Hunton Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting
held on 16th September 2026 at 7.00pm

16/9/26WJK2ndDraft

Present: **Councillors**
J. Wylie (Chair)
K. Barber
W. Knight
R. Smith
R. Worsdale

Treasurer
K Allison

Three members of the public

Record of the meeting

It was agreed that the meeting would accept alterations to the agenda at the chairman's discretion. This was to allow the meeting to consider late correspondence from outside agencies, which cannot be carried forward to the next meeting, since the council meet by-monthly.

1. **Apologies for Absence**
Dee Lynn (Clerk)

2. **Declarations of interest**
None

3. **Minutes of the Meeting 22nd July 2026**
Motion to adopt the Minutes of 22nd July 2026 as a true and accurate record.
Proposed: Cllr Smith
Seconded: Cllr Worsdale
Passed.

4. **Actions from the previous meeting**

(i) Play park equipment protective metal collars **RS**
Cllr Smith reported that 2 collars have been replaced and he has straightened out 2 more.

(ii) Play park inspection arrangements
The Play park is now being informally inspected on a monthly rota.
Cllr. Knight (September) requested that a check list be assembled to assist the process going forward. **WK**
She reported that the toddler swing 'restraining' bars are starting to crack. This is just shallow crazing on the surface, rather than structural. Cllr Smith stated that, when other elements were replaced the original bucket seats were kept. Agreed to continue to monitor these and to replace when necessary.
Cllr. Knight also reported significant strimmer damage to the wooden posts on the Playdales low climbing circle, north side of beck and suggested that the solution would be to instruct the contractor to leave sufficient space (a few centimetres) away from the supports.
Cllr. Smith stated that the contractor's staff turnover is rapid and so undertook to inform the contractor in writing to avoid close strimming that removes wood from the structure. **RS**

(iii) Newsletter delivery by email
The council would like to encourage residents to receive the Parish Council Newsletter by email. The newsletter will continue to be delivered by hand, by volunteers, to those who prefer a paper copy. However, as previous requests via the hard copy have not resulting in residents opting in to an email delivery, it was agreed that Cllr Wylie would supply to councillors, a list of those who have supplied an email address. Cllrs. Barber and Knight will speak to residents in person to add to the list and to reduce the number requiring delivery by hand. **JW/KB/WK**

(iv) IT package for PC laptop
The PC laptop IT software needs updating. Cllr Smith proposed that a basic Student suite is purchased as a one-off purchase, when the current subscription comes up for renewal, March 2027. **RS**
Proposed: Cllr. Smith
Seconded: Cllr Knight

(v) Bus Shelter
Cllr. Barber reported that the artwork is 2/3rds complete and will be ready for installation in the next few weeks. **KB**

5. Police report
Cllr. Wylie stated that there were no incidents or issues since the last report.

6. Local Planning applications
At the discretion of the Chair the following application was tabled, notification having been received after the agenda was published.
There were no objections or comment from Parish Councillors.

REF: ZD26/00522/Full

(i) Bedale Road naming consultation, response due by 15th September
The council was asked to comment on five names for this development. Cllr. Wylie responded on behalf of the council, with reasons compiled by Cllr. Smith as to why none of the names met with approval. Having done some research, Cllr. Smith suggested 'Bell Garth' as an alternative, the name the land had in the 19th Century.

7. Matters arising from NYC

20mph speed restriction
Residents on Leyburn Road have expressed dismay that the 20mph zone does not extend to the edge of the village. Leyburn Road is subject to 30mph speed limit.
Cllr. Wylie reported that she has had advice from NYC. It was agreed that the residents are informed of this by letter.

Warm spaces
A grant is available to open buildings in the winter. The information has been passed on to the Community Pub.

The Mayor's Local Transport Plan Consultation > York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority. Cllr.Smith stated that he would attend one of the meetings, at the Station, Richmond. The consultation will run from 26th August to 4th November (10 weeks) and can be accessed online.

8 PC business/maintenance
(i) Hunton in Bloom
a. request to site further leaflet box
After discussion with a representative of HinB, it was agreed to remove the existing leaflet box from the memorial and replace it with a larger QR code on that post

and to:
re-site the leaflet box on a post in the border beside the latest bench (west side of play area) initially as a trial in Spring, until Easter. If this causes a litter issue, it will need to be removed.
Proposed: Cllr. Barber
Seconded: Cllr. Knight
Agreed - unanimously

b. Pinfold
The request to put paving onto the verge/entrance and on areas of the pinfold was discussed.
The council refused permission due to a number of concerns:
The verge is part of the highway. Any installation of paving would come under NYC Highways and if allowed and properly engineered, be extremely expensive.
The Pinfold wall is low enough for planting to be enjoyed from the verge.
The gravel is compacted to allow for easy access.
Paving slabs become a slip hazard when wet/slimy and a trip hazard if not bedded in.
The village is well supplied with benches (including the new one for disabled use) and flat grassed areas.
Cllr. Smith agreed to arrange for the replacement of the 2nd rotten gatepost at the entrance. **RS**

(ii) Community Emergency Plan feedback
Cfwd to next meeting.

Cllr. Smith reported that he had access to replacement bags for sand, as the bags themselves rot in daylight. **RS**

(iii) Workday Dates
An autumn date was agreed; Saturday10th October.
Cllr. Worsdale will supply on trailer. Cllr. Wylie will ask Mr I Tunstall for a second. **JW**
Tea, coffee and scones will be supplied **WK**
A list of work will be compiled for the newsletter **Cllrs**

(iv) Election Costs
Cfwd to (viii)

(v) Footpaths
Cfwd to next meeting

(vi) Repairs to and maintenance of grassed triangles outside village hall
Significant damage has occurred to the triangle point to west.
A very heavy, large vehicle has cut the corner, gouging out grass and soil to road level and piling it up in a ridge behind the point.
Cllr. Smith offered to source topsoil and possibly turfs to restore the point. **RS/JW**

(vii) Wildflower planting
Cllr. Smith has volunteered to strim the areas next autumn (the previous work was paid for out of funds raised by the wildflower group. **RS**

(viii) Update on NYC councillor.
The councillor representing the interests of Hunton Parish is standing down at the next election, having been uncontactable for many months. This caused the Parish Council considerable concern, particularly when dealing with various issues and without a point of contact to take concerns forward. A formal complaint was made to NYC.
Cllr. Wylie reported that the leader of NYC, Cllr Carl Les, had been in contact and the result of that advice is:

Cllr. Tom Jones will, given the short timescale to the beginning of the election cycle, serve out his term, as an investigation triggered by a formal complaint will take many months. It would therefore be unlikely that the issue of representation could be resolved before Cllr. Jones stands down. The question of election expenses for the Parish Council has been answered as that will be combined with wider NYC election in 2027, thus minimising the expense to the Parish Council finances.
Meanwhile Cllr. Les has stepped in as the point of contact for the Parish Council, for any matters that need representational advice.

(xi) New bins

Cllr Wylie reported that a number of residents have said they do not need large recycling bins.
The reasons given are:

- Small household
- Nowhere to store the bins (most households have up to 4 large bins and small front gardens/areas.

NYC encourage residents to trial the bins over coming months.
If residents wish at the end of the period, they may request a smaller bin, free of charge. However, the smaller bins are as tall, but slimline, and should the original size be required in future, a charge will be incurred to revert.
Cllr. Wylie suggested that residents be informed of the situation, as one resident understood a charge would be incurred for a smaller slim bin, which is not the case.
Information to be included in the newsletter **JW**

9. **Finance**

(i) Items of expenditure to consider since 22/7/26.

Kathleen Allison reported little change at this stage in the year and no significant unplanned expenditure.

(ii) Finance Report

The detailed report included all items of planned expenditure against precept budget in place, and no individual items are predicted to exceed budgets.

Predicted outturn to the end of the financial year is £5,332.73 (83% of the 26/27 precept). The largest area of predicted future expenditure (tree work on the green areas as necessary), is included in this financial buffer.
Cllr Wylie reported that new defibrillator battery is to be ordered, covered by the existing budget.

The Treasurer was thanked for her report, members of the public for attending, and the meeting closed at 8.10pm