

HECK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF HECK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6th May 2025 at 19:00 hrs in HECK PARISH ROOM

Chair: Cllr J Harling

Clerk/RFO: Mr J R Hunter, 4 Grove Park, Calder Grove, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF4 3BZ

E-mail: heckparishcouncil@outlook.com

Present: Cllrs J Harling (Chair); B Coney (Vice Chair), L Watkinson-Teo, J Lumb; G Mycroft

Clerk/RFO: J R Hunter

Agenda items

022501. Welcome

- The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting.

022502. Apologies:

- All councillors were present at the meeting. Councillors Mycroft and Lumb announced their intention to retire from the Heck Parish Council. Appreciation was noted for the long service that has been devoted for the benefit of the community by Councillors Mycroft and Lumb.
- The clerk outlined the official process that follows receipt of the retirement notices:
 - o North Yorkshire Council's Democratic Services will be notified
 - o Formal notices of resulting vacancies will be issue and displayed publicly in the village for 14 working days
 - o During this period, registered electors within the parish are invited to apply to fill the vacancies
 - o If more than two valid applications are received, a formal election will be triggered
 - o If no applications are received, the Parish Council may proceed to co-opt eligible members of the community.

Actions Arising:

1. Clerk to formally notify North Yorkshire Council Democratic Services of the resignations.
2. Clerk to arrange the display of the official vacancy notices in the village for 14 working days.
3. Clerk to monitor applicant interest and, if an election is not triggered, begin preparation for co-option if needed.

022503. Public Forum:

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

022504. Minutes of last meeting:

- Councillors resolved to accept the minutes of the Heck Parish Council meeting held on 4th March 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.



022505. To receive reports, for information only, from:

- a) District and County Councillor – not present

022506. Planning:

- **ZG2025/0385/TPO**, Holyrood House, Main Street, Great Heck – Application for consent under works on a mix of Holly and Yew trees. The work including removal of Sphaerosis gall, crown lifting, height reduction and removal of limbs. No comments.
- **ZG2025/0297/FUL**, Fieldside, Main Street, Great Heck – Conversion of an existing children’s day nursery (Class E) into a residential dwelling. Construction of a first-floor extension to form a single residence and erection of a single-storey porch extension. No comments.
- **Proposed Pollington Quarry Excavation and Extraction of Waste and Potential Development of 74 Dwellings**: Councillors understood that the proposed excavation project has been abandoned.
- **Thomas Armstrong**, Cllr Lumb reported that lorries are entering the Thomas Armstrong site during night hours. Although not frequent, the noise from tipping operations can be clearly heard. Reports of a gas-like smell in the area were noted, though it is believed to be linked to recent roadside works addressing a gas leak, rather than activity on site.

Councillors were made aware of videos taken by residents showing ongoing waste tipping and associated dust emissions within the site. Concerns were raised over potential environmental and regulatory breaches.

Councillors noted the issues and agreed that monitoring of site activity should continue, including video evidence gathering where appropriate. There is concern over the apparent lack of enforcement response to date.

Actions Arising:

- Councillors and residents encouraged to continue recording video evidence of suspected breaches.
- Clerk to chase a response to the previous enforcement request and escalate the issue by copying the email to: North Yorkshire Councillor J. McCartney, Office of Keir Mather MP.

022507. 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 6th May 2025 were presented for review. Total income including precept receipts is £4,100 which compares with expenditure to date of £671.25 generating a balance of funds at the bank of £13,801.36.

- b) Payments to be made at the meeting:

Date	Chq No	Payee	Amount
06/05/2025	BACS	J R Hunter Clerk Salary Month 12 – 2025/26	115.20
06/05/2025	BACS	HMRC – PAYE Month 12	28.80
06/05/2025	BACS	J R Hunter Clerk Salary Month 01– 2025/26	115.20
06/05/2025	BACS	HMRC – PAYE Month 01	28.80

c) Payments made between meetings:

Date	Payee	Amount
03/03/2025	Bank charges	8.00
18/03/2025	British Gas	25.14
01/04/2025	North Yorks Rates	288.35
01/04/2025	Scottish Water	24.88
03/04/2025	Bank charges	8.00
22/04/2025	British Gas	29.16
01/05/2025	Scottish Water	24.88
04/05/2025	Bank charges	8.00

The retrospective payments were approved by the Council

- d) Payments received: 30/04/2025 North Yorkshire Council Precept £4,000.00
- e) Rental Receipts: 30/04/2025 – Dennise 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) Councillors reviewed the renewal quote for the Parish Council's insurance policy and agreed that before acceptance a comparative quote should be obtained.
- h) Councillors noted that the Heck Parish Council website has been established at a cost of £7.00 per month.
- i) Councillors raised concerns over the size of the current water bill for the Parish Hall, particularly given the buildings limited use. It was noted that the Hall is currently on a flat-rate water billing scheme administered by Yorkshire Water.

Actions Arising: Clerk to investigate with Yorkshire Water to access the feasibility, process and potential cost savings of switching the Parish Hall from a flat rate to a metered water billing regime.

- j) 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.

k) **AGAR 2024/25 – Certification of Exemption**

Councillors considered the Certificate of Exemption for the year ended 31 March 2025. It was noted that the authority's gross income and gross expenditure for the year did not exceed the statutory threshold and that the authority met the criteria for exemption. It was resolved that the Certificate of Exemption for the year ended 31st March 2025 be approved and signed by the Chair and Responsible Financial Officer and submitted to the external auditor.

022508. **Correspondence received since last meeting:** *For information only unless states otherwise.*

- a) An email from North Yorkshire Council Local Boundary Commission who have reassessed the electoral divisions and are proposing to move Great Heck, Whitley and Balne from the Osgoldcross Ward to Camblesforth and Carlton Ward from May 2027. Noted without comment.
- b) An email from PC Sarah Ward attaching the North Yorkshire Police April 25 Newsletter for the Osgoldcross Ward. There was no anti-social behaviour or criminal incidents to report during the month of February. Noted without comment.

022509. To receive information on the following ongoing issues and decide further action where necessary:

022509.1 Environmental Health Issues and concerns in the Parish – nothing of issue to report apart from the levels of dust generated from the Thomas Armstrong site

022509.2 HGV & Traffic Issues: Councillors raised concerns about the increasing numbers of HGV's parking overnight at the Pollington layby. The parking area was originally intended for private vehicles visiting the memorial gardens commemorating the Great Heck rail crash. Reports have been received of HGV drivers leaving human waste and litter in the area, creating an environmental and public health concern. Councillors also highlighted the need for improved road signage near Heck railway bridge to alert motorists to the presence of horses on nearby roads.

Actions Arising: Clerk to follow up with North Yorkshire Council Highways regarding:

- 1. Installation of signage prohibiting overnight HGV parking at Pollington layby.
- 2. The erection of warning signs to alert road users of potential horse activity on roads and surrounding Heck railway bridge.

002509.3 Safety of Playground Councillors discussed the condition and future use of the communal playground concluding that the level of damage and deterioration of the equipment is such that it is beyond economic repair. A proposition has been made by the landlords of the Bay Horse Inn who have indicated a willingness to install new equipment within their grounds but asked if the Parish Council could cover the insurance of the facility. It was agreed the Parish Council could support any future planning application for the new playground but could not take on financial or legal responsibility.

Councillors agreed that, on health and safety and financial grounds, the existing playground must be immediately closed and subsequently dismantled. It was acknowledged that the land, once cleared, cannot be rented for as a paddock due to the presence of ragwort. A longer-term plan for the land's use will be considered later.

Actions Arising:

- 1. Clerk to design a sign prohibiting the use of the current playground. Cllr Coney to source and arrange for production and installation.
- 2. A Facebook post will be drafted to inform residents of the closure.
- 3. Councillors to meet with the landlords of the Bay Horse to clarify the Council's position and limitations to its support.

002509.4 Street Lighting. - The Clerk presented a report from North Yorkshire Council's electrical engineering department detailing recommended work to defective streetlights in the village:

1. LP19 – Install new LED lantern - £400 + VAT
2. LP26 – replace complete unit (pole bracket, control box, LED lantern) £1,350 + VAT
3. LP27 – replace lamp with LED lantern £400 + VAT
4. Traffic Management – installation at LP26 & LP27 would require two-way traffic lights £500 + VAT

It was resolved that only LP19 should be repaired at this stage. Works to LP26 and LP27 will be postponed until additional funding sources can be identified.

Action Arising: Clerk to request North Yorkshire Council to proceed with repair to L19 as per the recommendation.

022510. Action taken since last meeting.

Brocklesby's interest in Council land: Councillors welcomed the owner and associate of Brocklesby Build Products to review a proposal to purchase a strip of land owned by Heck Parish Council, located directly in front of their Green Lane boundary. Brocklesby plans to install an additional access gate to service an independently let area of their site, an area that is currently accessed via Long Lane. The aim being to isolate this sublet area from their main operation to improve overall site security. The land in question is unmanaged scrub and totals approximately 0.134 hectares (around 0.33 acres). Brocklesby had established, based on scrub land valuation, a price of £6,700. Councillors raised concerns about the disparity between scrub and industrial land values and referenced the statutory obligations governing public land sales.

It was noted that the entrance development would require planning permission and would result in an estimated 20-30 HGV movements daily, with limited impact on village traffic. Brocklesby affirmed their intention to maintain the hedgerow and environmental integrity of the site.

Councillors explained that a land valuation must be undertaken by a valuer appointed through North Yorkshire Council and that associated costs would need to be recouped via the sale price due to budget constraints.

The meeting concluded with the Councillors support for further exploration of the proposal but recognised the need to adhere strictly to public sector land disposal protocols. There is a shared intention between Brocklesby and the Council to ensure the transaction reflects a fair market value while preserving the rural and environmental character of the site.

Actions Arising:

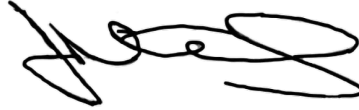
1. Councillors to arrange a visit to the site to assess the layout and understand the proposed changes.
2. The Council to initiate engagement with North Yorkshire Council to commission an official valuation.
3. No decision on the sale will be made until the valuation and planning requirements are clearly established.

022511. Councillors' Forum:

- **Parish Room Ownership:** It was agreed that the Clerk will interrogate the Land Registry using Title Number NYK54411 to establish the ownership of the property. Following which enquires will be made with North Yorkshire Council Legal Services to pursue details of location of the title deeds.

022512. To confirm date, time and place of next meetings: 1st Jul 2025.

022513. Closure of meeting – the meeting closed at 20:30 hrs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a final horizontal stroke.