Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council

Minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council held on **Monday 1st December 2025 at 6.30pm in Sleights Village Hall** pursuant to Summons

PRESENT: Councillor A Watson (Chairman) in the Chair. Councillors: S Bremner, R Corner, A Harrison, L Jones, J Parkin, P Perry, D Tate and M Warner.

C Raistrick – Clerk

1. **APOLOGIES.**

1.1. No Apologies received
1.2. **RESOLVED**: no approval required.

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2. **DISPENSATION AND INTERESTS**.

2.1. To receive consider & decide upon any applications for dispensation. **Noted**: None received
2.2. To receive any declarations of interest not already declared under the Council's Code of Conduct or a member's Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests. **Noted**: None received.

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3. **MINUTES.**

3.1. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd November October 2025 were discussed. It was requested that the following details were added to the minutes.

- Item 5. A query was raised about where the Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby Parish crime figures were included on the Police report. The Clerk was asked to raise this with the police.
- Item 14 to note that the transfer of information to the new website is now complete.

It was **RESOLVED** that once these amendments were made, the minutes be approved as a true and correct record.

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4 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

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5. P**OLICE MATTERS.**

At the time of the meeting the December report had not been received.
At the meeting held on 3rd November, a question had been raised about where the crime figures for the Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby Parish area sat on the report. The Clerk explained that the crime figures were by North Yorkshire Council ward and that they were included in the figures for the Esk Valley ward.

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6. **NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL (NYC) REPORT.**

Councillor Pearson did not attend the meeting.

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7. **ITEMS FROM THE MEETING of 3rd NOVEMBER 2025.**

7.1. Consultation on the North Yorkshire Local Plan. No further update and Cllr Pearson was not in attendance at the meeting.

7.2. To discuss the Parish Council reputation and perceived value. During discussion about this issue the need to ensure that residents were aware of what the Parish Council had achieved but also to make sure that they are aware of what the limitations of the Parish Council are – what the Parish Council has responsibility for and what they are not able to do were felt to be key to improving the reputation of the Parish Council. It was **RESOLVED** that a statement be placed on the front page of the Parish Council website giving details of this to make it easier for residents to understand the responsibilities and limitations of the Parish Council.
Cllr Harrison volunteered to draft an initial statement and circulate it to all councillors for review and discussion. It is hoped that the text can be agreed by the meeting in February 2026.

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8. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**.

8.1. **North Yorkshire Council**.
None received

8.2 **North Yorks moors National Park Authority**
None received.

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9. **PLANNING DECISIONS.** To receive and note the following planning decision/information:

9.1. ZF25/00807/HAS 63 Iburndale Lane Sleights Whitby North Yorkshire YO22 5DP - Variation of condition 1 in relation to 22/01903/HS to allow the retention of the existing garage and revised extension scheme. Application permitted with conditions

9.2. Planning Enforcement Case 24/00141/NC 3 Briggswath – update. The clerk read out the email received which stated that the case had been closed as the work on the property had been changed to ensure that the patio doors were inward opening and that a Juliet balcony had been installed preventing access to the roof. The additional works were within 'Permitted Development rights'.

9.3. ZF25/00663/HS NYC Yew Tree Close - Erection of single storey rear extension. Application permitted with conditions

9.4. NYM/2025/0214, land between 3 and 9 Eskdaleside, Sleights. Amended application. No decision. This planning application had been taken to the Planning Committee meeting on 27th November 2025. (https://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/about-us/meetings-and-agendas/thursday-27-november-planning-committee) The meeting can be viewed via the following link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wVYJzM8J1OM
The decision has been deferred and a site visit requested by the NYMNPA Planning Committee. It was **RESOLVED** to ask if it would be possible for a EcU Parish Councillor to be present at the site visit.

9.5. ZF25/00900/OL, 40 Birch Avenue Sleights Whitby North Yorkshire YO22 5DA - Proposed new dwelling within existing garden. Application refused.

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10. **ANGLO AMERICAN (AA) / WOODSMITH MINE.**

10.1. No representatives of Anglo American were in attendance at the meeting.

10.2. Issues regarding mining activities that impact the Parish**.** None raised.

10.3. Skills4Work Team. The meeting commended the work undertaken around the war memorial by the team.
It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk pass on the thanks of the council for the work by the Skills4Work team on the war memorial. That a request be made to the Skills4Work team leader to undertake clearance work on Featherbed Lane 200 yards from the top plus work behind the Sleights sign on the A169.

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11. **FINANCE.** To consider and decide action where necessary.

11.1. To receive the payment schedule and approve payment of the invoices detailed therein and sign the cheques. **RESOLVED**: To approve the December 2025 payment schedule and to sign the cheques.

11.2. To receive and approve the Bank reconciliation and Budget vs Actual for November 2025. The expenditure to date was discussed. The underspend against the Model Agreement funding was noted as was the need to ensure that this funding was utilised before 31st March 2026**.** It was suggested that there was likely to be sufficient remaining in the Model Agreement funding to purchase a bench for Littlebeck Lane adjacent to Red Barn. However, it will be necessary to apply for a licence for the bench from NY Highways. **RESOLVED:** To approve the Bank Reconciliation and Budget vs Actual for November 2025. That the Clerk:

- provides a breakdown of the funding under each of the different headings of the Model Agreement funding;
- finds out the cost of the recycled plastic bench installed on Birch Grove;
- distribute the above information to the members;
- emails Area 3 Highways to request a meeting about a licence for a bench for Littlebeck replacing the one that was there previously

11.3. To consider the budget for 2026/27 and discuss the increase required in the precept for the financial year 2026/2027. Cllr Harrison had previously distributed a paper about the precept required to cover the loss of the Model Agreement, inflationary increases and the election recharges notified by NYC. After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that a precept of £23.237.87 be requested which, although a significant percentage increase, is approximately £6 per Band D household, and that in future, the precept should be increased by the rate of inflation (using the September figure that year) as a minimum.

11.4. Update regarding Funding Streams. The clerk had attended a training Session organised by Community First Yorkshire about 'Awards for All', funding through the National Lottery. Some members had experience of applying for this funding and agreed that it was a useful source of funding to keep in mind.
A question was raised about the Section 106 funding relating to the Bridgeford Gardens development in Briggswath. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should include this on the agenda for the January meeting.

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12. **PARISH MAINTENANCE.** To consider issues and decide actions to be taken, if required.

12.1. **Public Conveniences. –** Update and decision on actions to be taken

- Voluntary contribution box. £86.16 had been received to 28th November 2025. This was felt to be a very positive result.

12.2 **Parish Council Assets** - Maintenance / Repairs to – Update and decide on actions to be taken.

- Bench Maintenance. Town & Country Landscapes had been unable to complete the maintenance due to the recent rain but will undertake the work once the weather conditions allow.

- Sleights sign on Blue Bank on the rock. This was discussed and felt to be looking very untidy and now unnecessary as there were 2 large signs on either side of the road with the word 'Sleights' on them. It was **RESOLVED** to remove the damaged Sleights on Blue Bank sign from the rock

12.3 **Footpaths**. To receive report from Cllr Tate or the Clerk on any issues within the Parish boundary and decide on actions to be taken.

- Whin Green to Iburndale footpath repairs. The Footpath Officer is talking to the contractor and will update councillor Tate once he has information to give him. Councillor Tate said that he will keep chasing the Footpath Officer about this. Discussion about this path ensued. It was felt that it was an important path for the community, and it was suggested that perhaps volunteers could help with the maintenance of the route in the way the NYMNPA volunteers undertake maintenance. However, it was noted that the NYMNPA provide both training and equipment to their volunteers. It was therefore suggested that this be discussed at the January meeting to see if there had been any progress from NYC. It was **RESOLVED** that:
  - the Clerk make enquiries about the legality of volunteers undertaking path clearance;
  - the Clerk contact the current grounds contractors, F Scarth and CD Wood, to see if they would be able to clear the overgrown sections and remove the foliage (noting that it is not accessible by tractor). If it is not something they could do, ask if they know someone who could.
- Seggimire Lane. A Freedom of Information Request relating to Seggimire Lane had been received by the Council. The council has 20 working days to respond to this. It relates to Parish Council correspondence about Seggimire Lane since 2023.
  Cllr Tate had forwarded an article by the Trail Riders Federation asking their members to be considerate of other users when riding on Seggimire Lane. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk respond to the FOI request and also contact the Trail Riders Federation and request that they reissue that previous guidance from 2017.
- The Carrs – NYC had been in contact to arrange another meeting about this on 12th December. It was felt that the importance should be on pedestrian safety as it was not felt to be an issue for cyclists.
- Bridleway diversion (Bridleways 48 and 52 – parts of) Coast to Coast National Trail – Sleights Moor. Confirmation of this diversion had been received.

12.4 **Linden Close.** The NY Parks and Grounds Operations Manager for had responded and stated that the picnic bench will be inspected and either repaired or removed, the branch in the beck removed and that he has copied the Tree and Woodlands Team into the request for a Tree Survey.

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13 **NYC / HIGHWAYS.** To consider issues and decide on actions to be taken.

13.1 Update on meeting with Mr Marr and the list of issues. There had been a minor reorganisation in North Yorkshire Highways and from 1st December Richard Marr will no longer be the Manager of Area 3 Highways. It was agreed that the meeting with Mr Marr regarding monitoring the progress of the issues had been very useful. Cllr Tate had updated the list of issues after discussion with the Highways Inspector and had distributed it to the members. It was **RESOLVED** to request an introductory meeting with the new A3 manager.

Cllr Tate updated the meeting regarding other issues:

- Tree on A169. Cllr Tate had contacted the Police about this tree 50m north of the last streetlight on the A169 travelling out of Sleights towards Whitby as he was worried about the possibility of it falling on to the A169. This was included on the list of issues given to Highways.

- Tree on the A169 road bridge. This will be very expensive to remove and involve a number of NYC departments.
- Sandy Lane. The debris has not yet been removed.
- Ugglebarnby. The gutter is clear.
- Junctions. It is understood that North Yorkshire is considering putting double yellow lines near the chip shop to reduce the difficulties for traffic turning at the junction of Iburndale Lane and the A169.
- Hedgerows. Letters have been sent out to landowners requesting that maintenance be undertaken.
- Dangerous parking opposite Birch Avenue. The parish council would like double yellow lines opposite the end of Birch Avenue although it is understood that North Yorkshire are unable to do this.
- Cllr Tate will reduce the issues list to reflect action taken and, if successful in organising a meeting with the new Area 3 manager, will review this shortened list with her.

13.2 Smiddyfields signage. **NOTED**: A response had been received from North Yorkshire giving details of the department that needed to be contacted – the Clerk will chase this up.

13.3 Footpath outside No 15 The Carrs (possible relocation of streetlight) – no update about the action to be taken yet.

13.4 Traffic turning on to Iburndale Lane from Yew Tree Close. An email had been received from a resident on Yew Tree Close expressing concern about the difficulty in turning out of Yew Tree Close safely with the number of cars parked below and above the junction. The resident stated that with people visiting the chip shop and staff and patients from the surgery parking on the road side it is extremely difficult to turn out on to Iburndale Road and be confident that the road is clear and they feel that it is a matter of 'when' and not 'if' an accident will occur. The resident asked if the easiest solution would be to have a mirror installed opposite the road end to help with visibility. It was **RESOLVED** to add this to the list of highways issues to send to the Area 3 Highways manager.

13.5 A resident had called the Clerk to question the action taken by North Yorkshire Council closing the footpath over the bridge where the tree had fallen against the fence as they felt that the hazard of crossing the A169 from Briggswath was greater than that from the falling tree. They queried whether NYC had undertaken a full risk assessment. This was discussed but it was felt that the action taken by NYC was correct.

13.6 Hermitage Way – roadside cleaning. An email had been forwarded by Cllr Pearson from a resident of Hermitage Way in relation to a request made to North Yorkshire that the roadsides be cleared and the hedges cut around the hermitage Way street sign. **RESOLVED** that the clerk will forward this to North Yorkshire Highways.

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14 WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

14.1 An email has been sent to all 4 email addresses linked with the old website. Two of the emails had been returned stating that the message couldn't be delivered but it appears that the other 2 – to the general email address and to Neil – have been delivered. The meeting was also told that contact had been attempted on numerous occasions by phone, but no one had responded. It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk will resend the email in a week's time and that if there has been no contact by the end of the year information from the old website will start to be removed and a message added informing anyone viewing the website this is no longer in use and directing them to the new website.

15 PARISH PLAN REVIEW

Nothing further to be discussed at this point. The next review will be in June 2026.

16 **COUNCILLORS ATTENDANCE AT EXTERNAL MEETINGS.** To consider reports and decide on actions to be taken.
There were no reports form any external meetings.

17 **CORRESPONDENCE.** The following correspondence was received and the decisions made were as follows.

17.1 **For Decision**

- Update on complaint to Royal Mail regarding the removal of the Post Box at Iburndale. No response. A further letter had been sent explaining the difficulty for many residents of accessing the other post boxes in the area and requesting that the box be replaced.
- Report of traffic speeding on Birch Avenue causing concern for safety of children. The results of the survey had been received and they showed good compliance with the 30mph by the traffic travelling on the road. However, it was also stated that if the Parish Council wished to ask for a 20mph speed limit along this road, North Yorkshire Council would be supportive of this. After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** not to request this.
- Query about land between 18 Selstone Crescent and 23 Hall Pasture and who owns it. Nothing has been heard yet – Mr Marr was chasing this up.

17.2 **For information only.** (Not for discussion or decision).

- General correspondence circulated to Councillors.
- General updates from YLCA circulated to Councillors.
- Information and / or public consultations received from NYC and other third parties circulated to Councillors and where appropriate uploaded to the Parish Council Web site.

18 MATTERS REQUESTED BY COUNCILLORS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT MEETINGS AGENDA.

- Item regarding the S106 money from Bridgeford gardens development in Briggswath.
- Parish Plan. Discussion about the parish Plan after 2026/27

19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

Monday 5th January 2026 - 6:30pm, Sleights Village Hall

Meeting closed at 8.09 pm

Signed: ……. Chairman. **Dated: …….**

Catherine Raistrick
Proper Officer (Clerk)
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