



Copmanthorpe Parish Council

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COPMANTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD on TUESDAY, 8th SEPTEMBER 2026 in HOWELL HALL, SCHOOL LANE at 7.30 pm

Cllr. Taylor agreed to take the minutes of this meeting.

PRESENT: Cllr. G Auton
Cllr. C. Steward
Cllr. N. Wilkinson
Cllr. D. Smith
Cllr. M. Taylor
Cllr. C. Quin
Cllr. S. Johnson
Cllr. L. Kramm
Cllr. R. West

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. D. Wilcock

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr. G Auton declared an interest in the Burial Ground tree work.

Cllrs. Auton and Taylor declared an interest in Howell Hall.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on 11th AUGUST 2026,

Proposed by Cllr. Kramm and seconded by Cllr. Johnson, the minutes were so approved.

4. ACTION REVIEW

Cllr. Auton has written to the resident who enquired about installing a 'Wind Phone' and explained the PC's decision.

Cllr. Auton has replied to the FOI request, explaining that we have no such records

Cllr. Taylor has still to see Mr D Whiteman about his tree proposal

All councillors have still to send emergency contact details to Cllr. Taylor

Cllr Taylor has replied to the resident concerned about future tree planting at Manor Farm

Cllr. Quin is in discussion with Persimmons about their stretch of Northfield Lane and will continue with this. She reported that Persimmon want the PC to take over the land which is very overgrown and will need a lot of work to put right.

It was agreed that Cllr. Auton will write to Persimmon pointing that, with an estimate of £5000, it is too expensive for the PC to undertake the work needed and suggesting various options; they undertake the work and then provide the PC with an annual donation of £3000 to maintain it. The PC would ensure publicity for this with a press release. The PC will investigate if CYC would then take on partial responsibility, but Persimmon retain liability.

Cllr. Taylor has visited the Burial Ground and taken photos of the trees and other works to be done. The Environment Group have not yet visited, but this will be arranged on Cllr. Wilcock's return.

Cllr. Kramm is still to discuss the PC presence in the Scout Hut during Carnival Day.

Cllr. Steward is amassing information about village groups and activities for Barratt Homes.

5. NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE

Cllr. Smith had sent out the Police Report earlier and is still attempting to set up a Bike Marking event in the village.

Action: Cllr. Smith

6. CORRESPONDENCE

A tree at the back of a garden in Sutor Close is causing some concern as it is overhanging the lane from Low Green to Top Lane.

Cllr. Steward is to follow this up.

The PC is still unsure what land we actually own in the village.

Action: Cllr. Steward

With regard to the resident on Low Green who is concerned about the state of the retaining garden wall, Cllr Kramm is to write back stating that the PC has nothing further to add.

Action: Cllr. Kramm

7. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

a) Planning

b) It seems that a bungalow, not previously in the planning application, is to be built on this development. Cllr. Taylor will check on the planning portal.

Action: Cllr. Taylor

c) Finance and Risk Management

No financial report was able to be produced. Cllr. Auton reported that HSBC has still not set up the new signatories, with the result that no payments can be authorised as yet.

Action: Cllr. Auton

The Asset register needs to be updated.

Action: Cllr. Wilkinson

Cllr. Auton reported that he has been trying to maintain the PC website, which is difficult to access and to edit successfully. He suggested that it needs an expert to set up a new website and then to maintain it. In the first instance he has approached Simon Bowen, who has already successfully set up and manages the Archive website. Simon has provided an estimate for the work.

Cllr. Steward proposed that Mr. Bowen work on the existing website to make it more accessible and that a Task Group be set up to investigate firms who specialise in PC web sites.

Seconded by Cllr. Taylor. All in favour.

Action: Cllr. Steward

Environment and Place

Allotments

Cllr. Wilcock reported that cardboard is needed for covering the overgrown allotments. Cllr. Auton has offered the use of the cardboard boxes in his possession.

Action: Cllrs. Auton and Wilcock.

Cllr. West reported that an organisation called 'Abundance' is collecting extra produce to distribute the food banks.

Action: Cllr. West

- Wildflower Meadow

In the absence of Cllr. Wilcock this has been deferred until the October meeting

Action: Cllr. Wilcock

- Land Registry reports

- This is also deferred until the October meeting.

Action: Cllr. Wilcock

Cllr Smith reported that he applied to the Woodland Trust for more saplings and will receive 90 hedge saplings. These are to be planted, probably in November in place of the ones that were mistakenly cut down, and along the lane next to the school. He will arrange a planting day.

Action: Cllr. Smith

Cllr Kramm reported that he has 30 Public Right of way forms so far.

Action: Cllr. Kramm

8. APPOINTMENT OF CLERK

Cllr. Auton has asked YLCA for a job description, application form and salary range for the position of clerk. He and Cllr. Taylor will meet to discuss possible hours of work to be done in the role.

Action: Cllrs. Auton and Taylor

An interviewing group was set up comprising three councillors.

Action: Cllrs. Auton, Steward and Kramm

9. REMEDIAL WORK NEEDED IN THE BURIAL GROUND

Cllr. Auton is to forward the quotation we have already received for the tree work to Cllr. Smith in order for him to acquire quotes from other firms. As time is of the essence, with the work having to be completed by the beginning of the nesting season on 1st March 2027, it is imperative that we reach a decision as soon as possible.

Action: Cllrs. Smith, Wilcock, Taylor and Auton

It was decided to that two people are needed to be aware of the management of the Burial Ground. Cllr. Johnson volunteered to join Cllr Taylor in this role.

Action: Cllrs. Taylor and Johnson.

10. BURIAL GROUND CENTENARY

Deferred to the October meeting.

11. COPMANTHORPE WARD

CYC has voted to move to wheelie bins for recycling from summer 2027. Resident can retain the existing boxes for their own use.

The petition for the erection of deer warning signs has 100 signatures so far. Councillors are requested to send their name and postcodes to Cllr. Steward for inclusion on this.

Action: All councillors.

In response to a resident's concern about the state of the fence in Moorland Gardens, CYC will fund the fence painting.

12. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Cllr. Johnson had previously circulated an email outlining costs for this year. Proposed by Cllr. Johnson, seconded by Cllr. Auton. All in agreement, so approved.

Cllr Auton proposed that the lights come on earlier, perhaps 1st December and go off at the end of February. Seconded by Cllr. Johnson. All in agreement.

Cllr. Johnson will compose an article to go into the November Newsletter advertising the competition.

It was agreed to hold the competition as last year, with areas being allocated to councillors and photos taken of likely winning displays. Cllr. Johnson suggested that The Wombles judge the results. This was agreed.

Action: Cllr. Johnson

13. CHRISTMAS GROTTTO

Cllr. Taylor reported that, unfortunately, some of the elves will not be available this year. It was suggested that she contact the village netball team in the hope that some of the members might like to become elves.

Cllr. Taylor will also reinstate the Grotto Planning Group.

Action: Cllr. Taylor

14. HOWELL HALL WORKING PARTY

Cllr. Auton reported that one of the Youth Leaders has left and a replacement is being sought.

A new renter has been acquired, who intends to run craft groups for children and adults alike. This is for a trial period of three months.

The transfer of ownership of Howell Hall needs to be addressed. A group has been set up to investigate how this will be managed.

Action: Cllrs. Auton, Kramm, Wilkinson and Johnson.

15. GRANTS POLICY DOCUMENT

This is to be reviewed by the Finance Committee.

Action: Finance Committee.

16. PLAYGROUND REFURBISHMENT AT THE RECREATION CENTRE

Cllr. Auton reported that this could cost between £45,000 and £55,000 and a proposal from the Play scheme is awaited. Funding would come from the PC and the Rec Centre.

Action: Cllr. Auton

17. TADCASTER ROAD SITE

Cllr. Auton is to contact Miller Homes about the replacement of the saplings that were destroyed by their workmen.

Action: Cllr. Auton

18. MOOR LANE SITE

Barratts have provided all the paint, equipment and personnel to redecorate the interior of Howell Hall, which is an extremely generous gesture for which we are very grateful.

Cllr. Auton will contact Barratts and ask that the dog bin be removed from the entrance to the Burial Ground, where it was placed while the building site compound was being created.

Action: Cllr. Auton

19. ACCOUNTS

None were available. It was agreed that, in future, they need to be more forensic and that the Accounts be more detailed.

20. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

As last month, with the addition of Memorial Plaques for the two oak saplings planted on St. Giles Way.

21. TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Tuesday, 13th October 2026 at 7.30pm in Howell Hall. This will be preceded by a Meeting of the Planning Committee at 7.00pm.

An Interim Meeting of the Planning Committee will be held, if necessary, on 22nd September 2026 at 7.30 pm.

GRAHAM AUTON
Chairman, Copmanthorpe Parish Council