

NORTH DUFFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk/RFO: Mrs S Look, 72 Main Street, Wheldrake, York, YO19 6AA

clerk@northduffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk www.northduffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

MINUTES of the ANNUAL Parish meeting held on 14th May 2026

Village Hall, North Duffield

APM2601. Introductions: Cllr Hemingway introduced the Parish Councillors, Clerk and the Divisional Councillor to members of the public present.

APM2602. Minutes: Resolved to approve the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 15th May 2025.

APM2603. North Yorkshire Police: Cyber Crime presentation by PC Courtney Irons. Details on top tips for staying secure online, protecting your email with a strong password (3 random words recommended and different from all other device/app passwords), 2-step verification (2SV) for the most important accounts, backing up data, security updates installed regularly, saving passwords using a password manager, phishing attacks and dealing with suspicious emails, and recovering hacked accounts. Contact the parish clerk for further details or if you would like PC Irons to come and visit a local group to deliver her presentation.

APM2604. North Yorkshire Council: Presentation from Angela Morrison, a member of the Mobile Library team on the multiple services available for residents. Information presented on the home library service for those residents who are unable to visit their local library due to disability, illness or because they are caring for someone; specialist books available for people with dementia, carers and health professionals; the new libraries app where you can search the catalogue of books and DVDs, reserve and renew items, access free digital content including e-audio books and digital newspapers, magazines and comics (search 'North Yorkshire Libraries' on Google Play or the AppStore); the careers and job seeking services at libraries including PC access, printing, free Wi-Fi, study space, information and volunteering; reading services for families, teens, children and mental health.

APM2605. North Duffield Primary School: Mr Russell, the head teacher from North Duffield Primary School gave a brief introduction to the school and what they can offer for the young people in the area. It was noted that more volunteers are required to help with maintenance jobs over the summer.

Refreshment break

APM2605. North Yorkshire Local Plan and Divisional Council update: Cllr Arthur gave an update on plans from North Yorkshire Council explaining the Local Plan timetable changes due to new Government regulations published in March 2026. The new rules prevent local authorities from unilaterally refusing housing schemes of over 150 homes or more without first consulting the secretary of state. Central Government can override local decisions to push through critical housing plans.

It was noted that NYC finances are currently tight, and it is likely that there will be a council tax will rise again next year. Library closures are likely if significant savings are not made elsewhere.

Cllr Arthur is negotiating with four parish councils including North Duffield to provide a more regular bus service to and from Selby.

Boundary changes coming into force in 2027 with North Duffield, Hemingbrough, Cliffe & Osgodby, Skipwith, Escrick and Thorganby coming under the new 'Escrick & Cliffe Division'.

New bins to be provided in the Selby area for new builds only initially. NYC has not yet provided food waste bins and missed the government 'Simpler Recycling' legislation deadline of 31 March 2026.

APM2506. Playing Fields Association update: Cllr Richardson gave an update on the PFA as she is a Parish Council representative. The PFA gets its funding from the user groups; the bowls club, North Duffield Football Club and North Duffield Under 5's. There are two reps from each user group on the PFA committee. They would like to hold more fundraising events but have not got many volunteers to help with the practicalities of events. The AGM will take place on 6th July in the Kings Arms. Open to all and new committee members welcome. The PC contribute annually towards the PFA insurance and Linden Turf kindly cut the field free of charge. The PFA are also actively looking at applying for grants for projects. Due to a recent safety inspection, some play equipment has been removed. Over the last few years there has been upgrades to the electrics in the Pavillion, an overflow carpark has been installed, the bins have been changed to a commercial one, the CCTV has been upgraded, the electric box has been replaced and new fencing has been erected.

Going forward there are plans to install a walking track around the field and a reflection corner with gabions as seating. Educational boards will be erected around the track. A field drainage project is progressing with phase one now complete. Phase two will start mid-June followed by the final stage. A new outside table tennis table and paving to be installed, and new flowers to be planted.

Plans are in place to hold a Village Produce Show for the start of September.

The North Duffield Dragons Annual Football tournament will take place on 6th and 7th June 2026 with an additional date for the older age groups scheduled for 13th June 2026.

APM2607. Nature Recovery update: Elaine Black gave a presentation detailing the work the group have been doing to promote Nature Recovery in the area and ways that residents can help to support the cause. The Nature Recovery initiative started 2-3 years ago around the Lower Derwent Valley. Meetings are held locally and new members are welcome as well. Any experts or speakers with an interest in Nature Recovery who would like to do a presentation or talk to the group would be very welcome. Various events and trips are organised and publicised in Round Up and in the regular updates on the Parish Council website. The updates also include seasonal tips for parishioners to see how they can help with nature recovery efforts on a local level. House Martin boxes have been donated by the Parish Council and installed in six homes in the village and the Parish Council are in the process of ordering more. On 13th June there will be a visit to see a garden at the Pipe & Glass in North Newbold which has been designed by a landscape gardener.

APM2608. Parish Council Annual Report: Cllr Hemingway summarised the work the Parish Council has been involved in and achievements over the past year. These items are covered in more depth on the Chairmans Annual report (see appendix 1).

APM2609. Open forum: The following issues were raised by members of public present;

School Lane / Garth Avenue – dip reported on footpath. PC to report to Highways.

Orchard House – over hanging trees onto Priest Lane reported.

Rose Garth – overgrown hedge. Telegraph pole in the middle of the hedge. Cllr Arrand to follow up on behalf of the resident.

Reports of parking problems when the regular bird auction is on. It was noted that the Parish Council has contacted the Village Hall committee and requested that future meetings are cancelled due to ongoing problems and complaints from residents.

Complaints about children mishandling and chasing the ducks on the village green. Cllr Hemingway to speak to the school to remind the children to not handle them.

Garth Avenue trees overhanging the footpath.

North Duffield & Skipwith Luncheon Club is held at the Kings Arms every second Friday at 12noon.

APM2610. Meeting close: Councillor Hemingway thanked parishioners for attending and contributing to the meeting. It was also noted that it was good to see so many residents.

Meeting closed at 21.45hrs.

Signed:

(Chairman)

Date:

CHAIR'S REPORT APRIL 2025 – MARCH 2026

The Parish Council (PC) met on the agreed 11 occasions (there being no August meeting as per usual). In addition, the Annual Parish Meeting was held on 15th May 2025.

The PC would not function without the continued support and guidance from our clerk, Sally Look. We would therefore like to formally record our acknowledgment and appreciation of Sally, who has consistently exceeded her remit in updating us on issues arising, keeping us legally compliant, managing our finances and in implementing the decisions we have made. For information Sally can be contacted by email - clerk@northduffieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

The PC would also like to record our thanks to Bob Wells and Mel Patten who both resigned from the Parish Council during the year. Both Bob and Mel have played a significant contribution to the running of the PC.

We also welcomed John Taunton back onto the PC. John had served on the PC several years previously and his experience and commitment will be a huge asset.

Below is a summary of the various events and activities undertaken/supported by the PC over the preceding 12 months –

Events

The events sub-committee once again organised a Summer Fair and the Christmas Market, both of which were well received. The PC provided the financial support to cover the cost of printing and distribution of leaflets. Our thanks go to Anytime Skips for providing a skip free of charge.

Christmas Nativity

The Christmas nativity scene was again favourably received. The Christmas lights switch-on combined with the Christmas Market was a huge success with many positive comments received from traders as well as residents. The Santa Parade was again popular, and our thanks go to the Arrand family for providing the tractor and trailer. New lights were installed on the island with the cost of these made up from donations and the proceeds of the previous years' raffle.

Bus Services

In line with other parish councils along route 18 we continued to support via subsidy the retention of the Friday and Saturday evening bus service to/from York operated by East Yorkshire.

Mobile Library

The PC was offered the opportunity for the village to be included in the route of the new mobile library. Having agreed a suitable location the service commenced in February and uptake has been encouraging. Our thanks go to Chris and Kelly Grant for allowing use of The Kings Arms car park for this service.

Village Maintenance

York Landscapes Ltd successfully completed their second year having won the contract in 2024. The general feeling is that standards continue to improve to the extent that we have awarded the contract to them for a third year.

Village Green

Further improvements were made to the village green, surrounding pond area and to the pond island. The PC took the decision to remove the dog waste bag provision during the year due to continued misuse.

Tree Survey

As a PC we commission a tree survey to assess the state of trees on the village green every two years. The latest report suggested that no major work was required.

Speeding

Speeding along both the A163 and York Road remains a concern, and the PC continues to lobby NYC on further traffic calming measures. However, the requested 30mph speed limit along the A163 is unlikely to be granted as the road does not meet the required criteria. The Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS), which collates vehicle speeds, but not number plates, remains in situ and the data is available for analysis.

The community speed watch group has been active during the year, and any instances of speeding recorded were passed on to the relevant authority. Additional volunteers are urgently needed and training will be provided. **For information the next scheduled session is on Saturday 30th May.**

Highways

The chair once again met with a representative from Highways and completed a village survey. Several points were raised, some of which have been actioned. These include-

- Green Lane and The Green. These roads have been resurfaced (rather than redressed) following lobbying over several years.
- Remedial work to white/yellow lining throughout the village - Completed
- The movement of the 30mph signage on York Road further towards Skipwith - Completed
- The possibility of The Green becoming a one-way street – this would need considerable consultation. If permission was granted the costs involved (consultation and roadworks) would have to be met from PC funds, resulting in a substantial increase in the precept for one year.
- Completion of the road resurfacing and footpath installation at the Green Lane/A163 intersection.

Precept

Given the additional costs faced by the PC we took the decision to raise the precept by 3.9% for the year 26/27, a reduction from the 4.2% increase in 25/26. This increase is equivalent to approximately 5p per week per household. Any decision to raise the precept is not taken lightly, but the continuing increased costs of utilities, maintenance and insurance made this inevitable. We continue to seek value for money across our expenditure.

Power Cuts

The PC is aware of the continuing issue regarding the frequent power cuts that affect all or part of the village. We have lobbied our MP, NYC and Northern Powergrid to seek immediate improvements. Some success has been achieved with the frequency of cuts greatly reduced, although further measures will require substantial investment from Northern Power.

Other items in brief include –

- The PC continued its support in contributing 50% of the insurance costs associated with the North Duffield and Skipwith Playing Fields Association.
- Support was given to the primary school to cover the transport cost associated with the Christingle.
- The village asset register was updated.
- The village litter pick was held on 5TH October 2025, with members of the public and Rainbows/Brownies joining with PC members to facilitate this.

Focus for 26/27

As we enter the new year our priority remains to support the village for the benefit of all residents. Key initiatives include -

- Repeat of the Summer Fair (to be held on Saturday 4th July) and Christmas Market/Santa Parade/Christmas Lights switch-on (to be held on Sunday 29th November).
- Working with other adjacent PCs and our Divisional Councillor to improve bus services to/from Selby.
- Continuation of the community speed watch, subject to volunteer availability.
- Future proof update to the electrics on the village green, and installation of additional electrics.
- Replacement of the two wooden benches on the green which are life expired.

- Continued lobbying of Highways to improve the state of the roads in the village where appropriate.
- The support of appropriate housing development, especially affordable homes.
- The village litter pick, date to be decided.

Renny Hemingway
Chair
