

HECK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF HECK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4th November 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), S Smales, A P Woods
Clerk/RFO: J R Hunter

Agenda items

052501. Welcome

- The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting.

052502. Apologies & Co-option of Councillors.

- Apologies were received from Cllr Hutchinson and Cllr Woods

052503. Public Forum:

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

052504. Minutes of last meeting:

- Councillors resolved to accept the minutes of the Heck Parish Council meeting held on 19th August 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.

052505. To receive reports, for information only, from:

- a) District and County Councillor – not present

052506. Planning:

- The clerk advised that there are no further planning applications:
- **ZG2025/0926/TN02, Holyrood House, Main Street**, five days' notice to fell 2 No Horse Chestnut trees protected by Tree Preservation Order No 3/1997. Note the application has been refused.
- **Seras Lorries**, Councillors discussed ongoing concerns about Seras' lorries transporting wood chip through the village in apparent breach of planning conditions. They noted that residents had submitted representations to North Yorkshire Council planning enforcement and to North Yorkshire Councillor J. McCartney. Issues raised included non-compliance with permitted operating hours, and road safety risks



caused by wood chips, screws and nails being shed onto the road surface, resulting in tyre punctures. Councillors highlighted the significant safety impact on residents and other road users.

Members also noted that the matter had been escalated to the constituency office of Keir Mather MP, with a request for the MP to visit the village during daytime hours to allow councillors to demonstrate the specific issues and risks associated with the traffic movements.

The council agreed that the issue remains a serious concern requiring continued monitoring and follow-up with the relevant authorities.

Actions Arising:

The Clerk will monitor and report back on any response received from Keir Mather MP's constituency office.

052507. 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 Nov 2025 were presented for review. Total income including precept receipts is £8,318 which compares with expenditure to date of £3,2637.32 generating a balance of funds at the bank of £15,422.71.

- b) Payments to be made at the meeting:

Date		Chq No	Payee	Amount
04/11/2025		BACS	J R Hunter Clerk Salary Month 6 – 2025/26	115.20
04/11/2025		BACS	HMRC – PAYE Month 6	28.80
04/11/2025		BACS	J R Hunter Clerk Salary Month 07– 2025/26	115.20
04/11/2025		BACS	HMRC – PAYE Month 07	28.80

- c) Payments made between meetings:

Date	Payee	Amount
21/08/2025	British Gas	27.83
01/09/2025	Scottish Water	24.88
18/09/2025	British Gas	27.83
01/10/2025	NYC Business Rates	288.00
20/10/2025	Scottish Water	24.88
30/10/2025	British Gas	26.94
04/11/2025	ROSPA Playsafety	196.80

The retrospective payments were approved by the Council

- d) Payments received: North Yorkshire Council 2nd Precept - £4,000.00
- e) Rental Receipts: 31/07/2025 – Allotment Rental - £100.00
- f) The clerk reported an anomaly in the latest invoice from Scottish Water, noting that the charges were higher than expected. Given that a water meter has been installed and the village hall is unoccupied with no regular water usage, councillors agreed that charges should be limited to

the standing charge only. It was also noted that during the winter freezing period, the water supply to the hall will be switched off to prevent issues.

Actions Arising:

The clerk will contact Scottish Water customer services to query the invoice and confirm appropriate charges for the metered, largely unused supply

- g) **2026/27 Precept:** The Clerk presented a draft of anticipated budget costs for the financial year ending March 2027. Forecast overheads for 2026/27, based on actual expenditure for the current year, are expected to reach approximately £10,000, including an allowance for street-lighting repairs. Councillors noted that, given the number of chargeable households in Heck, a precept of £10,000 would represent around a 25% increase in the Parish Council tax, equating to an annual rise of £20.77 per household.

Members discussed the implications of setting the precept at this level and considered the need to balance financial requirements with the impact on residents.

A decision on the precept will be deferred until the new year, when the effects of the November Budget Statement are understood

- h) **Bank Mandate:** Cllr Coney reported that, following the resignations of Cllr Watkinson-Teo and Cllr Lumb, the bank mandate for HSBC will need updating to remove them as authorised signatories.

052508. 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.

052509. To receive information on the following ongoing issues and decide further action where necessary:

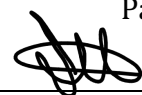
052509.1 Environmental Health Issues and concerns in the Parish – Councillors noted that several drain gullies in the village road network are full of water, indicating blockages. They discussed the risk that these blocked gullies could exacerbate flooding on the highways during the winter period if not addressed promptly.

The council agreed that the blocked gullies require reporting to the relevant authorities for clearing to prevent further flooding issues.

Actions Arising:

- Councillors to take photographs and note the locations of blocked gullies and email these to the Clerk.
- The Clerk to report the blocked gullies to the North Yorkshire Council Highways portal.

052509.2 HGV & Traffic Issues: Councillors discussed the high volume of traffic passing through the village. Concerns were raised about the mix of private vehicles during commuter periods, parents dropping children at nurseries, and HGVs and farm tractors travelling at speeds that pose a hazard to residents.



The issue was noted as part of the wider traffic concerns to be highlighted to Keir Mather MP during his potential visit.

052509.3 Playground: Councillors were updated on the proposal to relocate the playground to land adjacent to the Bay Horse Inn. The local planning authority has advised that full planning approval will be required to change the use of the land from allotment to playground, including associated costs for the application and supporting reports, such as ground condition and soil analysis. The owners of the Bay Horse Inn have offered to share environmental reports from their adjacent development to assist with the application.

Councillors discussed the viability of the relocation and noted that the current playground site poses a serious health and safety hazard and is no longer suitable. They agreed that further enquiries should be made to understand the requirements and costs involved for planning approval.

The existing playground site will be permanently closed, and further investigations will determine the feasibility and costs of relocating the facility. The play equipment will be removed and placed in storage.

Actions Arising:

The Clerk to investigate the steps and associated costs required to pursue the planning application for the playground relocation.

052509.4 Land Vacated by Playground- private dog run – Councillors considered the draft Dog Rental Agreement and discussed proposed amendments. Concerns were raised regarding restrictions on the use of the land during evening hours, with the view that time limitations were too restrictive. Councillors emphasised the importance of balancing flexibility of use with respect for neighbours' rights to peace and quiet.

It was agreed that references to specific access times and limits on the number of dogs would be removed. The agreement will instead include a requirement that users ensure the land is used responsibly and with due consideration for neighbours.

Actions Arising:

The Clerk to finalise the Dog Rental Agreement incorporating the agreed amendments.

052510. Action taken since last meeting.

Brocklesby's interest in Council land: The Clerk reported on the potential sale of a strip of land to Brocklesby and outlined the statutory process under the Local Government Act 1972 (section 123). The necessary stages discussed included: confirming parish council ownership via the Land Registry, ensuring the land valuation reflects true market value, engaging a solicitor experienced in public land conveyance, and issuing the required public notice to invite comments or objections.

Councillors noted the statutory requirements and agreed that the process should be initiated in line with legal obligations.

Actions Arising:

The Clerk to begin the process, including engaging with Brocklesby to inform them of the ongoing steps to initiate the sale.



052511. Councillors' Forum:

There were no additional matters to discuss.

052512. To confirm date, time and place of next meetings: 6th Jan 2026.

052513. Closure of meeting – the meeting closed at 19:40 hrs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. S. G.', written in a cursive style.