**WESTOW**

# PARISH COUNCIL

**Westow Parish Council Meeting – 16th July 2025 – Westow Village Hall**

**Attendees:**

Richard Bannister (RB) Chair; Helen Crews (HC); Angela Fothergill (AF) Clerk; Pennie Hamer (PH); Peter Siswick (PS) Fiona Scarlett (FS) Elizabeth Shields (ES)

**Apologies:**

John Smith (JS) Christine Smith (CS)

**Annual General Meeting**

**Minutes of the last meeting**

The Minutes of the May meeting were proposed as a correct record.

**Matters Arising from Action Log**

**Water leakage at Firby corner –** AF chased this up again on the Parish Portal. It was noted that someone had been out to look at the problem. FS said that she would also chase this up with Highways**. FS to contact Highways in this regard**

**Westow Sign –** AF had heard nothing from North Yorkshire re the replacement sign, AF had emailed North Yorkshire to see if they could return the sign they took as it was not damaged it was only the post that was damagedbut had not had a response. **FS said that she would be happy to contact Highways in this regard.**

**Posts around village green –** Peter Siswick (PS) said that he would be happy to get a quote for some new posts and sand/concrete in regard to the replacement posts on the village green. **PS and RB to liaise and collect the posts etc**

**Clerks Update**

AF had received communication from North Yorkshire re removal or adoption of the village phone box. The PC could adopt the phone box without the phone in it for £1. Further to this PH had received an email to say that after an objection from North Yorkshire BT have made the decision to retain the phone box due to the poor mobile coverage in the Parish. As a result, the opportunity to adopt has been withdrawn.

**Budget and Finance**

Parish Council account balance: £4173.12 (direct debits to E-ON NEXT, £2018 and Scottish Water bus, £14.08) Village Hall account balance: £3045.17 (unchanged)

**Planning Applications**

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| **Various planning applications had been received since the last meeting:-**   * **Mount Farm Westow –** change of use of domestic annex and home studio to 2 no one bedroom holiday lets (retrospective) * **9 Westfield Chapel Lane Westow –** Erection of front porch (retrospective). Erection of two storey side extension and loft conversion with rear dormer. * **Coney Cottage Main St Westow -**Variation of Condition 03 of planning approval 18/00647/FUL dated 12/9/2018 * **Fishers Yard Main St Westow -** Certificate of Lawfulness in respect of the operation of the internet based company that trades cars and light commercial vehicles from the residential dwelling known as Fishers Yard that began more than 10 years before the date of this application   As all the applications had been received between PC meetings communication had taken place between the Councillors and RB had responded to North Yorkshire with the PC’s comments.  Some discussion took place on how best the PC should handle planning applications in the future. To make the process more efficient it was decided that a sub committee consisting of RB, HC and JS would initially look at the planning applications as they came in and if necessary, would communicate with the rest of the Councillors asking for any input they may have and giving them a date that they have to respond by.  As ES does not have email AF agreed to post out the planning applications to her.  It was confirmed that where Parishioners write to the Parish Council in relation to applications, Councillors can chose to take that into account or not, but are not obliged to forward such submissions to the local planning authority.  It was also suggested that a link to the planning applications could be put on the Westow Parish Council website.  **PH to look into how this could be done.**  **School Transport – Firby**  ES had been approached by a resident of Firby who was having some issues with the Council regarding her youngest child who would be starting school in September. Her eldest two children go to Langton School via taxi but the Council are saying that her youngest child cannot benefit from the same school transport as they calculate that Welburn School is the closest in terms of walking distance. The route chosen by NYC to calculate the distance would require her to take her child there across the A64. After much discussion RB said that there is an Appeals process you can go through and ES said that she had already started this. RB said that the PC would be more than happy to provide a letter of support for the Appeal and there was a unanimous vote taken to do so.  **ES to liaise with RB in this regard.**  **Items to be Placed on the Website**  Discussion took place regarding items to be placed on the website especially with regard to planning applications. It was agreed that whilst the website can be an excellent resource for this type of information we need to be consistent with what is uploaded. PH had already agreed to see if links to current applications can be placed onto the website. In addition it was agreed that planning decision notices should also be placed on the website.  The meeting ended at 7.50 p.m.  **The next meeting 10th September 2025 at 6.30 p.m.**  **Items from the Website**  Nothing to report. |
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**The meeting ended at 7.50 p.m.**

**Next Meeting – Wednesday 16th July**