Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council

Minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council held on **Monday 7th September 2026 at 6:30pm in Sleights Village Hall** pursuant to Summons

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

North Yorkshire Cllr Clive Pearson

Clerk - Catherine Raistrick

No members of the public were present.

1. APOLOGIES.

1.1. Apologies for absence received from Councillors S Bremner.

1.2. **RESOLVED**: Reasons for absence agreed and approved.

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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. To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th July 2026, as a true and correct record. **RESOLVED**: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th July were agreed and approved as a true and correct record.

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4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Noted: No public attended.

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5. POLICE MATTERS.

5.1. The reports for July and August had been distributed to councillors. Cllr Watson reviewed both reports and noted that in August there were a couple of incidents reported including a suspicious van in Briggswath and reports of poaching salmon and trout from the Esk.

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6. NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL (NYC) REPORT.

Cllr Pearson reported that North Yorkshire Council are expecting an overspend of £10 million for 2026.27 due to expenditure required on Children's and Adult Social Care. It is not known where this overspend will be funded from. He also told the meeting that it is likely that a £1 overnight tourist tax will be imposed across the region by the York and North Yorkshire Mayor.

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7. ITEMS FROM MEETING HELD ON THE 6thJuly 2026.

7.1. North Yorkshire Local Plan. Cllr Harrison asked the meeting to read the notes that he had sent via email about the planning webinar he attended in August and stated that this item will be discussed under item 16 – Attendance at External Meetings.

7.2. S106 agreement regarding land adjacent to 69 Carr Hill Lane (Decision Notice ZD24/00437/FLA) – update (Bridgeford Gardens development in Briggswath) – no further information has been received

7.3. Parish Charter. This has not been accepted by Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council.

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8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS. To consider and decide upon the following planning applications:

8.1. North Yorkshire Council

8.1.1. **26/04355/LB** – Installation of 5no. replacement windows with white uPVC frames on the wet (front) elevation of the building. 115 Coach Road, Sleights, YO22 5EH. This is the Old Vicarage on Coach Road. It was agreed that the council had no objections to this application

8.2. North York Moors National Park Authority - nothing received during this period.

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9. PLANNING DECISIONS. To receive an update on the following planning applications:

9.1.1. **NYM/2026/0021** - Application for demolition of existing farmhouse and construction of replacement dwelling at Bleach Garth Farm, Littlebeck, YO22 5EZ. (Portal Ref - 14579353) **NOTED** - Approved with conditions.

9.1.2. **NYM/2026/0085** - Application for permission for temporary exploratory potash vertical borehole and three branched boreholes, associated plant equipment including drilling rig (max height 15 metres) and welfare facilities within a compound together with access arrangements at land east of Dean Hall Farm, off Dean Hall Brow road, Littlebeck. **NOTED** - Approved with conditions.

9.1.3. **NYM/2025/0217** - land between 3 and 9 Eskdaleside, Sleights. An email had been sent by a resident to the NYMNPA Planning Department, and copied to Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council, regarding overgrown hedges on Eskdaleside forcing pedestrians on to the road. Keeping the hedges cut back had been a condition of the planning consent. It is understood that the hedges have now been cut back.

9.1.4. **26/01256/OUT** Outline consent for the erection of a dwelling. Land adjacent to 15 Ridge Lane Planning Application Consultation**. NOTED** - No decision yet.

9.1.5. **Planning enforcement case** – 10 Lowdale Lane. Nothing further has been heard from the Planning Enforcement Officer but it is understood that a retrospective planning application may be required.

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10. ANGLO AMERICAN (AA) / WOODSMITH MINE.

10.1 To receive a report from a representative of Anglo-American – no report at this meeting.

10.2 To consider any issues in respect of mining activities that impact the Parish and decide on actions to be taken. The clerk informed the meeting that a resident from Dean Hall has asked if there had been any update from Anglo American about issues of flooding around Sandy Lane and she had responded with the information from Anglo American that measures were included on the application for the drilling site to stop the water run-off from the site.
It was noted that although the site was currently being prepared for the drilling rig, the sign requested by the Parish Council stating 'No mine traffic through Ugglebarnby' had not been erected. It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk would email Anglo American to ask if such a sign could be erected.

10.3. To discuss the following projects that could be helped by the Woodsmith Parish Council Neighbourhood Fund.

10.3.1. War memorial maintenance – to discuss the 2 options given by James Ward. Clean of the whole war memorial and repaint the lead letters or cleaning and repaint the lead lettering only. It was **RESOLVED** to request the first option The clerk will ask if this can be done before November (and the Remembrance Day Service.

10.3.2. Seat base on Ingham Close. Cllr Tate asked the clerk to go back to North Yorkshire Council and challenge their assertion that it is the responsibility of the Parish Council to repair this base as it is believed that this base laid by Whitby Rural District Council when the Community Centre was built in 1966. The responsibility for this would then have passed to Scarborough Borough Council and subsequently to North Yorkshire Council. **RESOLVED** that the clerk contact North Yorkshire Highways to discuss this.

10.3.3. Noticeboards. **RESOLVED** that the clerk will obtain the cost for both noticeboards ensuring that any noticeboard to replace the one outside the Spar shop is the same size (or smaller).

10.4. Feedback from the Woodsmith Project Liaison Group Forum 15th July Littlebeck Village Hall. Cllr D Tate told the meeting that there was a general update about the progress of the project. A question had been raised about an increase in mine traffic travelling through Ruswarp rather than the agreed route Whitby. It was believed that this is because of the new traffic lights at Spittal Bridge in Whitby. Anglo American are going to monitor this.

10.5. To note that the Liaison Group Forum for Q3 of 2026 will be held in Ruswarp Village Hall on Tuesday 13 October 2026 at 2pm. Cllr Tate intends to go to this meeting.

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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 cheques. The clerk explained each of the payments to the members. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payment schedule for September 2026 and sign the cheques.

11.2. To receive and approve the **Bank Reconciliation** and **Budget vs Actual** to 31st August 2026. **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation and the budget vs actual. Both were reviewed and **APPROVED**.

11.3. To discuss, approve and sign the Annual Internal Control checklist. To be reviewed in October.

11.4. To review and agree the asset list and consider asset values. The clerk had been reviewing the Asset Register but had queries about the benches. It was stated that all benches should be valued like for like (so the replacement value of a timber bench should be the price of a new timber bench). The clerk to do a review of all the benches. A query was raised about insurance for the toilet building but it was stated that the building does not belong to the Parish Council – just the contents.

11.5. Draft Service Agreement – Cemetries and Closed Churchyards. Update. The clerk had informed North Yorkshire Council that Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council will not sign the agreement.

11.6. Discussion of the end of the electricity contract with British Gas and decide if this should be renewed or an alternative supplier sought. The Clerk gave the Parish Council details of the new deal proposed by British Gas and also a proposal from Clear Utility Solutions Ltd. Although the price is only slightly cheaper, it is guaranteed for 3 years whilst the British Gas offer is fixed for 12 months only. **RESOLVED** that the clerk will go back to Clear Utility Solutions and discuss this.

11.7. Receive information about the increase in Local Government pay scales for 2026/27 (3.3% uplift) and approve the request to apply this to the clerk's pay. It was noted that a 3% pay award had been included in the budget for 2026.27. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the pay award for the clerk's pay.

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12. PARISH MAINTENANCE. To consider issues and decide actions to be taken, if required.
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12.1. **Public Conveniences. –** Update and decision on actions to be taken.

12.1.1. Update on any issues. No issues to report.

12.1.2. Review and approve the Public Convenience Risk Assessment – cleaning/management & fire. Boxes had been added at the bottom of this document to show who and when it was reviewed. The Risk Assessment was **APPROVED**

12.1.3. Review and approve the COSSH review by the clerk. This was approved at the July meeting but the clerk had amended the document adding boxes to record who reviewed it and when.

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

12.2.1. Bench at Red Barn, Littlebeck. Cllr Parkin had talked to a former councillor about this bench who stated that they thought that it had been stolen as it was a 'Gnome Man' bench. However, Councillor Tate thought that it had just been a standard bench, and found a photo of the said bench, and that the last time that it had been seen was 2017. It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk should write to the resident who enquired about the bench and tell them that at this point the council cannot replace the bench but that if money becomes available in the future this site will be considered.

12.3. **Footpaths** – To receive report from Cllr Tate or the Clerk on any issues within the Parish boundary and decide on, and approve, actions to take.

12.3.1. The Carrs (Ruswarp to Briggswath) Active Travel Proposal and update. It is understood that funding has been agreed for 150 yards at either end of the route.

12.3.2. Access from the footbridge over the Esk from Briggswath to Sleights Railway Station. No further updates.

12.3.3. Update on a new bin near Bracken Hill due to an increase in dog fouling. The bin is not yet in place and we have not yet received the invoice for it.

12.4. **Linden Close.** The clerk had sent an email to Ian Smith from North Yorkshire Council asking him about the outstanding issues. In addition, she had sent him photos of the fallen tree in Linden Close opposite the viewing platform.

12.5. **Sleights Station** – update. No update at this time.

12.6. **Sleights Play Park and dogs** – There has still been no response to the question about having a 'no dog' park. Cllr Pearson will take this query back to North Yorkshire Council. The clerk mentioned that North Yorkshire are currently running a consultation on Parks and Open Spaces and had contacted the resident who originally reported the issue and suggested that she complete the consultation and asked any users of the park she knew to do the same. The clerk will add details of this consultation to the Parish Council website page. The members were also told about a post on the Sleights Village Facebook page regarding a plant found at the edge of the Play Park that had been identified as toxic. The clerk had contacted Ian Smith from North Yorkshire Council to inform him and Cllr Tate had removed the plants. Ian Smith will look at the photos to identify the plant and his team will take any action necessary.

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13. NYC / HIGHWAYS. To consider any issues and decide on actions to be taken.
It was suggested that a log of issues raised be maintained and sent to North Yorkshire Highways each month asking for an update. Any response or action should also be noted on the log. It was suggested that this log should be added to the website so that the residents of Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby Parish would be able to see that the council are being proactive about issues relating to highways and the environment and bring them to the attention of North Yorkshire Council. When the log is sent to North Yorkshire Council it was suggested that they are informed that the log will be posted on the website. It was also suggested that the portfolio holder for Highways, Cllr Matt Taylor, is copied into any emails sent. Members **RESOLVED** that this log should be maintained, sent to North Yorkshire Highways monthly and published on the Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council website.

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14. WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

This item will be renamed Website and Social Media issues. It was requested that an item be included on the October agenda to discuss how the Facebook page could be labelled differently as residents are not always aware that Sleights is within Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council and it may be that people look for Sleights and not for Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby when searching for a Facebook or website for the parish council. It was **RESOLVED** that this item be added to the October agenda.

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15. PARISH PLAN REVIEW

15.1. To discuss the report of the findings from the survey and consider if there are further findings from the survey that have not been highlighted in this report. However, it was felt that the report based on the findings was very good but only one element of input to the parish Plan and, as such, there was no need to revisit the report.

However, the survey responses have highlighted that the Parish Council struggles to communicate with the local residents but that residents also struggle to communicate with the council. Improvement in communication is essential. It was also clear that the largely online format has been successful and compels respondents to answer all questions. Some of the paper copies had only been partially completed.

Cllr Harrison has begun putting together the Parish Plan using key items from the survey, from discussions at meetings and those items to be carried forward. He will circulate this document to all councillors and asked that they review and respond to him with comments.

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16. COUNCILLORS ATTENDANCE AT EXTERNAL MEETINGS. To consider reports and decide on actions to be taken.

16.1. NYC Local Plan Webinar. Cllr Harrison had sent a briefing to all councillors regarding this webinar and the information from the webinar sent by North Yorkshire Council had been forwarded to all the members. Cllr Harrison highlighted the following points:

- There will be a presumption of approval of a planning application while the Local Plan is not in place.
- North Yorkshire Council's Local Plan will be determined by the York and North Yorkshire Spatial Development Strategy which has not yet been issued.
- There will be development in Sleights so it is essential that Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby Parish Council respond thoroughly, and in a timely manner, to all consultations. The clerk was asked to forward any consultations to the members as soon as they are received.
- Issues including infrastructure, services, transport etc need to be addressed in any development. It is understood that there will be a 6 week window for responses. Any responses received after the deadline will not included in the process.
- North Yorkshire Council have reopened the 'Call for Sites'. Cllr Harrison explained that the North Yorkshire Council map giving details of sites offered will not be updated to show those that have not been accepted so they will remain on the map. Boundaries between settlements are still seen as desirable. This needs to be kept in mind when developments are proposed.

Councillor Harrison also talked about the NYMNPA Local Plan. Development required with the national park includes housing including affordable homes and industry. It is understood that that 21.5k new dwellings needed to be built within the next 5 years. The NYMNPA have not started reviewing the sites offered by landowners.

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17. CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

The poster about the vacancy has been put on the council noticeboards and on the Facebook page and website but so far there has been no interest. The meeting **RESOLVED** that the clerk

add a post to the Facebook page stating that the council are actively seeking people to represent different geographical areas of the Parish Council area, in particular, Littlebeck, Eskdaleside and Ugglebarnby.

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

18.1. **For Decision.**

18.1.1. Neighbourhood Plan – Whitby. This had been circulated but no discussion felt to be needed.

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

18.2.1. General updates from YLCA circulated to Councillors. The clerk mentioned a course about War Memorials costing £10. It was **RESOLVED** that she should book on to this course.

18.2.2. General updates from NALC circulated to Councillors.

18.2.3. 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.

18.2.4. New Parish portal has launched by North Yorkshire Council to make it easier to navigate North Yorkshire Council services and access resources

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

The call for sites to be added to each agenda so that anything submitted can be discussed at council meetings.

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20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

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

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed: …….. Chairman. **Dated: ……**

Catherine Raistrick
Proper Officer (Clerk)

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