

AYSGARTH & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 12th February 2026 At Aysgarth Institute at 7.30pm

Present: Parish Cllrs: John Dinsdale (Chair), Linda Cooper, Frances Colston, Rob Cromey-Hawke, Chris Parker, Alison Sayer, Robert Walker, Sandra Wilman, Peter Windle, David Wood

In Attendance: Mrs F Cartwright - Parish Council Clerk
Mrs P Pointon - Website Administrator

Members of the public: 4

1. **Consideration of Apologies for Absence** - None
2. **Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on** - The minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2026 were approved as a true and correct record.
3. **Declaration of interest** - Cllr Cooper declared an interest in Item 12 Grass Cutting
4. **Matters arising from the last meeting** - None
5. **Highways/Street Lights/Bins**
 - **Rookery Bridge, Bishopdale** - Cllr Dinsdale reported that the meeting with Highways held on 30.01.26 at YDNPA offices and attended by himself along with Cllrs Sayer and Windle was positive. More details would be available over coming months.
 - **Mill Lane, Aysgarth** - Cllr Dinsdale had taken the opportunity to enquire about the scheme which had been promised a number of years ago at a village site meeting. Highways confirmed that the officer who had attended the meeting had since left NYC and they would look into it.
 - **Application to divert footpath 20.97/11 (part) at Littleburn, Thoralby** - The Parish Council considered the plan received on the e mail dated 05.02.26 from YDNPA. **RESOLVED** - The Parish Council had no objections to the application and considered it to be a reasonable request. **Action - Clerk to respond to YDNPA.**
 - **Light, Thornton Rust** - Cllr Dinsdale had received an enquiry from a Thornton Rust resident regarding the street light outage previously reported by Cllr Cromey-Hawke. The Clerk confirmed that she had received an acknowledgement from NYC following the reporting of DP75 (X6) near DL8 3AP.
 - **Dog Bin, Thornton Rust** - **RESOLVED** - **Action - Clerk to chase NYC regarding previously agreed dog bin.**
 - **Car Parked on Triangle of Village Green, Thoralby** - Thoralby Councillors reported that a car was repeatedly being parked on the village green near Low Green House. **RESOLVED** - **Action - Clerk to write to the household to make them aware of the village green status and to ask them not to park vehicles.**

6. Financial Matters

6.1 The council resolved to authorise the following payments:

Date/Inv #/Chq	Payee	£	Description
101128	F Cartwright	188.98	Clerk Pay - February 26

101129	F Cartwright	16.00	Clerk Expenses - February 26 inc. stationery
-	Aysgarth Institute	96.00	Room Hire for Meetings 2025 (8 x £12)
0003	Parish Online	312.00	Gov.uk compliant web/e mail to 17.12.26
9812498	Business Stream	14.84	Rock Garden Water 29.10.25 - 28.01.26
Total		£627.82	

RESOLVED - The Parish Council also approved the P32 HMRC PAYE for Q3 ending 05.01.26 for £378.00 (due 22.01.26) which was received after the agenda was circulated.

6.2 Income Received (excluding bank interest) since the 08.01.26 Meeting:

Date	Remitter/Ref	£	Description
19.01.26	RPA No 2	5,429.20	RPA Thoraby Moss
Total		£5,429.20	

The Clerk reported that she had not received a remittance. WBW (the land agent) had however been in contact on 12.02.26 to advise that the £5,429.20 was £285.75 short due to a late filing penalty. WBW have arranged a bank transfer to the Parish Council dated 13.02.26 to compensate. The Clerk had taken the opportunity to check that the underpayment was not due to the land not being grazed (WBW confirmed it was due to their late submission) and the Clerk had also asked for an update on the separate grazing matter.

6.3 The latest bank statements were made available for review.

The Clerk asked whether the Parish Council would like the Clerk to make contact with Jo Reynold to ask if she would be available to audit the 2025/26 Accounts. **RESOLVED - Clerk to action.**

7. Planning - To consider the following Planning Applications:

The Parish Council will not tolerate rude, abusive or threatening behaviour

New Applications - None

Additional Information notified by YDNPA

R/51/60G - Full planning permission for erection of timber workshop on area of land currently used as a playground in connection with the existing campsite at Town Ends, Aysgarth, DL8 3AQ (**29.01.26 YDNPA advised of letter & photos of other properties in Aysgarth received from the planning applicant in response to the Parish Council's objection**)

At the 08.01.26 Parish Council meeting, the Parish Council resolved to object to the planning application on the following grounds:

The Parish Council considered that the proposed building is in an inappropriate location, is larger than necessary for its stated purpose, would have an unacceptably intrusive impact on the appearance of the area, raises unresolved concerns about drainage and flood risk, and appears to represent a further intensification of use that has not been clearly explained or justified.

The Planning applicants and relatives attended the 12.02.26 Parish Council meeting.

CLlr Windle addressed the meeting:

He raised points on the photographs of the Aysgarth residents properties which had been taken by the planning applicant and provided as additional information to the application on the YDNPA website. By way of background he explained that the Local Plans commenced around 2006 and were consolidated into the current plan in December 2016, (2015/2030). The majority of photographs depict in some cases nothing of relevance for example cars parked and open fields. Then authorised farmyard animal barns/mistals, the local Garage/shop, Aysgarth Falls Hotel development and the George & Dragon Public House) along with other permitted developments. The rest with one exception, existed prior to the implementation of the Local Plans and well over 25/50 years ago.

The one exception being Dales View, Aysgarth (junction of Thornton Road and A684) possibly erected contrary to planning and already the subject of involvement by the YDNPA planning department.

CLlr Cromey-Hawke addressed the meeting:

I have reviewed and considered the additional information submitted by the applicant in response to the Parish Council's objection agreed at the last meeting. At the outset, I feel it is important to state that the Parish Council is fully supportive of the local community as a whole, which includes the continued success and sustainability of businesses within the parish. I believe the Council's role, however, is to balance that support with its responsibility to consider the wider impacts on the character, environment and amenity of the area. While the additional submission provides further explanation of the business's operational preferences, I believe it does not materially change the concerns that led to the Parish Council's original decision.

Need: The applicant explains why the building would be useful, particularly in relation to storage, staffing arrangements and Health and Safety considerations. However, this still does not demonstrate why a building of this size is necessary, nor why a smaller or less intrusive option would not meet those needs. Particularly, I noted that part of the scale justification relies on a "confidential annex" detailing equipment to be stored. As this information is not available for public or parish scrutiny, it cannot be given significant weight in the Parish Council's assessment of proportionality.

Siting: Alternative locations within the site are discussed, but they are discounted mainly on the basis of commercial impact and convenience, such as loss of pitches or revenue, rather than on clear planning constraints. As such, I remain unconvinced that the proposed location is the most appropriate option.

Services - power: The submission confirms the intention to store e-bikes and an electric wheelchair, which reinforces concerns around servicing and power requirements. Furthermore, no information has been provided in the original application or this subsequent letter on how these services would be delivered, leaving the proposal under-specified. In fact, the Tree impact assessment (AIA) states no excavation or service trenches within the RPAs will occur.

Drainage: In relation to drainage and flood risk, the applicant expresses a willingness to accept conditions, but does not provide clear, site-specific drainage details, and previously identified inconsistencies in the application form remain unresolved (namely that "surface water - in this case from guttering and concrete padstone floor - will drain into an existing water course" but stated "there is not one within 20m").

Visual impact: On landscape impact, comparisons are made with other buildings elsewhere in the village. I believe that each proposal must be considered on its own setting and context, and that the proposed need for additional screening indicates the building would have a visual presence in what is currently an open part of the campsite.

Intensification: While the applicant states that there is no intensification of use, the information provided confirms expanded operations, including additional staff, equipment and visitor facilities, which in my view does amount to intensification.

The Planning Applicants and relatives addressed the meeting:

Despite not contacting the Parish Council formally prior to 12.02.26 meeting the Planning Applicants did make the point that they wanted to work with the Parish Council. They expanded on their application by saying that the

workshop was required as currently their equipment is uninsured. They cannot continue to have an outdoor children's play area due to liability risks. They do not want to locate the workshop in another area of the property as they do not want to impair views for their customers who visit to walk the Herriot Way. They feel that locating the workshop at the front of the property is discreet and do not feel that the view will be impaired for people walking/driving past because in their view they do not feel that people walk past the property and those that drive past on the A684 are usually exceeding the 30MPH speed limit. The applicant did confirm that there will be no electricity required for the Workshop as they have silent generators. They do not consider the property is at risk of flood. The applicants are willing to screen the workshop off with foliage and are also willing to have a condition imposed that the workshop be taken down should the business cease.

The Parish Council argued that residents and visitors do walk past the property given it is the main gateway into/out of Aysgarth main village and is the main road route to the Doctors Surgery, Aysgarth Falls Hotel, Aysgarth Falls, etc.

The planning applicant provided a list of the confidential items which would be stored in the workshop. They invited the Parish Council to visit the property. The Parish Council did not feel the need to visit given the close proximity of the proposed workshop to the public footpath.

Cllr Wood commented that it had not been noted in the 08.01.26 Parish Council meeting minutes that he had supported the application at that meeting. The Clerk pointed out that where there is a majority vote the Parish Council don't minute individual votes unless specifically requested and Cllr Wood had not requested this at 08.01.26 meeting. Furthermore the 08.01.26 minutes had been approved by all Councillors including Cllr Wood at the start of 12.02.26 meeting (Item 2). The Clerk agreed to note that Cllr Wood supported the application in the 12.02.26 minutes. At the 08.01.26 meeting, of the 10 Parish Councillors, 8 Parish Councillors objected to the planning application, Cllr Wood supported and one Parish Councillor was not present at the meeting.

Cllr Walker said that applicant did not formally engage with the Parish Council prior to submitting the application. Had early engagement taken place, this Parish Council would likely have been able to offer constructive, informal engagement.

The Parish Council did not feel in a position to review their previous decision to object at the 12.02.26 meeting. **RESOLVED - Action Clerk to apply to YDNPA for an extension to Friday 03.04.26 so that the Parish Council could consider again at Thursday 02.04.26 Parish Council meeting.**

The Chairman and Clerk thanked the planning applicant for coming to the meeting.

The previously considered planning applications are showing on the YDNPA Citizens Portal as:

Approved - Conditional

R/57/14C /LB - Listed building consent for internal and external alterations, including replacement of windows at Edward Wilkinson House (formerly The Cottage), Newbiggin, Bishopdale, DL8 3TD **(Approved Conditional 12.01.26)**

R/57/14D/LB - Section 19 application to vary Condition 2 (approved drawings) of R/57/14C/LB (Listed building consent for internal and external alterations, including replacement of windows) for change of floor details from proposed build up with limestone to traditional structural slab for structural and waterproofing reasons at Edward Wilkinson House, Newbiggin in Bishopdale, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 3TD **(Approved Conditional 12.01.26)**

Withdrawn

R/53/24H - Full planning permission for conversion of barn with infill extension to create a games room, WC, laundry & drying room, plus an educational/social area at Ribba Hall, Bishopdale, DL8 3TG **(Withdrawn 19.01.26. Case Closed).**

Under Consideration

R/51/42L - Full planning permission for change of use of agricultural land to allow siting of 2 Shepherds huts to provide short-term holiday accommodation, with landscaping and boundary treatment at Home Farm, Aysgarth

R/53/15E - Full planning permission for conversion of barn to local occupancy dwelling/holiday accommodation and installation of Klargestor package treatment plant and ASHP at New House Farm, Bishopdale Lane, Bishopdale, DL8 3TG

R/53/15F/LB - Listed building consent for conversion of barn to local occupancy dwelling/holiday accommodation and installation of Klargestor package treatment plant and ASHP at New House Farm, Bishopdale Lane, Bishopdale, DL8 3TG

8. (Standing Item) Thoralby Moss and Thornton Mire (circulated)

- **Serious Problems in Thornton Rust re Yorkshire Water Services** - recurring loss of water pressure affecting the whole village of Thornton Rust

The Clerk and Cllr Cromey-Hawke had not received contact from District Cllr Peacock's senior contact at Yorkshire Water or any other contact from YW. **RESOLVED - Action - Clerk to ask for an update from District Cllr Peacock.**

9. (Standing Item) Edwardian Rock Garden, Aysgarth

- **Risk Assessment 2026** - The Clerk advised the Risk Assessment Review was due in April 26. **RESOLVED - Action - The Chairman & Clerk to arrange a date to visit the Rock Garden and update the Risk Assessment.**

10. Gov.uk Parish Council Website Domain & Clerk/Cllr E Mail Addresses (Circulated)

RESOLVED - The Parish Council agreed to go live with the new Parish Council website aysgarthanddistrict-pc.gov.uk with immediate effect. The Parish Council thanked Pip Pointon and Carol Haynes for all of the good work done on the previous Parish Council website over a number of years. Pip Pointon suggested that the current website be taken down on Monday 16.02.26. **RESOLVED** - The Parish Council agreed. **Action - Pip to make necessary arrangements. Cllr Cromey-Hawke to respond to Thornton Rust resident e mail dated 24.01.26 confirming arrangements for obtaining the 1 year of non-Parish Council Thornton Rust documents which would be available for download until 16.02.26. Clerk to arrange thank you cards.**

11. Insurance Renewal Information Request (Circulated - Due 01.04.26)

The Parish Council reviewed the form and noted the water feature at the Edwardian Rock Garden and the Bus Shelter in Aysgarth. **RESOLVED - Action - Clerk to submit the form to AJG insurance.**

12. Urban Grass Cutting/Grass Cutting 2026

Highway Asset Management (HAM) Urban Grass Cutting - The Parish Council reviewed the e-mailed letter dated 09.01.26 from HAM. **RESOLVED** - The Parish Council decided not to take on responsibility for cutting vis-plays etc. **Action - Clerk to confirm in writing to HAM.**

Village Green Grass Cutting - The Parish Council discussed the quote 01/2026 received from Mark Cooper for £5,250 plus VAT (for up to 10 cuts) of the village greens in Aysgarth, Thornton Rust and Thoralby in 2026. **RESOLVED** - The quote was approved. **Action - Clerk to confirm in writing to Mark Cooper.**

13. Joint Cemetery Management Committee (Circulated)

The Parish Council reviewed the Accounts for YE 2024 and 2025 and estimated forecast to March 26 which had been received from the Clerk of the Joint Cemetery Committee on 04.02.26. **RESOLVED** - The Parish Council agreed

to reconsider (with a view to potentially making a financial contribution) when the Precept arrangements were being made in November 2026 for 2027/28.

14. Avril Douglas Memorial Bench

Cllr Dinsdale updated the meeting that he had found a nice bench at a cost of £899.00 which could be delivered by Friday 21.02.26. RESOLVED - The Parish Council approved the purchase. Further arrangements would need to be made for engraving a plaque and for it to have a suitable base for siting on the War Memorial Village Green in proximity to Avril and Bill Douglas's past home at Aries in Aysgarth.

15. Annual Parish Meeting 2026 Dates

The Annual Parish Meetings would take place in the respective village halls on the following dates/times:

Parish	Day	Date	Time
Thornton Rust	Thursday	12.03.26	7.00pm
Thoralby/Newbiggin/Bishopdale	Wednesday	18.03.26	7.00pm
Aysgarth	Wednesday	25.03.26	7.30pm

16. Correspondence (Circulated) E mail dated:

The Parish Council considered the correspondence received and commented as indicated below in bold:

- 07.01.26 from Parish Online - Gov.uk website and e mail addresses & passwords
- 09.01.26 from Cllr Peacock - request for Cllr Cromey-Hawke e mail address for Yorkshire Water e mail
- 09.01.26 from HAM - Urban Grass Cutting 2026/27 (Item # 5)
- 11.01.26 from Clerk to Thoralby with Newbiggin & Bishopdale Annual 'Parish' Meeting
- 11.01.26 from NYC - Confirmation of Clerk report of Light X6 (DP75) outage at Thornton Rust DL8 3AP
- 14.01.26 from NYC Parish Liaison - Future Ready Fuel Campaign
- 14.01.26 from Area 1 Highways - Parish Workshop Update
- 14.01.26 from NYC Parish Liaison - Invitation to Civic Service and Networking Event 22.02.26
- 14.01.26 from Area 1 Highways & NYC - Road Closure for urgent vegetation and trees removal works Thornton Rust Hospital and Springs Retaining wall, Main Street, Thornton Rust DL8 3AW
- 14.01.26 from NYC Parish Liaison - Garden Waste Collection 2026
- 14.01.26 from NYC - North Yorkshire Boundary Review - Final Recommendations
- 17.01.26 from Pip Pointon - Querying arrangements for new gov.uk website (Item # 10)
- 20.01.26 from NYC - Upper Dales Mobile HWRC dates for 2026 - Aysgarth - Saturday 19.09.26 9.00am - 10.30am
- 20.01.26 from NYC Parish Liaison - Age-friendly Town and Parish Guide
- 23.01.26 from NYC Parish Liaison - Proposed Consultation on the Council's draft Local Planning Enforcement Plan
- 23.01.26 from YLCA - Richmondshire Branch Meeting on 05.02.26 at 7pm
- 24.01.26 from Thornton Rust resident - enquiring about forthcoming changes to the Parish Council website (in response to an e mail sent by Pip Pointon 21.01.26) (Item # 10)
- 27.01.26 from Area 1 Highways - Planned Road Closure Notification - Aysgarth to Thornton Rust Road
- 27.01.26 from NYC Parish Liaison - Local Planning Enforcement Plan Consultation – Open
- 28.01.26 from NYC Parish Liaison - Monthly Update January 2026
- 02.02.26 from NYC - Spring Parish Forum April/May 2026
- 02.02.26 from Clerk to Aysgarth & Thornton Rust Annual 'Parish' Meetings
- 04.02.26 from Clerk to Joint Cemetery Management Committee - Accounts and wall repair costs (Item # 13)

- 04.02.26 from YDNPA Rights of Way Officer - Application to divert footpath 20.97/11 (part) at Littleburn, Thoraby (Item # 5)
- 06.02.26 from Rotary Club, Richmond - Best Kept Village Competition

17. Any Other Business

Bishopdale - Planning/Environmental/ Firearm Matters - E mail received dated 11.02.26 - The Clerk read out an e mail from a Bishopdale resident which had been received via Cllr Sayer on 12.02.26 after the agenda for the meeting had been circulated. The resident had requested that alleged planning, environmental and firearms matters which are being investigated by the relevant authorities be logged by the Parish Council.

Thoraby Defibrillator - Cllr Wilman updated the meeting that Cllr Parker had kindly looked at the defibrillator and found that the connection was burnt out on the heat pad. An electrician in Thoraby was looking to see if this could be repaired. In the mean-time Cllr Wilman's mobile number was on a note on the Defibrillator. The Parish Council thanked Cllr Parker and Wilman.

Satellite Phone/Walkie Talkies - Following the power outage in Thoraby and surrounding villages in February, Cllr Cooper said that she had received an enquiry about the satellite phone/walkie talkies. **RESOLVED - Cllr Cooper to invite interested Thoraby residents to the 02.04.26 Parish Council meeting to discuss roll out.**

Meeting closed at 10pm

**Date of next scheduled Parish Council Meeting - Thursday 2nd April 26 at 7.30pm at Aysgarth Institute
The Parish Council will not tolerate rude, abusive or threatening behaviour**