopthorpe residents (exclusively) regarding the sale of Field 84. This was seconded by Cllr Stephen and agreed unanimously.

Two parishioners provided input regarding the planning application for Moor Lane—**Land to rear of 4 Moor Lane. Erection of six dwellings with associated access, parking and landscaping. 26/00023/FUL.** The Ward Councillor has formally raised objections to the application on the grounds of safety: Moor Lane lacks sufficient passing places and traffic exiting the lane would enter a road governed by the national speed limit. The objection pertains specifically to increased safety risks resulting from higher traffic volumes rather than the proposed number of dwellings. The Parish Council agreed to submit an objection in support of these concerns. **Action Cllr George**

The parishioners were thanked for attending the meeting and all left.

The February Parish Council meeting opened at 7.46 pm

Cllr Harrison suggested the sale of Field 84 should be discussed before addressing the rest of the agenda. To encourage wider participation, paper copies of the consultation will be distributed to all Bishopthorpe residents, possibly with the Ward Councillor's next newsletter, since online consultation alone is considered inadequate. If the land remains unsold, maintaining village assets could require increasing the precept substantially: this should be clearly explained during the consultation. Other options would be to investigate a Public Works Loan (where repayments would be made from the precept) and/or the availability of grant funding for specific items of expenditure. It was decided the Ward Councillor should be consulted first, after which the issue will be advanced as appropriate. **Action: Cllr Harrison.**

Council Members Present:

Cllr. Harrison, Cllr. Jemison, Cllr. George, Cllr. Stephen, Cllr. Harlington and Cllr. Johnson.

26/19 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.

26/20 2 **Apologies for absence.**

Cllr. Astbury and Cllr Nicholls

26/21 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.*

26/22 4 **Minutes of Meeting, 20th January 2026.**

Amendments to the draft minutes were requested by Cllr. Johnson and Cllr. Harrison Following inclusion of the amendments acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Cllr Jemison and seconded by Cllr George. Carried unanimously by all who attended the meeting. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

26/23 5 **Consideration of Planning Matters and recommendations of the Planning Group**5.1 Notice of Applications received

5.1.1 **14 Keble Park North.** Single storey front extension. 26/00033/FUL **No Objection**

5.1.2 **Land to rear of 4 Moor Lane.** Erection of six dwellings with associated access, parking and landscaping. 26/00023/FUL **No Objection to the dwelling but comments will be made to the City of York Council Planning about the roadway leading to the properties in line with the comments made by the Ward Councillor.**

5.1.3 **Bishopthorpe Social Club, The Poplars, 12 Main Street.** Single storey side extension. 26/00133/FUL **No Objection**

5.1.4 **38 Church Lane.** Erection of railings on top of new boundary wall and construction of two pairs of gate piers with entrance gates. 26/00151/FUL **No Objection**

5.1.5 **Richmond Lodge, 42 Sim Balk Lane.** Crown lift one beech to approximately one metre about the bus stop and clear telephone lines. Trim back the branches to two pine trees by 1-2 metres over the property and one metre on the school side – protected by Tree Preservation Order no. CYC211. 26/00183/Tree Preservation Order **No Objection**

5.1.6 **Middlethorpe Manor, Middlethorpe.** Fell one Pine, crown lift one Sycamore by removing one branch, prune back lowest branches from one Horse Chestnut by two metres. Reduce mature Conifer hedge line by five metres. Crown reduce western side of one Yew canopy by three metres. Crown reduce two Hazels by one metre. Tree works in a conservation area. 26/00214/The Conservation Area **No Objection**

5.1.7 **50 Acaster Lane.** Single storey rear extension and dormer to rear. 26/00226/FUL **No Objection**

4.5.2 Notice of decisions given (Parish Council decisions are highlighted in red)

5.2.1 **Meadow Court, Middlethorpe.** Fell one Lawson Cypress (T8) and remedial pruning of T1-T7 as per submitted specifications – tress in a conservation area. 25/02119/The Conservation Area **Decision left to City of York Council.** Approved.

- 5.2.2 **May Cottage, 44 Main Street.** Single storey side and rear extension. 25/022105/FUL **No Objection.** Approved
- 5.2.3 **Bosun's Restaurant.** Fell seven trees (four Sycamore, two Ash and one Hawthorn) Trees in a conservation area. 25/02272/The Conservation Area. **No Objection** Approved
- 5.2.4 **8 Main Street.** Front and rear dormers, single storey rear extension, porch and one front rooflight. 25/02418/FUL. **No Objection** Refused
- 5.2.5 **64 Montague Road.** Singles storey rear extension and dormer to rear. 25/02238/FUL **No Objection** Approved
- 5.2.6 **The Palace, Bishopthorpe Road.** External alterations to include the replacement doors to the front entrance. 25/02480/LBC. **No Objection** Approved
- 5.2.7 **The Palace, Bishopthorpe Road.** Replacement doors to front entrance. 25/02479/FUL. **No Objection** Approved
- 5.2.8 **The Boundary, 3 Ferry Lane.** Fell one Beech tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order number 7/1980. 26/00063/Tree Preservation Order. **No Objection.** Approved subject to – *“Within ten months of the date of the removal of the Beech, replacement planting shall be undertaken with an Upright Beech (e.g. Fagus sylvatica 'Dawyck Purple' or Fagus sylvatica 'Dawyck Gold'). The replacement stock size shall be a minimum height of 125-150cm. It shall be planted within the boundary of the property, supported and maintained in accordance with good arboricultural practice”*
- 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 – Nothing to report*
- 5.4.2 *Pre-planning consultation for a mobile phone base station installation at CS-3094500, Land at Maple Avenue, Bishopthorpe. (NSR:E459242 N447396). - The installation company will be asked if the new mast could be incorporated in to the existing 3 and Vodafone mast. If not, it should be installed without changing the footpath to protect those with visual impairments.*

Services6.1 Village Hall Management Committee

- 6.1.1 *Management Committee Report – Cllr Harrison confirmed Cllr. Harlington will lead the Village Hall Management Committee.*

Cllr Stephen reported three cleaning firms have been invited to submit quotes for cleaning the ground floor (up to the foot of the stairs, not including the kitchen). The cleaning staff will bring their own materials and equipment. The estimated annual costs are as follows:

- Dawn to Dust £1,920 (deep clean £125)
- Lettsy Industrial Cleaners York £2,640 (deep clean £165)
- Molly Maid Cleaning York £2,400 (deep clean £300)

A deep clean of the area will be a one-off expense and will be necessary before commencement of the regular cleaning schedule. Following a brief discussion Cllr Stephen proposed the contract should be awarded to Dawn to Dust. This was seconded by Cllr. Johnson and agreed unanimously.

Cllr George has been in touch with the roofing contractor to request work begins to repair the leaking roof, but recent bad weather has caused delays.

Martyn's Law, set to take effect in 2027, will not apply to Bishopthorpe Village Hall because the law only applies to public spaces with a capacity of over 200 people. Cllr Harrison confirmed Bishopthorpe Panto does not exceed this capacity.

6.2 Sports and Leisure Management Committee

6.2.1 *Management Committee Report* – Cllr. Johnson gave the following update from a recently held Committee Meeting –

- Cllr. Johnson is currently reviewing the sports clubs precept payments and proposed an increase in Bishopthorpe Cricket Club precept from £650 to £700 p/a. This was seconded by Cllr Jemison and agreed unanimously.
- The first league match for Bishopthorpe Cricket Club will be held on 25th April.
- Cllr. Johnson suggested the Parish Council should consider putting the grass cutting contracts out to tender for both the cricket outfield and football pitches. An email has been received from Bishopthorpe Cricket Club 1st team captain, Mr B Smith, concerning this issue. Cllr. Johnson offered to contact Mr Smith to discuss the matter further.
- The Hawthorne hedge along Acaster Lane is encroaching the footpath and requires cutting back.
- The repair and joinery work inside the building have now been completed.
- Bishopthorpe Cricket Club will be running junior teams this season and also hope to establish a ladies softball team.
- The funding application for equipment and covers, submitted by Bishopthorpe Cricket Club, was refused much to the Club's disappointment.
- Cllr Harrison reported he has contacted Fisher German and Savills to request an extension to the lease for Field 90, the sports field. Multiple letters and emails have been sent on this matter since 2018; neither recipient has responded to date.

6.2.2 *Ferry Lane Multi-Sports Development* – Cllr. Johnson gave the following update from the Committee meeting held on the 17th February:

- The Parish Council continues to support efforts to enhance the facilities at the Ferry Lane site.

- The MAS funding application will be submitted separately from the Bishopthorpe Cricket Club equipment application.
- The committee agreed to investigate the cost of building a multi-use artificial surface next to the pavilion.
- The next funding round opens 1st April and the Parish Council will collaborate with Bishopthorpe Cricket Club on a submission.
- A successful pre-planning application will help to guide future plans and identify funding sources.
- Cllr Harrison received a phone call from Northern Electric regarding their cables running down Ferry Lane. Tree work is needed to ensure the cables meet a specific clearance of the tree branches. 48 hours' notice would be given before commencement of the work.

6.2.3 *Email from Matt Coulson, Secretary Bishopthorpe Cricket Club – The issue raised in Mr Coulson's email was resolved at the Committee meeting.*

6.3 Finance Committee

6.3.1 *Committee Report – Nothing to report*

6.4 Leases

6.4.1 *Update – The potential sale of Field 84 was discussed in detail at the beginning of the meeting with the following objections noted:*

6.4.2 *Email from J Turnbull: Field 84, Opposition to council divesting itself of this site*

6.4.3 *Email from J Nasson: Formal objection to the proposed sale of Field 84*

6.4.4 *Email from J Nasson: Freedom of Information requests - The Freedom of Information request from Mr Nasson has been answered and Cllr Harrison will set up a meeting to deliver the relevant documents.*

6.4.5 *Email from P Mayhew : Objection to the sale of Field 84*

6.4.6 *Email from J Leadley: Objection to the sale of Field 84*

6.4.7 *Email from J Smith: Objection to the sale of Field 84*

6.4.8 *Email from M Christian : Objection to the sale of Field 84*

6.5 Youth Support and Children's Recreation

6.5.1 *Monthly Park Inspection – Cllr George carried out last month's inspection and found no problems. The boundary fence along Beech Avenue is deteriorating further - due to damage caused by tree roots.*

The ROSPA annual inspection is scheduled to take place during the week beginning 20th April.

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

6.6 Allotments

6.6.1 *Monthly report – Cllr. George reported there are currently six people on the waiting list.*

The Parish Council reviewed correspondence from Mr Parkinson concerning an incident in which a visitor to a property on Acaster Lane damaged an allotment holder's vehicle. The relevant insurance companies are currently

evaluating the extent of damage sustained. The Council has been asked to consider recommending allotment holders refrain from parking directly in front of the allotment gate and instead position their vehicles to either side of the entrance. The Parish Council will advise allotment holders to park either side of the entrance although it was agreed this is a public road and parking cannot be restricted.

6.7 Senior Citizens Support, Vernon House and Accessibility Issues

6.7.1 *Monthly Report* – The new chairs, purchased by the Parish Council, have been well received by users of Vernon House.

6.8 Web Site Management

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

It was agreed the Parish Council will continue its usual practice of not publishing draft minutes. Meeting minutes are approved at the following month’s meeting before being published online and a hard copy placed in Bishopthorpe Library.

Cllr George asked if AI training could be beneficial for Bishopthorpe Parish Council. Cllr Harlington stressed caution regarding AI-generated data, but acknowledges its usefulness as an information source.

6.9 Bishopthorpe Library

6.9.1 *Monthly update* – Nothing to report

6.10 Environmental and Sustainability

6.10.1 *Monthly Report* – Nothing to report

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

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Financial Transactions

7.1 Payments to approve

7.1.1 **Cheque / Direct Debit payments**

Amounts paid

B-Online – Internet provision Village Hall	32.34
Ecotricity – Vernon House electricity supply	322.80
GoCardless, York Wi-Fi Solutions – Village Hall internet maintenance	24.00
H3G – Internet provision – Vernon House	15.60
Monthly direct debit to E-On Sports Pavilion Electricity (A-CA601F36)	166.85
Monthly direct debit to E-On Village Hall Electricity (A-BB34F196)	283.60
Monthly direct debit to E-On Village Hall Gas (A-724142FO)	496.51

Total Amount paid

£1,341.70

7.1.2 **On-Line Banking payments**

Amounts paid

Clerk's Salary	916.42
Clerk's Expenses	0.00
M Haynes - Village Hall Facilities Manager	437.50
Village Hall Facilities Manager expenses	26.95
C Julie Bradley - Vernon House Caretaker	290.00
C Julie Bradley - Vernon House Caretaker expenses	0.00
C Henk – Sports Pavilion cleaning	160.00
C Henk – Sports Pavilion cleaning expenses	0.00
Cllr Harrison – refund for Hobbycraft grout for Sensory Garden mosaic	17.47
R Clark – Play Area gate daily locking / unlocking – annual charge	1,095.00
Dennis King Electrical – PAT test Village Hall (paid 22/1)	169.80
YLCA course fee – Cllr George Accessibility Requirements webinar	10.00
Advance Fire – annual inspection at Vernon House	93.72
Business Stream – Sports Pavilion	192.21
Business Steam – Acaster Lane Allotments	96.73
Business Stream – Appleton Road Allotments	248.00
Andy Mills Plumbing – Annual gas safety check to Village Hall	210.00
Amazon – Purchase of 8 chairs for Vernon House	417.60
Playdale Playgrounds Ltd – Annual inspection fee	312.00
BT Connection fee – Clerk's computer July 25 to Jan 26	179.88
Fisher German – bi-annual rent for cricket field	150.00
Business Stream – Vernon House	46.44

On-line payment total 5,069.72

Payment Total £6,411.42

7.2 **Income Receipts**

Amounts Received

Village Hall rental income	1559.00
L Wakefield – use of Sports Pavilion field for fitness club	30.00
Playgroup quarterly rent – December 2025	1,300.00
Total Income	<u>£2,889.00</u>

Approval of financial transaction proposed by Cllr George. This was seconded by Cllr Johnson and agreed unanimously.

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| 26/26 | 8 | School Governors |
| | 8.1 | <i>Infant School</i> – Nothing to report. |
| | 8.2 | <i>Junior School</i> – Nothing to report. |
| 26/27 | 9 | Gordon Watkins Community Award |
| | 9.1 | <i>Committee Report</i> – Nothing to report. |
| 26/28 | 10 | Pinfold |
| | 10.1 | <i>Committee Report</i> – Nothing to report. |

- 26/29 11 **Sensory Garden**
- 11.1 *Committee Report* – Richard X will treat and repair the wooden planters using wood preservers. Crocuses have emerged already and a number of trees have been pruned in anticipation of the coming season.
- The neighbouring property has planted a Cherry Laurel boundary (which can reach 15m in height) to replace the original hedge which they removed. A weed suppressant has been laid and will be covered with bark, to improve aesthetics. The neighbour will be asked to contribute to the bark cost.
- 11.2 *Mosaic repairs* – Nothing to report
- 26/30 12 **Police Liaison**
- 12.1 *Ward Manager’s Report* – Cllr. George reported the total number of crimes reported for December 2025 are as follows: 3 Anti- Social Behaviour, 1 criminal damage, 1 public order and 1 violence.
- Cllr George explained about a new police initiative entitled *Operation Pendulum* which aims to decrease the use of illegal ebikes, particularly those connected to criminal activity. The suggestion includes having officers use ebikes themselves and involving the motorcycle division for patrols. The public can assist by reporting any illegal sightings of scooters and non-pedalled ebikes either by phone or online - the Parish Council website has a link on its main page for this purpose.
- 26/31 13 **Local Council Association**
- 13.1 *Yorkshire Local Councils Association* - The Yorkshire Local Councils Association is scheduled to meet on the 25th February to discuss the expansion of the smoke control zone. Rufforth currently lacks access to a gas supply and depends on solid fuel for heating; as a result, residents may face financial challenges in meeting the requirements for new compliant log burners. It is understood these regulations will not be applied retrospectively to existing installations.
- 13.2 *White Rose updates* – Noted
- 26/32 14 **Highway Matters**
- 14.1 *Celkom Transport Ltd Operations* – The Ward Councillor has launched a Facebook page and created a group called "**Say NO to Lorries at Bishopthorpe Infants and AYJS**". This is for residents to share photos of lorries near schools during drop-off and pick-up times. Celkom Transport Ltd. will be contacted by the Ward Councillor to request they avoid school hours for the safety of Infant and Junior school children.
- 26/33 15 **Correspondence**
- 15.1 City of York not covered elsewhere
- 15.1.1 None
- 15.2 Others
- 15.2.1 None

- 26/34 16 **Ward Committee** – The following report was emailed from the Ward Councillor Cllr Nicholls before the meeting –
- The proposed phone mast at the Maple/Beech junction is suggested to be located on the opposite side of the road from the existing installation. The current consultation precedes the submission of a formal planning application. Agents have been advised the proposal is not appropriate and the Ward Councillor has identified five alternative locations for consideration.
 - Safety concerns about additional houses on Moor Lane have been raised. With no passing place and traffic joining a national speed limit road, the issue is safety rather than housing numbers.
 - The next ward meeting will be held on March 9th at the Marcia. Representatives from the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water will attend to discuss issues related to odours and the proposed plans for the sewage works at Naburn. York Racecourse officials and the York Outer Police Inspector will also be present to address concerns about race day traffic, along with two PCSOs who will talk about general crime matters.
- 26/35 17 **Any other business, which the Chairman considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972**
- Cllr Harrison received an email from Mrs L Thornton, Bishopthorpe Cricket Club, requesting a £500 donation for the Club. The item will be added to the March agenda for decision. **Action Clerk**
 - The City of York Council's returning officer confirmed that ten or more electors have not come forward to fill the current Parish Council's vacancies, therefore co-option can proceed.
- 26/36 18 **Date and time of next meeting – Tuesday, 24th March 2026 at 7pm at the Village Hall**

Meeting closed at 8.37 pm