

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 16th May 2023 in Husthwaite Village Hall**

Present: C. Fenwick (Chair), S. Aspinall, C. Colton, J. Hampshire, E. Smith, Councillor Alyson Baker, Parish Council Clerk

1. Annual Report from the Chair:

The annual report summarising the previous year's activities was presented by the Chair. A copy of the report is appended to these minutes.

2. Annual Finance Report 2022/23:

	Current Account	Cemetery Account
Balance B/F	£15176.62	£1308.05
Plus Precept	£7500.00	--
Plus Receipts	£10708.09	£45.05
Funds Transfer	--	£10127.00
Sub Total	£33384.71	£11480.10
Less Payments	£9878.87	--
Funds Transfer	£10127.00	--
Balance C/F	£13378.84	£11480.10

3. Comments and questions from parishioners:

There were no comments or questions from parishioners.

4. Election of Chair:

E. Smith proposed, seconded by S. Aspinall, that C. Fenwick be elected as Chair for a further year. There being no other nominations, C. Fenwick was duly elected as Chair of Husthwaite Parish Council.

5. Election of Vice-chair:

C. Fenwick proposed, seconded by J. Hampshire, that C. Colton be elected as Vice-chair to the Council. There being no other nominations, C. Colton was duly elected as Vice-chair.

6. Appointment of representatives of the Council on other organisations:

Beckwith Bequest Trustee: Carol Fenwick until April 2026

Village Hall Trustee: Craig Colton

7. Responsibilities within the Council:

Communications: C. Nichols

Highways: All as necessary

Local Parish Forum: All as necessary

Neighbourhood Watch: C. Fenwick

Parish Plan Review: S. Aspinall

Police Liaison: C. Nichols

Public Footpaths: J. Hampshire

Recreation Area: Monthly rota basis

Risk Assessment: C. Colton

Street Lighting: C. Fenwick

YLCA: All as necessary

.....18th July 2023

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 16th May 2023 in Husthwaite Village Hall**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR MAY 2022 – APRIL 2023

Following the elections on 5th May, which were held a year earlier than normal due to the amalgamation of the County and District Councils into one new Unitary Council for North Yorkshire in 2023, we only had six Parish Councillors. So, following the completion of our Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Registration of Interest forms, the areas of responsibility within the council were assigned as follows: -

Sarah Aspinall	- Parish Plan Review.
Craig Colton	- Vice-chair, Risk Assessor, Village Hall Trustee.
Julia Hampshire	- Public Footpaths.
Chris Nichols	- Communications.
Carol Fenwick	- Beckwith Bequest Trustee, Neighbourhood Watch & Police Liaison, Recreation Area, Street Lighting, Chair and temporary Clerk.

In addition, it was agreed that Councillors would attend Parish Liaison and YLCA meetings in rotation and highways issues would be reported by everyone on the NYCC Highway Maintenance Parish Portal.

During the bi-monthly meeting that followed, Councillors were informed that surface dressing had been completed on Highborne Lane, Pavescape Sports Services had finished the painting of the MUGA and the claim form had been submitted for our HDC Making A Difference grant funding. The Parish Council agreed to donate £600 from the Community Infrastructure Levy funding towards a new boundary fence between Husthwaite CE Primary and the Recreation Area to enhance safeguarding and deter trespassers. After careful consideration, Councillors agreed to accept the tender from Image Playgrounds for repairs to the Balance Beam and Basket Swing and also approved the purchase of commemorative Bookmarks to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Other items discussed were the advertisement of the vacant Councillors position, the re-advertisement of the Clerk job, updating the 2006 Parish Plan, Councillors training sessions and the Bier House guttering. The Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements were unanimously approved and, as our income and expenditure were under £25,000, the PC again qualified for a Certificate of Exemption from audit.

Before the July meeting five Councillors undertook a two-part training / refresher course (which everyone found very useful) and held an extraordinary meeting to discuss a number of planning applications. At the meeting we were joined by 23 parishioners who wanted to express their concerns regarding the proposed development of 22 dwellings on land to the south of Prospect Cottages. The PC concurred with the main comments raised and agreed to submit an objection to the planning application. Following the receipt of two expressions of interest in the vacant Councillors position, Helen Pilcher was co-opted by majority vote. Keith Gittens informed us that the wildflower island in the Recreation Area contained at least 25 species of broad-leaved plant and numerous grass species. It was noted that NY Public & Community Transport had agreed to look into the erection of a bus stop sign adjacent to the Village Hall and Councillors agreed to accept the quote for obtaining a tree survey of the Silver Lime Tree on the Village Green. The highlights from the North Yorkshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioners meeting, Road drainage problems on Malton Street, updating the Parish Plan, the vacant Clerks position and the state of the roads within the village were also discussed.

.....18th July 2023

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 16th May 2023 in Husthwaite Village Hall**

In August Councillors held another extraordinary meeting to discuss planning applications and we also examined the options provided in the Arboriculture Report on the Village Green Silver Lime Tree. The September meeting was delayed slightly following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the official period of mourning but at the meeting Councillors agreed to request that our Parish be designated as a Neighbourhood Area for the purposes of creating a Neighbourhood Plan and we also decided to strongly oppose any future fracking plans in the area. It was reported that Area 2 Highways were aware of the flooding problems on Malton Street, Yorkshire Water had confirmed that water leakage on The Nookin and Low Street was not from broken pipes, Streetlights in Low Street had been replaced with LED lighting, Image Playgrounds had removed the defective play equipment from the Recreation Area and AONB had completed their last cut of the season on Kendrew Green. The North Yorkshire Council's Let's Talk campaign, options for selecting SAAA External Auditors, a donation to the Citizens Advice Hambleton Office, an invitation to a Local Parish Forum and a Communications discussion paper distributed by Chris Nichols were also discussed.

Before the November meeting, I was once again honoured to lay the Parish Council Wreath at the St Nicholas Church Remembrance Service. Then at the meeting, Councillors were informed that Image Playgrounds had completed the repairs in the Recreation Area and Hambleton District Council had confirmed receipt of our Neighbourhood Area application. Kevin Hollinrake had written to confirm both his support for the Local Electricity Bill and also for increased gas exploration (where safe) but, luckily, the new Prime Minister re-imposed the moratorium on fracking in England. Chris had attended a Local Councils & Communications Strategies event and offered to circulate the PowerPoint Presentation and summarize the comments received from the Communications discussion paper and Sarah proposed the publication of a monthly planning update. Other items discussed were a proposed drainage improvement scheme for Malton Street, Northern Powergrid High Voltage Upgrade Works in Low Street, the confirmation of SAAA External Auditor 2022 - 2027, the vacant Clerks position and Village Green Tree. This is also the meeting at which we set the precept for the following year and it was decided to increase the precept to £8000, allowing for expenditure on the Village Newsletter, Cemetery extension, Neighbourhood Plan, Street Furniture and village projects, as well as regular expenditure for grass cutting, insurance, Clerks wages and Recreation Area upkeep. The day after our meeting, three Councillors attended a Local Parish Forum hosted by Coxwold Parish Council where Councils shared information, experiences and common problems.

During December we held another two extraordinary meetings to discuss the amended plans for Woolpots Solar Farm and, following clarification on a number of points by Lightrock Power, Councillors agreed to submit another objection to the proposal. The Parish Council also responded to the Boundary Commission for England's Review of Parliamentary Constituencies, especially opposing the new pairing of Wetherby with Easingwold which we feel is an illogical match.

At the meeting in January we were joined by two local PCSOs, who informed us of recent incidents in the White Horse area and highlighted the main areas of concern - Fraud, Theft and Doorstep Crime. Councillors were pleased to receive two applications for the post of Clerk and agreed to invite both applicants for an informal interview. It was reported that our application for Husthwaite to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area had been approved by Cabinet and HDC had granted consent for us to enter into a Capitalised Wayleave Agreement with Northern Powergrid for the high voltage upgrade works. Keith Gittens reported that AONB had confirmed their intention to continue the cutting regime on Kendrew Green and NYCC had felled the dying Elm. Councillors agreed to continue with the single wildflower island to the rear of the MUGA and also accepted Keith's offer to request

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 16th May 2023 in Husthwaite Village Hall**

professional advice about the prognosis of the Village Green Tree. Chris reported on the site visit for Woolpots Solar Farm planning application and informed us that Husthwaite and Carlton Husthwaite had composed a joint 10 minute presentation covering the main objection points for presentation to the Planning Committee. A request to install a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Sign at the Cemetery, complaints regarding inconsiderate parking on The Nookin, an application for new street nameplates and repairs to damaged road signs were also discussed.

At the March meeting, we were joined by our new Clerk - Lindsey Grain who agreed to accept the position on a trial basis for three meetings. We were informed that our application for the Parish of Husthwaite to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area for the purposes of creating a Neighbourhood Plan had been approved by Full Council and Sarah had attended a Neighbourhood Area Planning webinar and been in contact with the Howardian Hills AONB who are looking to set up a help group for villages intending to start the process. Area 2 Highways had confirmed that a solution designed to alleviate the surface water issues on Malton Street would be undertaken in the new financial year and a plant pathologist had suggested that we apply to get the Silver Lime tested through Forest Research. Other items discussed were the new Draft North Yorkshire Council Parish Charter, the NYCC Climate Change Strategy Consultation, replacement of the defibrillator pads and King Charles III Coronation memorabilia. This was also the last meeting to be attended by our District Councillor Pippa James and Councillors thanked her for her help and support during her tenure and expressed their sorrow that the position was being disestablished.

During the year we have been asked to comment on 32 planning applications, ranging from works to trees to the construction of a solar farm. The Parish Council objected to three of these applications and submitted comments on a number of others with Hambleton District Council approving 28, refusing four and still considering a number of others. Appeals against the decision of Hambleton District Councils refusal to grant two of these planning applications have been submitted to the Secretary of State and the appeals will be determined by an Inspector

Over the past year Councillors have attended meetings of the Beckwith Trust, Husthwaite Village Hall, Local Parish Forum, Yorkshire Local Councils Associations and North Yorkshire Council and we have hopefully kept parishioners aware of the activities in which we have been involved with regular articles in the Husthwaite Newsletter. I would like to end my report, as usual, by thanking my fellow councillors for their hard work over the last year and also our County Councillor, Alyson Baker, who attends as many meetings as she is able and keeps us well informed.