



Parish Council of Bishop Wilton

Minutes the meeting of Bishop Wilton Parish Council, held on Monday 28th September 2026, at 7.00pm, at Bishop Wilton Village Hall.

Present: Cllr P Warry (Chairman); Cllrs J Denton (Vice Chair); I Rickatson, G Lonsdale and Sandra Morrison (Parish Clerk)

Guests: Ward Cllr L Hammond and 17 members of the public

871. The Chairman welcomed members and guests stating it was good to see so many present, and then advised on the protocol on the recording of meetings explaining that this had been adopted due to minutes being recorded by a certain councillor for his own use. The Council therefore agreed that it would be proper to record the meetings ourselves, in full compliance with GDPR.

The chair suggested that the order of the agenda be altered for the convenience of the residents present, and agenda items 5. Planning Application 26/02070/PLF Vale Crescent; Agenda item 9. Community Issues (allotments) Agenda item 14. Grass cutting and defibrillators would be heard in public forum. This was unanimously agreed by councillors.

As a bit of background, the chair stated that he had been invited to stand for election in 2023 due to his previous experience of being on the council, he offered to stand as chair as the council had been in a turbulent state in the run up to the election, and he hoped to bring some stability to what had been a tumultuous time.

As part of the election to office process, we have to sign and adhere to a code of conduct. As Chair I have also tried to keep parish council matters within the room of council meetings, so that matters can be properly documented. One councillor, who is not present tonight does not abide with this guidance, sending emails which often name councillors and residents in a slanderous way. Both the clerk and the chair have to deal with these emails, which take up an enormous amount of time, the Clerk's time is paid, funded by the precept therefore paid for by residents.

At a meeting a couple of months ago one councillor, who is here tonight verbally resigned. For a resignation to be validated it must be in writing, and as we have a shortage of councillors and not wanting to lose another good councillor the clerk and the chair talked to the councillor, and he is still with us tonight.

As the chair however I am also fed up with these emails and the resulting pressures they cause. This is my resignation (the chair held up a sealed envelope), the resignation is not signed but will be if these emails do not stop. At least two councillors stated that if the chair resigned, they would also leave.

Residents asked several questions as to what actions could be taken to censor the councillor. To which we responded this has been going on for several years and we have tried many ways to get the councillor to stop. It was noted that his actions are also prohibiting new members from joining the council.

872. To receive apologies of absence - Cllr Sumpner, Ward Cllrs Carey and West. Cllr North absent due to shift work.

873. Acceptance of Office, Code of Conduct and Resignation - this item has been covered in the chair's opening statement

874. Code of Conduct: To receive Declaration of Interests from members on any items on the agenda

- a) Pecuniary - none
- b) non-pecuniary - none
- c) granting of dispensations - none

875. Open Forum: To resolve that the meeting be suspended to allow for a period of public participation.

Items discussed.

I. Withdrawal of Planning Application 26/02070/PLF

Erection of 6 Affordable dwellings following demolition of existing garages, Vale Crescent Garage Court Bishop Wilton

Cllr Hammond gave the background on the withdrawal of this planning application answering residents queries and stating that as it was now withdrawn an East Riding Planning Officer was not in attendance. The application had been submitted by East Riding Homes, an independent company though East Riding Council is the major shareholder, it is an independent company with its own management structure, separate from East Riding Council. Having spoken to the deputy director of housing to persuade him to have the application withdrawn and not resubmitted, it is unlikely to be brought back in the foreseeable future. Cllr Hammond then commented Central government has set a housing target that has double the number of homes that East Riding Council have to provide and failure to do so can result in the Government stepping in and they would then decide where properties are built.

II. Agenda item 14 tabled by Cllr Sumpner, and asked to be deferred by Cllr Sumpner due to his absence.

To discuss Biodiversity Policy in line with current groundworks contract and proposal from Cllr Sumpner: That the village Green Grass Cutting contract is amended to align with the councils agreed Biodiversity Policy.

Contract Changes:

2.1 Grass Cutting,

From : Grass cutting includes the cutting of grass and other vegetation along the village green and in all cases it includes strimming around obstacles eg: furniture etc. Where strimming is required the grass will be collected and removed. Areas of grass should be cut evenly on every visit with no areas missed.

change this to – “the areas, patten and times of cutting will be determined by full council”

3.5 Frequency,

From: The frequency of cutting will be a minimum of 3 times per year as per the schedule or as agreed.

changed to – *There will be a minimum of two cuts per year. The first cut to be undertaken after the daffodil foliage has died and the last after wild flowers and grasses have seeded, otherwise as directed by full council.*

As per the Council's Standing Orders, when a motion is tabled by a councillor and the councillor is not present at a meeting, and there is no seconder to the motion the motion falls. The chair then has the discretion to defer the motion as requested by Councillor Sumpner. Due to the number of concerned residents attending specifically for this item, it was unanimously agreed by full council present not to defer, but to hear this motion and allow public participation.

The following summarises the comments from residents present at the meeting;

Cutting of the village green in the village has been an agenda item several times and it was residents who voted several years ago that the grass cutting was agreed and would not therefore be continuously put before the council. Residents care about the village, and the grass needs to be cut to enable the village to look cared for and well maintained.

Need to clarify the biodiversity policy refers to the whole Parish, taking in the wider village and not just the village green, this should not interfere with the current grass cutting contract.

Residents present proposed that the Council keep the current contract.

It was noted that the current contractor could not undertake just 2 cuts per year as his machinery cannot cope efficiently when the grass is allowed to grow too long, in addition to this long grass in a hot spell, as we have seen this summer, could well constitute a fire risk.

It was also noted that residents should not be planting bulbs on the green as this causes conflict when the grass is cut.

A resident further stated that visitors come to the village because it is so well kept, and this could stop if the green was left to go wild. This matter has been repeatedly discussed and the consensus of the parishioners present is that the grass is cut as per contract.

Another resident stated that 3 cuts per year have proven beneficial to the land and environment, not detrimental

Conclusion: As the motion was not seconded the motion has fallen and Councillors present were unanimous that the matter would not be put back on the agenda. Resolved.

III. **Community and ongoing Issues for consideration and resolution**

Update on responsibility for management of the allotments and fence repairs. The feedback from East Riding is that the allotments were handed to the allotment society in 2014. A resident present stated that this did not include the responsibility of the fence. Further the current management of the allotment society do not have a copy of the agreement. Clerk to pursue this with East Riding. Cllr Hammond to follow up with East Riding as to responsibility for the fence.

iv. Although not on the agenda a member made a request covering disposal of the old defibrillator box and salt dispensers, stored on village hall premises. The issue was noted, the clerk and chair will pursue recycling of the old defibrillator and cabinet. Options for the salt spreaders to be considered at the next meeting.

v. A request was made for a bus stop sign. Cllr Hammond to pursue with East Riding.

876. Ward Councillors Report and update on any outstanding issues- Cllr Hammond advised that the road repairs outside the school had now been completed. East Riding Highways team had responded quickly and comprehensively to the resident complaint relating to loose chippings on Main Street following the recent resurfacing works, and issues that have occurred following surfacing dressing during spells of hot weather are being looked at to improve the process.

877. Minutes: To adopt minutes of the parish council meetings held on the **27th July 2026 and extraordinary meeting 24th August 2026**. Proposed Cllr Rickatson seconded Cllr Lonsdale. Resolved.

878. Community and ongoing Issues for consideration and resolution

- i. Update on obscured street lamps on Worsendale Road and overhanging foliage- still outstanding Cllr Hammond to pursue.
- ii. Update on repairs and cleaning of notice boards – work now completed thanks extended to Cllr Sumpner and a resident.
- iii. Update on resident's complaint following resurfacing of the roads – see 876 above
- iv. Update on responsibility for management of the allotments and fence repairs - see above
- v. Update on resident's complaint regarding delay in connectivity to new broadband supplier. A resident had submitted an enquiry as to why connection to the new broadband service was not progressing, having been told that the delay was due to the Parish Council not giving permission for new poles to be installed. This information was incorrect and the Council have confirmation that there is no delay from our side.
- vi. It was noted that East Riding has refused the village shop's request for a brown sign – this was to comply with revised national guidance for road signs.

879. To consider and resolve any issues relating to the outdoor gym and play equipment

1. To receive monthly inspection report on outdoor gym and agree on any action that may be required - no action required
2. To receive monthly playground inspection report and agree on action that may be required – no action required
3. To confirm and agree to an annual inspection by The Play Inspection Group for 2027 – proposed Cllr Warry seconded Cllr Lonsdale. Resolved.

880. Finance:

- a) To approve accounts and bank reconciliation to date. Proposed Cllr Lonsdale seconded Cllr Rickatson. Resolved.
- b) To approve payments as per schedule 1 – agreed not to renew Microsoft 365 subscription, and move over to the East Riding programme. Resolved.
- c) To approve payments as per schedule 2 – deferred until the end of the meeting in order to be discussed at a closed meeting.
- d) To review budget for current financial year 2026-27 – reviewed no amendments, clerk noted that provision needs to be made in future budgets for replacement of playground equipment.
- e) To agree to adoption of new pay rates issued by NALC for the year 2026-2027. deferred until the end of the meeting in order to be discussed at a closed meeting.
- f) To receive and sign updated street lighting service level agreement and note proposed charges for the current year. Proposed Cllr Lonsdale seconded Cllr Denton. Resolved.

Note slight increase from £1315.98 to £1332.29.

881. Correspondence for consideration and action

- a. Invitation to Town and Parish Meet and Greet Tuesday 13th October 2026 Drifffield Leisure Centre – circulated. Clerk to attend.
- b. Invitation to Financial Training Seminars relating to changes to the Annual Governance and Accountability Return- circulated.
- c. Invitation to comment on updated Proper Practices for Category 2 Authorities (England) – circulated, clerk to draft comments and bring back to next meeting.

882. To agree to a date for the Beck clearing – proposed mid to end of October 10 – 11th or 17-18th.
Message to be put on notice boards and Bishop Wilton chat.

883. To discuss and agree to comments on Planning Applications

26/02222/PLF

Proposal: Erection of a single storey extension to rear

Location: Pine Cottage, Main Street, YO42 1RX

Applicant: Mrs J Corner

Application Type: Full Planning Permission

Proposed no objections. All agreed. Resolved.

26/02278/PLF

Proposal: Erection of a free standing steel framed workshop building (retrospective)

Location: Harch Limited, Unit 10 North Avenue, The Airfield, Common Lane, Full Sutton, YO41 1HS

Applicant: Harsh Limited

Application Type: Full Planning Permission

Proposed no objections. All agreed. Resolved.

8.50pm Meeting closed to the public to consider agenda items 11.c and e

To approve payments as per schedule 2 – all agreed. Resolved.

884. To agree to adoption of new pay rates issued by NALC for the year 2026-2027- Proposed Cllr Warry all agreed resolved.

885. Clerk's annual appraisal meeting agreed 6.30 pm on the 26th October, pay scale to be reviewed and passed to full council for approval.

886. To receive **agenda items** for the next meeting Thursday 26th October 2026 – disposal/retention of salt dispensers and old defibrillator cabinet; co-option of new councillor; allotment fence dispute; budget for 2027-28 and reserves; bus stop sign; invitation to comment on proper practices; Christmas tree and lights, Community Trust representative

Meeting closed 9.00pm

Signed as a true record

Date :

Chairman