

HECK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF HECK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 19th Aug 2025 at 18:30 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, S Smales, A P Woods

Clerk/RFO: J R Hunter

Agenda items

042501. Welcome

- The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting.

042502. Apologies & Co-option of Councillors.

- Apologies were received from Cllr Hutchinson.
- The clerk reported that North Yorkshire Electoral Services had confirmed there was insufficient demand for a formal election to fill the current vacancies for Parish Councillor. As a result, the council is authorised to co-opt suitably qualified residents. Three residents, Sally Smales, Anita Pearl Woods, and Ian Hutchinson, expressed interest in serving as parish councillors. It was resolved by show of hands to co-opt all three individuals onto Heck Parish Council.

Action: The newly co-opted councillors to sign declarations of acceptance of office and complete register of interest forms. The clerk to forward the completed registers to North Yorkshire Electoral Services for inclusion in the official parish records.

042503. Public Forum:

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

042504. Minutes of last meeting:

- Councillors resolved to accept the minutes of the Heck Parish Council meeting held on 1st July 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.

042505. To receive reports, for information only, from:

- a) District and County Councillor – not present

042506. Planning:

- The clerk advised that there are no further planning applications
- **NY/2025/0073/SCR, Pollington Bio Energy Park**, the applicant has request of the planning officers the issue of a Screening Opinion to establish whether an Environmental Impact Assessment and report is required for the development.
- **Thomas Armstrong**, there is nothing further to report following the request to and subsequent undertaking from planning enforcement for their inspection of the site to confirm compliance with the planning conditions.

042507. 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 19th Aug 2025 were presented for review. Total income including precept receipts is £4,218 which compares with expenditure to date of £2,365.61 generating a balance of funds at the bank of £12,224.62.

- b) Payments to be made at the meeting:

Date	Chq No	Payee	Amount
19/08/2025	BACS	J R Hunter Clerk Salary Month 4 – 2025/26	115.20
19/08/2025	BACS	HMRC – PAYE Month 4	28.80
19/08/2025	BACS	J R Hunter Clerk Salary Month 05– 2025/26	115.20
19/08/2025	BACS	HMRC – PAYE Month 05	28.80

- c) Payments made between meetings:

Date	Payee	Amount
01/07/2025	Scottish Water	24.88
04/07/2025	Bank charges	8.50
21/07/2025	British Gas	27.20
04/08/2025	Bank charges	8.00
18/08/2025	British Gas	27.83
01/08/2025	Scottish Water	24.88

The retrospective payments were approved by the Council

- d) Payments received:
- e) Rental Receipts: 31/07/2025 – Allotment Rental - £100.00
- f) The Clerk reported the successful installation of the water meter in the village hall. An invoice for the work of £130 would be forwarded in due course.

042508. Correspondence received since last meeting: *For information only unless states otherwise.*

- a) The Clerk advised that there was no correspondence received relevant to matters of concern to the Parish Council.

042509. To receive information on the following ongoing issues and decide further action where necessary:

042509.1 Environmental Health Issues and concerns in the Parish – Councillors discussed the ongoing presence of dust in the environment, potentially originating from the Thomas Armstrong site. It was agreed to collect a sample of dust from the area for subsequent analysis to determine its chemical composition and toxicity. The results will be presented to North Yorkshire Council Environmental Health and the Environment Agency for further consideration

042509.2 HGV & Traffic Issues: Councillors raised concerns about the transport of a barge boat on a wide abnormal load trailer along Main Street on the afternoon of 19th August. Questions were raised regarding the origin and destination of the vehicle, as the route passes through a highway with specific access restrictions.

It was agreed that CCTV footage would be reviewed to identify the transport company involved, with a view to referring the matter to Highways to determine whether the necessary permissions had been obtained

Councillors expressed concern about the high volume of HGVs passing through the village and discussed the approach taken by Pollington Parish Council, which appears to have arrangements with transport operators that direct HGVs through Heck in exchange for supporting planning applications.

Options for gathering quantifiable evidence of HGV movements were considered, including reviewing 24-hour CCTV footage. Due to the resource-intensive nature of examining all footage, councillors agreed to review sample footage to produce a reasonable approximation of daily HGV traffic.

Action:

The resulting data will be used to communicate with the local transport operators about excessive movements and to seek their proposals for mitigation. The findings will also be shared with Gary Lumby of North Yorkshire Area 7 Highways and Keir Mather MP. It was agreed that the initial step will be to establish an approximate count of HGVs sufficient to request Keir Mather's attendance at a future Heck Parish Council meeting to discuss the safety concerns for pedestrians, particularly children, using public pathways in the village.

042509.3 Playground: Councillors discussed the proposed relocation of the playground to the allotment adjacent to the Bay Horse Inn. The planning department has been consulted regarding whether a change of use permission is required. A definitive response from planning is awaited. In the meantime, all supporting information for a potential change of use application has been submitted to facilitate a timely resolution.

042509.4 Land Vacated by Playground- private dog run – Cllr Harling reported on discussions with residents from Skellow who have expressed interest in renting the land to be vacated by the playground for use as a private dog run, with anticipated occupancy later in the year. A formal draft agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the arrangement was requested.

Cllr Harling presented detailed plans for the proposed dog run, including deer fencing over 5ft in height, gated access secured with padlocks, flower planting, protection of the existing badger sett, installation of an internal CCTV camera, a small shed, and provision for car parking.

It was agreed that the site would remain available to the Parish Council for community events, including use of parking facilities. However, public recreational access would be restricted. It was further noted that public liability during Parish Council events must rest with the Council.

Actions:

Clerk to arrange for a draft legal agreement to be prepared, including conditions relating to fencing, badger sett protection, beacon access, and term of lease.

042509.5 Allotment Rentals: Councillors reviewed the current rental charges for allotments. Following discussion, it was resolved that the annual rent for a standard plot be increased to £37.50, effective from the next renewal in May 2026.

042509.6 Street Lighting. - It was confirmed that repairs to the L19 Street Light on Main Street has been completed. Councillors discussed the repair of street light L26 and noted the estimated cost of replacement at £1,350, with an additional £500 required for traffic management. The light failure results in a significant blackout in the area during evening hours, and repair is therefore considered necessary. However, due to limited parish funds, it was agreed that the matter be placed in abeyance until sufficient resources become available to cover the costs.

042510. Action taken since last meeting.

Brocklesby's interest in Council land: The Clerk informed the meeting of his recent communication with Peter Cole, Parish Liaison Officer for North Yorkshire Council, regarding the legal compliance requirements for the proposed sale of land to Brocklesby. Peter Cole is in the process of consulting the relevant team within North Yorkshire Council to provide the necessary advice.

Cllr Watkinso-Teo reminded members that previous exchanges had taken place with the Valuation Office Agency for Yorkshire & Humber and suggested that this department may be able to offer the appropriate guidance on the matter

042511. Councillors' Forum:

Councillors noted the retirement of Cllr Watkinson-Teo, who has served on the Parish Council for eight years. Members expressed their sincere appreciation for her dedicated service and tireless commitment to the Parish and residents of Great Heck.

042512. To confirm date, time and place of next meetings: 4th Nov 2025.

042513. Closure of meeting – the meeting closed at 19:50 hrs.

