

WHORLTON PARISH
MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD AT SWAINBY VILLAGE HALL, SWAINBY
ON TUESDAY 19TH MAY 2026 AT 7PM

PRESENT: 7 residents and councillors Dolly Hannon (Chair), Jem Beadle, Steve Brisley, Jonathan Skidmore and Susie Warriner. Clerk: Angela Livingstone

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

2. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 MAY 2025

The Chair questioned if all present agreed the minutes of the 14 May 2025, these were available on the website. Minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.

3. CHAIR OF THE PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The Chair read out her report (full report attached below), she informed of three key aims for the future during the past year – an application for public Rights of Way (DMMO); the development of a car park with EV charging station on the school site; the provision of Interpretation Boards. To date there was only an interim report on the Public Rights of Way, the officer had proposed all but the Scugdale route, the timeframe on this was still unknown. The car park still awaited a new electric supply meter to be installed and the Interpretation boards were almost complete with support from residents but due to the delays with the car park this was on hold.

There was the need for additional volunteers for the Swainby Playing Field committee to help maintain the playing field. Minor repairs were needed highlighted on the annual RoSPA inspection and help with gardening. The Annual Sports Day still needed more support and a date was not yet set.

Future objectives for the Parish Council were at present to complete the ongoing projects mentioned.

The Chair informed that the finances still showed a healthy budget supported by a grant received during covid. Support and responsibilities from the National Park ranger and the County Council had reduced and the Parish Council had supported the village with purchasing and installing a replacement street sign at Whorlton (£155), and employed our own handyman on a casual basis, who repaired the access ramp on the footbridge and bridge repairs (£286). As resources were slowly depleting there had been the need to increase the precept for the first time in the past 5 years by 5%.

Thanks were given to the Clerk for her work, Jem for keeping the green spaces tidy and the toilets functioning.

4. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

A resident stated that they appreciated that the Parish Council had limited powers, but wanted to note three things of concern. The horrendous parking, the increase in camper vans parking on the small village roads and the increase in rental homes. She talked of the decline in permanent residency and questioned that NYMNPAs should be looking into visitor parking. The Chair reminded of the awaited car park at Claver Close. It was felt by residents that this was only used by the residents living there. The Chair informed that when the car park was handed over to the Parish Council there would be signage erected to show this as a public parking area.

A resident commented on concerns of large machinery and silage with the works which were accessed through the village.

A resident commented on concerns of electric wires causing a trip hazard with people charging their cars across the public footpath.

A resident talked of their concern of the speeding through the village. It was reminded that the Parish Council had previously organised speed tubes to check the speeds and the information showed a low number speeding. The Chair informed that the council was a part of 20's Plenty and supported this. The Clerk informed that North Yorkshire council were looking at 20mph limits and reducing speeds but only outside of school sites at present.

Residents talked of a lack of respect for others in the village. There were residents parking on the pavement, Councillors advised they had been asked to park differently. Residents commented that it was impossible to safely pass on the pavement and the Chair agreed to request Police support and encourage people to report the obstruction on the pavement to Police.

The Chair agreed to remind residents of the issues of blocking the narrow roads with camper vans in the newsletter.

A resident commented on the incidents at the old castle. Councillors advised that the Parish Council had with English Heritage offered to support opening up the area at the castle but the owner had rejected this when it was found that the landowner would need to pay the public liability insurance. Residents talked of concerns of accidents on the site and queried if Rishi Sunak might support having this local treasure re-opened for the public.

Residents stated thanks to the Parish Council for the work completed across the village and for the newsletters emailed out.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS There were no items of any other business.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING The next Parish Assembly was to be arranged for next May.

Adopted: _____ Date: _____

Chair of Whorlton Parish Council

WHORLTON PARISH COUNCIL

REPORT FOR ANNUAL ASSEMBLY MAY 2026

Councillors last year noted three key aims for the future – an application for public Rights of Way (DMMO); the development of a car park with EV charging station on the school site; the provision of Interpretation Boards.

All of these are on the point of being delivered, but not without considerable delay and frustration due to matters which are not in the Council's control.

RIGHTS OF WAY

The Inspector's report was finally received in December 2025 following the Public Inquiry held the previous March. Based on the evidence presented to him during the 2 week Inquiry, he proposes allowing our application for public Byways (open to walkers, horse riders and cyclist, no motorised vehicles) up through and around Clain Woods and over Whorlton Moor. He proposes not to accept the route across Scugdale Live Moor.

However, this is an interim report for which objections were invited during January 2026. The Parish Council accepts his proposals and did not offer any objections.

The Inspector is now reviewing any responses. He has the option to either confirm his initial proposals, hold a 'written hearing' to address them remotely, or hold a second Public Inquiry. There is no timeline for his decision and we still await his response.

CLAVER CLOSE CAR PARK

This project has been challenging at every turn and continues to be so. Replacement cabling to supply a standard meter instead of the previously expensive industrial 'half-hour' meter has now been installed. Brierley Homes has to date paid the costs for the necessary upgrades but we still require installation of a contactless pay point for the Electric Vehicle facility to meet regulations for a public car park. They obtained planning consent for this but it needs to be in place before the Parish Council will accept handover.

The PC has instructed a solicitor who will commence conveyancing as soon as the site is acceptable. We have also purchased appropriate signage ready to install on site.

INTERPRETATION BOARDS

Councillors have agreed final drafts for the two boards and provided all the information, images and illustrations to be included. Thanks to Carol Cook of the Local History Group and Fay Chetwood for their input into this project. The designer is now working up final presentations.

As it is intended that one of these boards will be located at Claver Close car park, installation can only be completed once that site is in the Council's ownership. The other will be installed at the same time on the river bank in the vicinity of the Church.

SWAINBY PLAYING FIELD AND SPORTS DAY

The committee requires more volunteers to help maintain the playing field, please contact Jonathan (cldr.skidmore.wpc@gmail.com or 07771941728) We have minor repairs to do following the annual ROSPA report, there is always gardening help required with the wild flower meadow, and especially help with the annual Sports Day – date in July to be announced.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

Needless to say, these will be to complete on-going projects:

- to implement the Inspector's final proposals for new Rights of Way. This will entail working with the National Park rangers for appropriate signage and access.
- to adopt Claver Close car park with a functioning EV charging station. This will entail finding a suitable electric supplier and a contract with a back-office administrator to handle customer payment and invoicing
- to install two interpretation boards for the benefit to visitors to the village, informing them of some of the history of Swainby and recommending routes for hiking and circular walks.

PRECEPT

The Council has held a healthy budget supported by a grant received during covid. However, routine maintenance and repair tasks, such as on the footpath and road networks which are normally referred to either the National Park ranger or the County Council. We are disappointed to find that neither of these bodies are now willing to accept responsibility so we have consequently taken this work on ourselves. We recently purchased and installed a replacement street sign at Whorlton (£155), and have now employed our own handyman on a casual basis, who repaired the access ramp on the footbridge and bridge repairs (£286). Given the above, councillors reluctantly determined that we need to increase the precept, the first increase for 5 years. Your recent council tax notice will have indicated by 5%.

Finally, thanks as always to the ever competent work of our Clerk Angela who ensures we work within the rules and regulations required by local councils, and to Jem for his sterling work in keeping our green spaces tidy and the toilets functioning. And thank you all for attending, Councillors are always happy for your feedback, whether this be a complaint about something we have done, or suggestions for something we should be doing.

Dolly Hannon
Chair