

Nether Wyresdale Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting

25th September 2025 Scorton Methodist Chapel, 7.30pm

In attendance:

Cllr Elliott (Chair), Cllr Collinson, Cllr Hesketh, Cllr Thompson

Clerk - Roger Hacking

Cllr Walker (WBC), Cllr Tomlinson (LCC), & PC Duff

6 members of the public also attended.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Susan Atkinson, Cllr Gledhill

2. Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting

All Cllrs in attendance approved the minutes from the previous meeting.

3. Declaration of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

- Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal / prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda. If the personal interest is a prejudicial interest or there is a disclosable pecuniary interest, then the individual member should not participate in a discussion or vote on the matter.
- No personal or prejudicial interest to declare.

4. Welcome to the New Clerk - by the Chairman

- Cllr Elliott welcomed our new Clerk to the Parish Council – Roger Hacking, and thanked fellow Councillors, LCC and WBC Councillors for their assistance in on-boarding the new clerk.

5. Police Report

- PC Mike Duff attended the meeting and was pleased to report that there continues to be little reported crime in the Nether Wyresdale Parish.
- PC Duff hoped to see the appointment of an additional PC to cover the area across Wyre.
- PC Duff will share his contact details with the Clerk for onward publication.

6. Matters Discussed

- **SPiD installation**, Cllr Gledhill provide the following report. The preparation for the installation of the support poles for the SPiDS continues at a pace. I have now received a report from the engineers which, with a little tweaking, confirms the three poles to be erected will be on Station Lane (opposite the junction with Brook Avenue), Factory Brow (on the path side grass opposite No.5/6 on the crescent) and on Gubberford Lane (at the entrance to the footpath leading up to the church). Just for the record, this installation will not affect the position of the proposed gate at the bottom of the footpath. In preparation for the pole to be fixed on Gubberford Lane, I have spoken to John Slinger about removing a

lower limb from an oak tree which may interfere with the radar signal. This can be done once we have an installation date from the engineers. In a recent email received from Paul Connel (Road safety team leader), he states that once the poles are erected, he will loan us a SPiD to check that the radar signals are OK prior to the purchase of our own device. I am now waiting for the engineers to schedule the work to be carried out. I have been quoted it may be “up to six weeks” before a spade is put in the ground.

- **Memorial for James Cottle**, renaming of the Playing Field to be discussed further.
- **War Memorial**, Cllr Atkinson has applied to the relevant authority for listed status for the War memorial.
- **IT Policy**, Clerk to issue the IT Policy to the Cllrs for review and, on approval, publication on the NWPC web site.
- **Gate for the ‘Permissive Path’** from the St Peter’s Church to Gubberford Lane, Funding has been requested from the LCC Community Grant. Discussions have been held with the Church Wardens and School Head regarding potential funding sources should the LCC Grant not be forthcoming.
- **Playing Field**, removal of the rotten crocodile, this has been removed. Cllrs proposed that Cllr Elliott should discuss options for a replacement with the Head teacher of the Scorton Primary school.
- **LCC Environmental Fund**, it was agreed that the Parish should be eligible to apply to this fund. A member of the public suggested a new child’s swing and agreed to look into options and pricing for the swing.
- **Defibrillator**, Cllr Elliott agreed to apply for a new defibrillator with an unlocked cabinet. It was noted that Mr G Woods, a resident of Scorton, is currently performing a weekly check of the defibrillator that has been loaned to the Village.
- **Burning of Rubbish in the Village**, Cllr Elliott to raise the matter with the land owner concerned.

7. Planning Applications and Notices

Application number	Description	Resolved PC comments
25/00616/FUL	Little Nook Cottage extension	Comment submitted raising concern over the right of way access to rear of Village Hall
25/00741/FUL	Erection of agricultural storage building (resubmission of 07/00539/FUL) (pursuant to variation of condition 5 (Agricultural use) on permission ref (07/01069/FUL)	Pending Consideration by WBC. Cllrs agreed that the Agricultural use condition should remain.
25/00744/FUL	Change of use of first floor above garage from ancillary to holiday accommodation and siting of external staircase (retrospective) Snowhill House	NWPC to respond regarding there being no main sewer and also to note that the Enforcement Notice refusing the operation of Holiday Cottages has not been acted upon. Also to note the installation of ‘Glamping Pods’ A member of the public provided further comments for NWPC’s response.

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Application number	Description	Decision
24/00901/FUL	Erection of an agricultural building & associated hardstanding, access track and widening of existing vehicular access @ Greenark Woodland Nursery, Tithebarn Lane, Nether Wyresdale	Refused
25/00561/COUQ	Prior approval application for change of use of existing agricultural building to form 6.no contained residential units (under Class Q of the GDPO) @ Agricultural Barn Chipping Road Scorton	Withdrawn
25/00753 & 25/00754/LBC	Building Consent for Anglers Cottage Snowhill, single storey rear extension, new porch and pedestrian access to one	NWPC – no comments

8. Highways

- It is noted that the resurfacing works continue down Gubberford Lane and that the gullies down Gubberford lane from the Scorton village to the Bridge of the Wyre have recently been cleaned.
- Member of the public raised the issue that some of the flaps preventing river water flowing back towards the road may well be blocked given the recent flooding on the road.
- Member of the Public noted that the hedge on Station Lane before the Railway Bridge is growing into the road, Clerk to e:mail the owner asking for the hedge to be cut back.
- LCC Highways to cut back the verge further up towards the railway line on Station Lane, LCC Cllr Tomlinson to request.

9. Lengthsman project updates

- The lengthsman's invoice for August work and materials was agreed.
- Cllrs agreed that the hours for Lengthsman for 2025 / 6 should remain the same as this year:

Total hours	Hours per week	Payment fees	Materials	Co-ordinator fees	Total Payment
552	12	£11,592	£400	£75	£9,859

- Lengthsman's hours for work performed on PRoWs to be accounted for separately where funding provided from LCC PRoW and Biodiversity grants.

10. Village Hall

- Cllrs agreed that the general feeling amongst the residents is that the Village Hall should continue in its current location.
- Joanne Golton from the Village Hall Committee outlined their plans for the upcoming Centenary celebrations potentially involving monthly events. Joanne also explained that the Village Hall currently operates at a slight loss annually. Cllr Thompson offered to review the VH accounts to look for possible savings and/or initiatives to improve income.
- Cllr Hesketh noted that he has approached the Radio 4 Any Questions programme to ascertain if they might be interested in holding one of their programmes at the Village Hall next year as part of the Centenary celebrations.
- Cllrs agreed that the annual donation from NWPC to Scorton Village Hall should be re-instated; Cllr Collinson agreed to review the amount of the donation and compared (pro-rata based on electoral role numbers) with that made to Dolphinhholme Village Hall, for agreement at the next NWPC meeting.

11. Financial & Governance Matters

- Payments Made:

PKF Littlejohn Auditors: £252.00 including £42 VAT

Lengthsman Hours and Materials: £1,249.77

Ex-Clerk's leaving present: £130.00 (Cllr Atkinson has offered to deliver the present)

- Current Account Balance & Forecast:

Balance at 4 September: **£32,372.75**

End of Year Balance Forecast given current expenditure and assuming budget spent in full: **£16,400**

- **Governance:**

The Parish Council is required to publish on our web sites copies of the Cllr's Declaration of Interest forms.

The AGAR Compliance documents to be published on the Parish Council's web site.

New .gov.uk e:mail addresses for Cllrs issued.

12. Public participation

- It's important to note that this meeting was attended by several members of the public who were concerned with recent posts on the Scorton Watch WhatsApp group. It was confirmed that the Planning Application made by the Priory will not impact the Stouts Restaurant / Café, which will continue to operate as it does currently. Cllr Elliott to inform the Scorton Watch group.
- Several residents in attendance came to discuss the potential requirement for a Public House in the Village. It was noted that in the past this has not been sufficiently well supported by the residents and as a result such a venue proved to be unviable.
- Discussions were held about how to give residents the opportunity to meet regularly. It was noted that the Village Celebrations planned for next year may well serve this purpose and if successful could then continue.

13. Date of next meeting

- 23rd October 2025