

ASKHAM BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the PARISH COUNCIL (PC)

held on Thursday 16th July 2026 starting at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor David Wiseman (Chair)
Councillors Julie Barber Kathryn Smith Mark Walker
Jason Boakes

In attendance: One member of the Village Hall Management Committee and the Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES.

There were apologies from Cllr. Dawson. In the absence of the Chair, Cllr. Wiseman, as Vice Chair, chaired the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST.

Cllr. Walker regarding item 5b. It was **resolved** that Cllr. Walker could remain in the room whilst this application was being discussed although he was unable to vote.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The only member of the public in attendance was a member of the Village Hall Management Committee whose interest was item 8.2.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PC HELD ON 18th JUNE 2026.

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the PC held on 18th June 2026 (229-231) be approved and that in the absence of the Chair, Cllr. Wiseman be authorised to sign.

5. PLANNING

a. Planning Applications Received

- a. 26/01161/FUL – Westwood Farm, Westwood Lane - Variations of conditions 2 and 4 of permitted applications 26/00398/FUL for changes to the approved drainage strategy.

Cllr. Walker was invited to clarify this application. He advised that this related to the drainage strategy of application 26/00398/FUL and consisted of three attenuation tanks. There would be no road closures needed for these to be delivered and there would be a screen.

It was **resolved** to raise **No Objection** to this proposal (Cllr. Walker was unable to vote due to his pecuniary interest).

- b. 26/00837/FUL – Askham Bryan College - Creation of a 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) with perimeter fencing, hardstanding areas, storage container, floodlights, an access footpath, and a huddle.

This had been discussed at the June meeting and the PC had submitted its response accordingly. A resident had since emailed the PC to raise concerns about this application. The PC felt that her comments were valid and discussed two options;

- i. To reply to the resident recognising her concerns and advising her that she was at liberty to submit her own response and should do so and that the PC recognises her close proximity to the proposed artificial grass pitch and the effect night activity would have.
- ii. The PC notes those concerns.

It was **resolved** to adopt the first of the two above options.

- c. Pruning of trees down Westwood Lane.

The Natural Environment Committee had earlier considered an email from a resident who had expressed concern about tree cutting down Westwood Lane, a big Ash tree had been felled as had four or five other trees heading towards the park. It had been agreed that this would be raised as a concern at the PC meeting. Cllr. Walker explained that this was a job which was long overdue. There was a great hole in one of the trees and there was a health and safety concern that large branches presented a danger to users of Westwood Lane. He had taken advice and acted accordingly.

b. Planning Decision Notices Received

There was one planning decision to report since the last meeting.

- a. 26/00437/FUL – Hjem, 99 Main Street - Erection of 1no. dwelling following demolition of existing bungalow.

This had been approved by the Local Planning Authority.

6. CRIME REPORT

There were no reported crimes in June 2026. There was a concern that certain types of crime (e.g. poaching) were not appearing on the monthly report resulting in Police resource being directed elsewhere. There had been a theft of five-hundred litres of diesel the previous day and it was hoped that this would appear on the July figures. There was concern about people riding around on bicycles wearing balaclavas. A Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) used to attend PC meetings and there was concern that other than the monthly crime figures, there was no liaison between the Police and the PC. Councillors would try to find out more about who the local contact was and inform the Clerk.

7. REPORT FROM WARD COUNCILLOR.

There was no Ward Councillor presence who had sent apologies and advised that she would be happy to pick up any matters referred to her.

8. OTHER MATTERS.

As there was no requirement for written notice to be given to change the order of business on the agenda, the Chair proposed that item 8.2 be considered ahead of item 8.1.

8.2 Village Hall matters.

The member of the Village Hall Management Committee was advised of decisions taken at the June PC meeting, i.e. that the cost of the tree be shared equally between the PC and the Village Hall Management Committee and the key dates, i.e. delivery of the tree on 4th December, erection by 10am on the 5th, decoration immediately following erection and carols at dusk on the 6th. It would be taken down on the 3rd January 2027. Cllr. Walker would take the tree down and dispose of it. There were plans to provide mulled wine and hot chocolate. Cllr. Wiseman would put an appeal for help on the Village Good Eggs WhatsApp group. A decision was awaited regarding the premises.

8.1 Long-term strategy.

Following the June meeting, the health and safety concern regarding access and egress concern at the entrance to the Recreational Area had been addressed by Cllrs. Walker and Wiseman.

The Responsible Financial Officer reported that there was a budget surplus of about £9,000 which could be spent on projects with an emphasis on social cohesion. Some projects would be long-term whilst others could be achieved in the short-term. There would be a range of different projects for different members of the community. The following were suggested;

1. Having a festival. This could be a summer fayre starting at 10am with children's activities such as face painting and other things in the afternoon for adults such as a beer tasting. The timing would avoid other Village events such as the Village Garden Party, maybe something near harvest time. There was discussion about getting the community involved in the planning with an alternative of hiring event organisers and charging people to attend (making it a ticketed event). The income from this could be used to cover any costs with a net zero cost to the PC. There could be an extra-ordinary Village meeting and some income could come from sponsorship. A suitable location would be needed and the land at the back of the public house was put forward. It was agreed that this discussion be reported in the minutes of the meeting as a means of community engagement.
2. The PC could introduce an "adopt a tree" scheme. The PC could provide the tree for planting by residents with a big garden.
3. Having a monthly event where a speaker is invited to share a story. Speakers would be paid accordingly. There could be a glass of wine for attendees. Cllr. Wiseman was happy to arrange speakers and dates. A budget of £720 for the year was suggested. There would be a broad spectrum of subjects (avoiding religion and politics). If this attracted ten people a time, that would mean a hundred and twenty attendees over the course of a year.
4. Having Interpretation Display Boards at the pond and elsewhere, the one by the pond could show wildlife likely to be seen there and boards elsewhere could inform residents (and visitors) about the history of the Village. Cllr. Barber agreed to investigate this further.
5. The two volume publication "Askham Bryan remembered" was now out of print and in any case, the work was influenced by the author's personal reflections. It was suggested that the PC fund a new publication regarding the history of the Village. Cllr. Wiseman agreed to investigate this further.
6. The PC could organise a fun run.

8.3 Matters for referral to the CYC Community Caretaker Team.

The Community Caretaker Team would be asked if they could address concerns regarding the verges on pavements and streets which needed sweeping. There was discussion about making Chapel Lane into a one-way street and it was agreed to mention this to the Ward Councillor.

9. FINANCE

9.1 Report of invoices to be paid.

It was **resolved** that payment of the following be approved, all in favour.

- a. Monthly bank charges - £4.25.
- b. Jo Fell expenses - Dalby's Nurseries Limited - two bags of compost (£6 each) & fifteen trays of geraniums (£3 each).

It was agreed that Jo had done a magnificent job in keeping Askham Bryan flower beds looking great and it was **resolved** that she be recognised for this and a note of thanks be recorded in the minutes.

9.2 Report of budgeted income and expenditure to date versus actual.

The monthly report of budgeted income and expenditure to date versus actual had been circulated and the contents noted.

10 CORRESPONDENCE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

A list of correspondence had been circulated and the contents noted. Item 922 was from City of York Council regarding the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 which gained Royal Assent on 29th April 2026. This meant that the default position was that a Councillor's home addresses would not be shown publicly unless otherwise instructed by the Councillor themselves. This came into effect on 29 June 2026.

11 ACTION TRACKER

An Action Tracker had been circulated with the agenda papers listing all previously agreed actions and reports on progress. The issue regarding the entrance to the Recreational Area had been resolved – see item 8.1 above.

12 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting would be held at 7:30pm on 20th August.

Meetings for the rest of 2026 after that would be;

17th September, 15th October and 19th November.

All to be held at the Village Hall at 7:30pm.

The meeting closed at 8:48pm.

Signed

20 August 2026