

HECK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF HECK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4th March 2025 at 18:30 hrs in HECK PARISH ROOM

Chair: Cllr Laura Watkinson-Teo

Clerk/RFO: Mr J R Hunter, 4 Grove Park, Calder Grove, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF4 3BZ
E-mail: heckparishcouncil@outlook.com

Present: Cllrs L Watkinson-Teo (Chair); J Lumb; G Mycroft
Clerk/RFO: J R Hunter

Agenda items

082401. Welcome

- The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting.

082402. Apologies

- Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Harling and Cllr B Coney.

082403. Public Forum:

- There being no members of the public present at the meeting the Chair closed the public forum.

082404. Minutes of last meeting:

- Councillors resolved to accept the minutes of the Heck Parish Council meeting held on 7th January 2025 as a true record, and gave approval to the Chair to sign as acceptance of the minutes for publishing on the Heck Parish Council website.

082405. To receive reports, for information only, from:

- a) District and County Councillor – not present

082406. Planning:

- **Thomas Armstrong:** Cllr Lumb advised that, there has been minimal activity on site in recent weeks. However, stock piles of the aggregate materials from the site continues to be deposited and stacked in the open areas of the site. The Clerk reported that we are awaiting response from North Yorkshire planning enforcement concerning the nature of the planning consent attached to the site, covering the extent of permission for the storage of production materials in the open air.

Action: Cllr Lumb to continue monitoring activity and Clerk to expedite response to queries raised with the planning department.

- **Proposed Pollington Quarry Excavation and Extraction of Waste and Potential Development of 74 Dwellings:** Councillors reflected on the response and action taken by members of MP Keir Mathers constituency office in connection with the proposed development. A member of Keir Mather's team attended a site visit to gain an understanding of the issue and the impact of any approval of the Traffic

Management Recommendations included in the proposal. As a result, an objection has been submitted from the Constituency Office of Keir Mather MP, against the planning application of the proposed traffic movement plan.

Action: Progress of the consideration of the planning application to be monitored and further challenged as appropriate.

082407. RFO's report on closing balances; receipts, and payments:

a) Current balances: The RFO presented the report on the current financial position and status of Heck Parish Council. Accounts for the financial period up to 4th March 2025 were presented for review. Total income including precept receipts is £8,504 which compares with expenditure to date of £4,811.11 generating a balance of funds at the bank of £10,408.65.

b) Payments to be made at the meeting:

07/01/2025	J R Hunter – Clerk Salary month 8	£115.20
07/01/2025	HMRC – PAYE month 8	£28.80
07/01/2025	J R Hunter – Clerk salary month 9	£115.20
07/01/2025	HMRC – PAYE month 9	£28.80
04/03/2025	J R Hunter – Clerk salary month 10 and 11	£230.40
04/03/2025	HMRC PAYE – month 10 and 11	£57.60

It was noted the following amounts that had been approved during the Parish Council meeting held on 24th November 2024 are due for payment

05/11/2024	J R Hunter – Clerk salary month 6	£115.20
05/11/2024	HMRC – PAYE month 6	£28.80
05/11/2024	J R Hunter – Clerk salary month 7	£115.20
05/11/2024	HMRC – PAYE month 7	£28.80
06/11/2024	Playsafety Limited – Inspection reports	£192.00
05/11/2025	Pam Harris – audit	£96.25

c) Payments made between meetings:

20/01/2025	British Gas	£28.10
03/02/2025	Bank charges	£8.00
03/02/2025	Scottish Water	£21.30
18/02/2025	British Gas	£30.49
03/03/2025	Scottish Water	£21.30

The retrospective payments were approved by the Council

d) Payments received:

e) Rental Receipts: Denis Holmes £100.00

f) Acceptance of report – the Council resolved to accept the details of the report and make the payments listed above including any received since publication of the agenda.

- g) Cllr Watkinson-Teo thanked Cllr Conery for successfully setting up the online banking facility with HSBC. The online banking capability has been established, with the next step being to grant councillors read-only access to bank statements.

Action: Cllr Conery to proceed with adding councillors as online users with read-only access to bank statements.

082408. Correspondence received since last meeting: *For information only unless states otherwise.*

- a) An email from North Yorkshire Council Parish Liaison, advising of a "Call for Sites" inviting landowners, site promoters and developers to submit sites for consideration as allocations to the Local Plan. A comprehensive consultation will take place at some future point. However, for the moment the location of the sites submitted to date can be viewed on North Yorkshire portal.

Action: Councillors and Clerk to monitor the progress of the call for sites and await opportunity to contribute to the consultation.

- b) An email from David Hammond of Opinion Research Services who is conducting research into Gypsy and Traveller Sites within North Yorkshire, pursuant of an assessment of accommodation for Travellers in Yorkshire. An online questionnaire is available for completion providing data, concerning traveller sites in the Parish.

Action: Clerk to copy the email with the link to the online questionnaire to all councillors.

082409. Action taken since last meeting.

Brocklesby's interest in Council land: The Clerk informed the Council that, Graham Brocklesby of Brocklesby Building Products Ltd has accepted an invitation to attend the Parish Council meeting on 6th May 2025. The meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss his proposal to acquire a strip of land owned by the Parish Council, located adjacent to the Brocklesby site in the village.

Action: Councillors to gather and review relevant information regarding the land ownership and potential implications, before the meeting.

- **Children's playground:** Councillors reviewed a quotation for repairs to the play equipment, following an inspection report identifying defects and hazards. The cost to address trip hazards was quoted at £4,790, with additional optional improvements such as, fitting handles to activity toys and replacing seats and chains on swings. Given the financial constraints of the Parish, councillors acknowledged that the expenditure required exceeded current resources. Alternative options, including decommissioning the play areas, were discussed. In conclusion the Parish Council agreed, it needs to explore funding options or alternative solutions before proceeding with repairs or considering decommissioning the play area.

082410. Councillors' Forum:

- **Heck Parish Website:** Councillors reviewed options for reinstating the Heck Parish Council website. A custom-built site hosted and managed externally was deemed too costly, with typical set up fees of £700 and an annual maintenance cost of £200. Instead, a self-build website using WordPress was considered a more cost-effective solution, with hosting costs of £3.00 per month for the first six months and £5.00 per month thereafter.

It was resolved that the Parish Council will create a website using IONOS as the hosting provider, utilising the WordPress site builder.

Action: Clerk to proceed with setting up the website on IONOS. Councillors to contribute to website content and structure as required. A progress update to be provided at the next meeting.

Draft Minutes of Future Parish Meetings: It was agreed that the deadline for the completion of draft minutes be set at no later than 10 days after the meeting.

Lane to Bungalow to be registered as Public Right of Way: Councillors discussed the ownership status of the pathway running south from Heck and Pollington Lane, just after its junction with Main Street, towards the canal. Despite the presence of a "Private Road" sign, councillors expressed their desire for the pathway to be formally recognised as a public right of way (PROW).

Action: Cllr Watkinson-Teo to establish the ownership of the land. Clerk to apply to the PROW department of North Yorkshire Council for the route to be registered as a public right of way. Councillors to gather any historical usage evidence or community support to strengthen the application.

Streetlights: LP19 and LP26 are still out of action. The Clerk advised that the quote for the repair or replacement is awaited from North Yorkshire Council.

Action: Clerk to expedite the completion of the quotation for consideration by the Parish Council.

- **Parish Room Ownership:** It was agreed that, Cllr Lumb will contact past Councillor or Clerk, Mary Hirons or Mary Farman to see if they know where the title deed of the Parish Room is stored. Cllr Watkinson-Teo will try Land Registrar using Title Number NYK54411 for the cluster of land around the Parish Room.

Action: Cllrs Watkinson-Teo and Lumb

082411. To confirm date, time and place of next meetings: 6th May 2025.

082412. Closure of meeting – the meeting closed at 20:05 hrs.