

**BURTON-CUM-WALDEN PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2025**

A Parish Council meeting was held in the Village Hall, West Burton on Tuesday, 2 September 2025

Present: Miss Jane Ritchie, Mr Andrew Landau, Mrs Sally Sahin, Mr David Dent and Mrs Victoria Whitehead, Councillors, and Mr Richard Nolan, Clerk

1. Apologies

There were no apologies, all the members being present.

2. Declarations of interest

Councillor Andrew Landau declared a pecuniary interest in Items 11 and 12.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 8 July 2025, having been circulated to all Members, were confirmed as a true copy, and duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on the following matters:

- Waterfall Area
- Vegetation on Ellers Lane
- Morpeth Gate
- Parish Emergency Plan
- Parish Enclosure Award and maps
- Council Governance & Reporting
- Council Finances.

5. Delegated Authority of the Chairman and Clerk

Councillors considered a draft policy for delegation of power and authority to the Chairman and the Clerk in routine cases and cases of emergency.

RESOLVED: To adopt the policy.

6. Parish Website and Clerk's Generic E-mail address

The Council considered moving the Parish website and the Clerk's email address to a gov.uk domain in the light of the new Assertion 10 that will appear in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return from the end of the year 2025/2026.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Council should purchase and maintain a new website domain, www.burtoncumwalden-pc.gov.uk, move the pages of the existing website to the new domain, make the new website publicly accessible, and ensure that all visits to the existing website are automatically forwarded to the new website; (ii) That the Clerk should have, and as soon as practicable use, a new generic email address, clerk@burtoncumwalden-pc.gov.uk and cease to use the existing gmail address; (iii) That the Clerk should, as appropriate, inform those who deal with the Council of these new arrangements; and (iv) That the existing website domain should lapse when its current registration period expires.

7. Succession Planning

The Council considered further the arrangements that might be made for when the current Chairman stands down from that office, presently intended to be in May 2026, at the election of a new chairman.

8. Proposed Closure of West Burton School

The Chairman reported on a discussion she and the Clerk had on Thursday 21 August 2025 with Jon Holden and Martin Kettlewell of North Yorkshire Council about the possible arrangements for hand back of the site and buildings of the School should it close as a result of the present proposal. Another discussion on the same topic and between the same people has been scheduled for Thursday 9 October 2025.

9. Anti-Social Behaviour at the Waterfall and Surrounding Area

The Council considered reports from residents about alleged anti-social behaviour at the Waterfall and the surrounding area. These involved littering (broken glass; disposable nappies; used charcoal barbeques) and trespass. The Council was sympathetic to the concerns, but noted that the behaviour took place on land not owned by the Council, so there is nothing the Council can do to control it. The Council noted that the Police had been informed, and that the Police's view was that the landowners concerned need to keep evidence of such behaviour if the Police are to become further involved. The Council also noted its appreciation for a local resident who had cleared litter in the area, and requested the Clerk to pass on the Council's thanks to the resident.

RESOLVED: To request the Clerk to investigate having a bin in the area of the Waterfall, emptied by North Yorkshire Council, to encourage visitors not to leave litter near the Waterfall.

10. Rental charges

The Council considered the rental charges for the three areas of Common Land owned by the Council, Hudson Quarry, Morpeth Scar and Stoney Wood. The Clerk confirmed that the review of the rental charges for Morpeth Scar was not due until 2028, and that the review of the rental charges for Stoney Wood was not due until 2029.

RESOLVED: That the rent for Hudson Quarry should remain at £5.00 per annum.

11. Arrangements for Bonfire Night

The Clerk confirmed that Mr Peter Wheeler had kindly agreed to organise the Bonfire Night again. He also confirmed that there is £1,114.71 left in the separate (non-Parish Council) fireworks account available for this year's fireworks. Mr Wheeler has been informed and will organise the purchase of the fireworks accordingly. The date for the event was agreed as Saturday, 1 November 2025. Councillor Andrew Landau, of the Fox and Hounds Inn, confirmed that he would once again be holding the fundraising Boozy Bingo event on Friday, 31 October 2025, and that the usual barbeque would be available on the night of the Bonfire. The Clerk tabled (having previously circulated) a revised, up-to-date Risk Assessment for the Bonfire Night.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Bonfire Night event be held on the evening of Saturday 1 November 2025; (ii) That the Risk Assessment be approved and adopted; (iii) That, subject to weather and practicalities, the turf should be lifted for the site of the bonfire on the weekend of 18 October 2025 and replaced after the Bonfire no later than the weekend of 8 November 2025, and (iv) that the Council offer Mr Wheeler an honorarium of £50 for all his work.

12. Arrangements for Christmas

Councillors considered arrangements for Christmas, and it was agreed (i) that the switch-on of the Christmas Tree lights should be on the evening of Sunday 7 December 2025, and (ii) that the traditional mulled wine and mince pies at the Fox and Hounds Inn should follow the switch-on of the lights. Councillor David Dent kindly agreed to put up the tree and decorate it in time for the event on 7 December 2025. The Council also considered whether it was for the Council to organise a Christmas Tea.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk should order the tree, and ask the owner of the Black Bull if they would be willing again to allow their electricity to be used to light the tree; (ii) That the switch-on

should be on the evening of Sunday 7 December 2025, and (iii) That it was not the Council's role to organise a Christmas Tea.

13. Parish Newsletter

Various items for the Newsletter were discussed, including:

- Recipe book reminder
- "Prowls round West Burton" book reminder
- Information about the removal of the phone box
- Information about Bonfire Night
- Information about the Village Quiz Night on Saturday 15 November 2025
- Information about the Christmas Tree event
- Thanks from the previous owner of the Village shop
- Notice that Baubles from Margaret Proctor's Christmas Tree are available from the Chairman

RESOLVED: That these items should be included in the Newsletter which should be ready for publication in the week beginning 15 September 2025.

14. Items of Interest or Concern from the NYC Parish Update, the YLCA White Rose Bulletin and the YLCA weekly News and Notifications

Councillors did not raise any items of interest of concern arising since the last meeting of the Council in any of (i) the NYC Parish Update, (ii) the YLCA White Rose Bulletin and (iii) the YLCA weekly news and notifications.

15. Invoices

The invoices were tabled and authorised for online payment:

- J W Alderson (petrol for mower) - £62.03 (including VAT of £10.34)
- Parish Caretaker - £870.00

16. Notice of meetings and reports of meeting attended

Councillors noted the dates of future meetings and reports of meetings attended.

17. Items for the next agenda

RESOLVED: That in addition to any matters mentioned above, the following items should be brought forward:

- Succession Planning for Chairmanship of the Parish Councillor

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Date of the next meeting: **Tuesday, 7 October 2025 at 8.00 pm** in the Village Hall.

Chairman

Date: