

**A MEETING OF COPMANTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL was held on TUESDAY,
11TH FEBRUARY 2025 in the HOWELL HALL, SCHOOL LANE, COPMANTHORPE, YORK
at 7.30 pm**

PRESENT: **COUNCILLOR GRAHAM AUTON** **Chairman**
COUNCILLOR MIKE BIRTILL
COUNCILLOR STEVE JOHNSON
COUNCILLOR LARS KRAMM
COUNCILLOR DAVID SMITH
COUNCILLOR CHRIS STEWARD
COUNCILLOR MRS MEGAN TAYLOR
COUNCILLOR ROBERT WEST
COUNCILLOR DAVID WILCOCK
COUNCILLOR NEIL WILKINSON

Mrs P Diane Greenwell **Clerk**
Two members of the public

Before the business of the Meeting began a resident raised a number of issues in relation to: a large tree on Sawyers Crescent (which apparently belongs to someone other than the owner of the property upon which it stands); the possibility of lighting on the path behind the school (a matter for CYC); work on some of the very old graves in the burial ground (which may commence when the weather improves); and approaches made to residents by dubious tradesmen (a matter for the police)

Mr Simon Bowen presented his suggestions for the Photographic Competition and the Village Photographic Archive. Most people are probably unaware of the existence of the archive, or how they might access it. This could be made available online, either as a stand alone website, or part of the Parish Council's site. There are approx. 2,000 photographs, so this would be a major task, and one which the Parish Council does not have the resources to undertake. However the Parish Council would support any group of resident who might wish to take this on as a project. Mr Bowen will take steps to see if there might be any interest from residents in doing this.

It is acknowledged that the Photographic Competition needs to be rebranded and more effectively promoted for next year. Judging of this year's photographs will take place next Thursday, between 5.30 and 7.00 pm.

1. APOLOGIES

None.

2. ELECTION OF COMMITTEES, LIAISON ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES

The Clerk had circulated a NALC Advice Note on this subject. Cllr Mrs Taylor PROPOSED that we have three Committees (Finance and Risk Management, Planning and Environment – (the latter to replace Allotments and Green Spaces). SECONDED by Cllr Birtill. ALL IN FAVOUR. Cllr Kramm will draw up Terms of Reference for each Committee, and membership will be agreed at the March Parish Council Meeting.

Cllr
Kramm

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST and DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Wilcock declared an Interest under Item 8a.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on 14th JANUARY 2025, having been previously circulated, were PROPOSED by Cllr Steve Johnson as a true and correct record of that Meeting. SECONDED by Cllr Mike Birtill. ALL IN FAVOUR.**5. NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE**

No Monthly Report for January had been received. However it is understood that an individual has been knocking on doors at 2.00 am, allegedly looking for a bed for the night. It is not known whether this has been reported to the police.

Anti-theft cycle marking by the police has been arranged, to be held in the Howell Hall on 10 May, 10.00am – 12.00 noon. This will also be an opportunity for residents to meet with the local police officers and PCSOs. Information on this will appear in the PC green insert in the March edition of the Village Newsletter.

6. ACTION REVIEW

A majority of Members have now set up their new email addresses.

7. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Parish Council appoints Mr Barry Riley to carry out the Internal Audit for 2024-25 for a fee of £400. The Clerk will meet with Mr Riley in the spring.

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**a) Planning**

The Monthly Report has been circulated.

Having declared an Interest, Cllr Wilcock left the Meeting whilst his request in respect of a small piece of highways land between his property and the neighbouring house was discussed. The Parish Council has no objection in principle to him formally taking ownership of this land, which has been used for parking by previous owners of his house for many years, but will write to the owner of the adjacent property to seek her written assurance that she has no objection to this. Assuming this is received, the Clerk will write to CYC with a formal response.

Clerk

b) Roads and Footpaths

The condition of the village roads continues to deteriorate. Particular mention is made of The Link where, due to parked vehicles, all moving traffic is using one side of the road, with consequential increased wear and damage.

Following recent storms and high winds, there are some fallen branches on the Top Lane/Low Green footpath which need to be removed.

Cllr
Auton

CYC are consolidating a number of requests for VAS signs, and this should lead

to much more cost effective solutions.

It was suggested that “No Right Turn” on the road surface at the top of the slip road would help to prevent vehicles from turning onto Manor Heath instead of going around the roundabout, crossing the flyover, and then turning left. The Clerk will write to Highways England.

Clerk

c) Finance and Risk Management

No meeting has been held.

Additional signatories are needed for the bank account, and it was RESOLVED that Cllrs Steward and Wilkinson be added to the mandate, and Cllrs Carr, Duffy and Mrs Magson be removed (as had been previously requested by the Clerk).

To enable online payments to be made Cllr Auton and the Clerk will be the primary authorisers, with Cllrs West and Wilkinson also available to authorise payments.

d) Allotments and Green Spaces

No meeting has been held.

Two Irish oak trees will be planted on the grassed area on St Giles Way next Monday.

A number of areas have been identified as suitable for wildflower planting.

9. COPMANTHORPE WARD

A vote will be taken on the Local Plan on 27th February. It is expected that this will be approved. Cllr Mrs Taylor noted that the Neighbourhood Plan has finally been submitted for examination.

10. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT IN THE VILLAGE CENTRE

Parking on Main Street close to the junction with School Lane and opposite Little Acorns is becoming more of a problem. A Working Party will be formed to consider what measures might be taken to alleviate this, as well as the difficulties for pedestrians seeking to cross the road and the entire traffic situation in this central part of the village. Defer to next month.

11. CONSERVATION AREA

A number of Councillors had walked around the Conservation Area with a member of the York Civic Trust, who did not feel that there would be much benefit extending the Area as it is currently designated. However some interesting properties could perhaps be added to the Local List.

12. YORKFIELD LANE and the TADCASTER ROAD SITE

Following the inadequate response from CYC to recent FOI requests in relation to the process by which a large amount of Sec 106 monies were allocated to Askham Bog, Cllr Auton has raised our concerns with the Information Commissioner's Office.

CYC have also been asked to investigate the encroachment onto Yorkfield Lane by a number of properties in Gardeners Close, which in some cases is quite significant and reduces the width of the Lane to considerably less than the statutory 7.6m.

An old gate post at the entrance to Section A-B of Yorkfield Lane is failing and in need of support. The contractor who recently supplied the new post for the gate at the allotments site will be contacted.

Cllr
Auton

13. MOOR LANE SITE

As Barratts have recently commenced work on the Moor Lane site, a meeting will be arranged with the Contracts Manager for the site, next Thursday at 4.30 pm (tbc). Cllrs Auton, West, Wilkinson and Mrs Taylor will attend.

Clerk

14. CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS

A Working Party will be established at the next Parish Council meeting to discuss the options for replacing/refurbishing the Christmas lights.

15. HERITAGE TRAIL

A second draft has been received for consideration by the Parish Council. In general, members are very happy with the design, but a few alterations are still required. Cllr Auton will take these back to the designer.

Cllr
Auton

16. ACCOUNTS

Balances at the Bank

Business Current Account	£	5,359.38
Business Money Manager Account		58,596.67

£ 63,956.05

Credits to the Account this Month

Interest on Business M/Mgr a/c	£	257.13
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£ 257.13

Accounts to be Paid this Month

D-Tail Plants – 2 x Irish oak trees	£	170.00
YLCA – Clerk and 2 x Cllr training		87.70
Graham Auton – ink cartridges		30.97
P D Greenwell – salary		497.32

£ 785.99

Bank charges for month to 24 December 2024 - £20.00.

17. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Items and information to go in the notice board
Photographic competition – rebranding and promotion for next year

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Tuesday, 11th March 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Howell Hall. This will be preceded by a Meeting of the Planning Committee at 7.00 pm.

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Tuesday, 18th March 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Howell Hall.

An interim Meeting of the Planning Committee will take place on Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Signed Date