

MID-WHARFEDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Mid-Wharfedale Parish Council held on the **13 August 2026 at 7.45pm** in Askwith Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Shepherd (Chair), Broderick, Caton, Chivers, Crossley, Ellis, Huxley, Powell, Robinson, Whitley

In Attendance: Parish Clerk: A Overend

Public: 1

1. To receive apologies for absence

No apologies received.

2. To receive Declaration of Interests not already declared under the council's code of conduct

None received.

3. Public session

A member of the public shared frustration with the ongoing Yorkshire Water works in Askwith and asked the council to formally approach Yorkshire Water to raise concerns and request an updated timescale.

The council discussed the issue.

RESOLVED Askwith councillors to approach Yorkshire Water on behalf of the Council.

4. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2026 as a true and correct record

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Mid-Wharfedale Parish Council held on 14 May 2026 be approved as a true record and signed by the chair.

5. To receive governance best practice information from the clerk

The clerk spoke to a paper circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

6. To receive and agree new processes for managing council objectives from the Chair

The Chair proposed a new process for noting where council objectives had been covered at meetings.

RESOLVED that a code would be added to the minutes to identify which objective had been discussed and objectives would be reviewed early 2027.

7. To consider appointing a candidate for co-option

The Council considered Peter Huxley for co-option to fill the current Askwith vacancy on the Parish Council.

RESOLVED Following a vote, Peter Huxley was duly co-opted to the Parish Council.

The Chair welcomed Cllr Huxley to the Council.

8. To receive and provide updates on council meeting actions and decide further action where necessary

8.1 *Ward councillor meeting attendance*

The council noted the ward councillor has not replied to meeting invites for at least three of the last meetings and has not responded to direct approaches from the Chair or clerk.

RESOLVED that the ward councillor would continue to be invited to meetings as standard.

8.2 *Hedge & Verge cutting*

The council noted that broken contractor machinery had delayed hedge and verge cutting.

RESOLVED that the Chair would contact the contractor requesting the work is completed ASAP.

(Objective 4)

8.3 *Councillor email accounts*

RESOLVED that the clerk would re-send activation links and councillors would set up their email accounts as soon as possible.

9. Matters requested by councillors

9.1 *To discuss overgrown grass verges in the parish and agree what action to take*

Cllr Chivers reported safety concerns had been raised by a resident about overgrown grass verges by the iron bridge. The Council discussed parish-wide concerns and the Local Authority's obligations.

RESOLVED Councillors to advise residents to raise highways concerns immediately via the North Yorkshire Council reporting portal. Clerk to share links with councillors and add to the MWPC website. *(Objective 4)*

9.2 *To consider and decide upon a request from Nesfield residents to locate the new stone village sign on common land close to the postman's shelter if a response about locating it on a verge at the village entrance is not received from NYC*

Cllr Chivers requested this item as no response had been received from NYC following earlier communication about safe sign placement.

RESOLVED that the new sign could be located on common land close to the postman's shelter.

9.3 *To receive information on Himalayan Balsam outbreaks in the parish and decide appropriate course of action*

The council discussed outbreaks, effective management and feasibility of paying someone to remove weeds in some areas.

RESOLVED Clerk to ask Nidderdale if grants are available to help Himalayan Balsam management. *(Objective 5)*

9.4 *To consider and decide upon the removal of the light at the centre of Denton Village for safety reasons*

Cllr Robinson reported safety concerns and estimated repair costs to be around £2,000.

RESOLVED Clerk to identify who is responsible for maintenance of the light and arrange for its removal if it's the responsibility of MWPC.

9.5 *To consider and decide upon replacing the roundel on the signpost at the bottom of Denton Road*

Cllr Robinson reported the signpost roundel needs replacing. The council discussed the matter.

RESOLVED Clerk to confirm whether the signpost is MWPC-owned and if so obtain repair cost quotes and review historic council minutes to see if funding is mentioned.

9.6 *To receive information on a recent meeting with Denton Hall*

Cllr Robinson provided an update on a recent meeting with the owner of Denton Hall, including rewilding, grants and business plans.

RESOLVED that the update be noted. *(Objective 2)*

10. To receive the Clerk's report and consider recommendations provided within it

The council received the Clerk's report and considered recommendations contained within.

10.1 **RESOLVED** that the clerk be authorised to make petty cash purchase of up to £30 per individual purchase subject to a maximum total expenditure of £150 per quarter.

10.2 **RESOLVED** that the clerk be authorised up to 20 hours overtime up to the November meeting (in addition to agreed training events) to complete further training and reading.

10.3 **RESOLVED** that all new councillors be authorised to take the YLCA Off to a Flying Start (parts 1&2) training at a cost of £37.60 per person.

- 10.4 **RESOLVED** that the clerk's 32 meeting hours per year (8 hours per meeting) be added to the annual salary and the contract updated accordingly.
- 10.5 **RESOLVED** that at least one councillor be authorised to attend the YLCA Talking Tables Training Day at a cost of £55 per person plus travel.
- 10.6 **RESOLVED** that the clerk be authorised to attend the YLCA Talking Tables Training Day, YLCA Powers, Policies and Procedures training and SLCC Finance Regional Training Seminar.
- 10.7 **RESOLVED** that the clerk prepare a new scheme of delegation for the November meeting that gives the clerk power to respond to planning applications on behalf of the council.
- 10.8 Councillors were asked to consider if a second or larger noticeboard is required at Denton.
RESOLVED that Cllr Robinson will investigate the church's use of the noticeboard and in the meantime the clerk will forward relevant notices via email for Cllr Robinson to share electronically with residents.

11. Financial matters

- 11.1 *To receive and note bank balances as at 19 June 2026*
Bank balances of £4,349.77 (current account) and £6,172.24 (savings account) were noted.
- 11.2 *To consider the list of payments and purchases for approval*
RESOLVED to approve payment to:
Askwith Village Hall (August council meeting room hire) - £60
Zurich insurance (12 months from 30 September) - £241
RESOLVED to approve the purchase request for Arnold Baker/Local Council Administration (£169.87)
- 11.3 *To consider a mileage rate increase to 55p/mile and if approved consider backdating it to 6/4/2026*
RESOLVED to increase mileage rate to 55p/mile and backdate to 6/4/2026
- 11.4 *To consider the appointment of an internal auditor for 2026/27*
RESOLVED to appoint Clare Smith as internal auditor for 2026/27
- 11.5 *To consider re-appointing Zurich as insurer for 12 months from 30 September 2026 at a cost of £241*
RESOLVED to re-appoint Zurich as insurer

12. Correspondence and meetings

- 12.1 *To receive information on correspondence and meeting with Sir Julian Smith and response from NYC CEO Richard Flinton about lowering the speed limits in Askwith.*
RESOLVED To note the update. (Objective 4)
- 12.2 *To consider the Denton Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) applications (HAR-2021-06-DMMO & HAR-2021-07 11) and agree the council's response.*
The council discussed risks to land and to the moor's fragile ecosystem if the BOAT is permitted.
RESOLVED that the clerk submit an objection on behalf of the council. (Objective 5)
- 12.3 *To consider whether to support the Speed Cameras in North Yorkshire campaign*
RESOLVED that the clerk contact campaigners to confirm MWPC is in support (Objective 4)
- 12.4 *To receive information on the Denton Definitive Map Modification Order (HAR-2024-10-DO)*
RESOLVED To note the update. (Objective 5)
- 12.5 *To note correspondence on the North Yorkshire Council Polling District Review Consultation and decide whether the council wishes to respond.*
RESOLVED that no response is required.

13. To receive and note the list of planning applications and decisions/information included in the appendices
Planning applications and decisions were noted.

14. To notify the clerk of matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting:

- Clerk to review Standing Orders and bring proposed changes to the November meeting for approval.
- Councillors to consider and decide upon Council sub-committees.
- Clerk to add Highways update' as a standing agenda item for ordinary council meetings.
- Councillors to receive an update on Moor Lane, Weston (clerk to liaise with Highways).
- Councillors to consider action in response to dangerous roads and a fenced-off verge in Langbar.
- Councillors to receive an update on overgrown hedges at the side of Denton Reserve.

15. Date of the next meeting

It was noted that in accordance with the agreed schedule the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 12 November.

There being no other business, the Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 9pm.

*Where an item meets a Council Objective it is listed in green.