

Fountains Abbey Parish Council

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 20th January 2025 at 7.30pm at Studley Roger Village Hall

(2024/2025 – 127) **Present** were Cllr. Dr Steve Byfield (Chair), Cllr. Derrick Slater, Cllr. Jenny Atkinson, Cllr. Vic Lawson and Cllr. Charles Johnson.

(2024/2025 – 128) Also **present** were David Taylor, Clerk, Cllr Felicity Cunliffe-Lister and 1 member of the public.

(2024/2025 – 129) **Apologies** were received from Cllr. Charles Johnson.

(2024/2025 – 130) No **Declarations of Interest** were received and so therefore no **Dispensations** were required.

(2024/2025 – 131) It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2025, having been circulated for consideration beforehand were true and correct records. The Chairman was authorised to sign them accordingly.

Reports:

(2024/2025 – 132) Councillor Felicity Cunliffe-Lister, North Yorkshire Councillor for the Masham & Fountains division passed out her written report, a copy of which can be found at **Appendix "A"**, below and discussed it with the meeting

Other specific matters raised were her concern over taxation policy concerning family farms, the withdrawal of the Central Government Rural Services Delivery Grant for the forthcoming year and that the Council tax will rise by 4.9% in the forthcoming year.

Her Locality Budget will be cut by 50%, to £5k.

(2024/2025 – 133) The Chair **reported** that

(2024/2025 – 134) The Chair regarding Studley Roger Village Hall **reported** that there had been a meeting of the Friends of Studley Roger Village Hall group on 13th January 2025. The turnout was good with 11 attendees and 5 apologies.

Main matters to report were that:-

- a. A neighbour had concerns over access to the building for necessary works.
- b. There is dry rot in the floor of the hall. It is a high priority to treat and restore this. Work has been instructed; a start date is to be confirmed.
- c. The "french drain" that should surround the building is in need of restoration; having been encroached upon over the years it is no longer fit for it's intended purpose.
- d. The support for the restoration works by the Parish Council should be dependant upon the building being of tangible benefit to the Parish and community as a whole.
- e. It is thought that the best course of action regarding the chimney, which is in need of much restoration, is to remove it altogether. Long term maintenance will be less complicated and it will not be used in the future as the log burning stove is to be removed.
- f. There are many events being planned for the coming year such as;
- g. Zumba classes
- h. Pizza evenings

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The group are taking advice on play area maintenance.

It was decided (by the group) that VE/VJ celebrations should not be planned for the village because there will be many other events in the area which should be well supported and that an event Studley Roger detract from their attendance.

(**2024/2025 – 135**) Justin Scully, The National Trust **reported** that the Skell Valley He had attended a Skell Valley Project Partnership Meeting. Full details of the Skell Valley Project can be found at:- <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/yorkshire/fountains-abbey-and-studley-royal-water-garden/skell-valley-project-at-fountains-abbey-and-studley-royal> and <https://nidderdaleaonb.org.uk/about-us/projects/looking-after-the-river-skell/>

- a. The planning application concerning the Lakeside tearoom in the Deer Park is being heard at NYC in Northallerton and so it may be in the news when it does. So far there has been universal support for the application. Work should start in October, all being well. If there is a delay at this stage work could start in Spring 2026.
- b. The Parish Council plans to liaise with the National Trust regarding a newsletter planned for spring.
- c. The deer herd will be removed from Mackershaw and so grazing will be cattle only. Mixing the livestock species raises the risk TB being spread.
- d. 10 Studley Roger is vacant and will be relet
- e. The planned dog waste bins can be installed on Plumpton Lane. JS will liaise with DS.
- f. The traffic counters are up and running. Recent data can be available for use very soon.

(**2024/2025 – 136**) The Parish Council **considered** the need for and the siting of a grit bin in Aldfield. It was **decided to defer** a decision on this until more is known about where a grit bin would be sited.

(**2024/2025 – 137**) the meeting decided to defer considering a "Neighbourhood Watch" scheme to serve as a vehicle to promote a parish WhatsApp channel until Cllr Johnson was present.

Financial Matters:

(**2024/2025 – 138**) It was **resolved** to sign a "letter of engagement" for Elkerlodge Ltd, the Parish Council's internal auditor.

(**2024/2025 – 139**) It was **resolved** to **approve** the Parish Council budget and Precept demand for the forthcoming financial year – 2025-2026.

(**2024/2025 – 140**) It was **resolved** the Friends of the Village Hall group will send the Clerk the bill in respect of the recent asbestos report and he will pay it.

(**2024/2025 – 141**) The accounts for payment as listed on "**Appendix B**", below, were approved for payment.

(**2024/2025 – 142**) A Bank Reconciliation to the period 20th January 2025 (including all payments up to and over £100.00) was received and unanimously approved. The Chairman signed it accordingly. This appears at "**Appendix C**", below.

(**2024/2025 – 143**) A Spending v Budget report to the period 20th January 2025 was received and approved by the Council.

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Planning Matters

The following Planning Notices were received:-

(2024/2025 – 144) Planning Decision Notice ZC24-03818-DVCON. Section 73 application for the Variation of Condition 2 (approved drawings) of planning permission ZC23/02936/FUL - Conversion of barn to form residential accommodation, proposed refurbishment, internal modifications and single storey rear extension to existing farmhouse. Low Lindrick Studley Royal Ripon HG4 3BD. Mrs Molly Ramsden. **Granted subject to conditions.**

(2024/2025 – 145) Planning Decision Notice ZC24-03626-FUL. Replacement of decayed timber windows to east, west and north elevations with new steel framed slimline double-glazed windows. Fountains Cottage Aldfield. Mr Gary Tonge. **Application** has now been **WITHDRAWN**.

The following Planning Application was considered:-

(2024/2025 – 146) Planning Application ZC24-03912-FUL. Full planning application for the conversion/partial rebuilding of two existing barns to form 3no. dwelling houses (Retrospective). Fountains Farm Aldfield HG4 3EB. Briahaze Village Homes. After due consideration, it was **resolved** that that **Option A** - The Parish Council has no objections – be returned.

NB- Planning applications. All Comments and returns from the Parish Council can be seen on the HBC planning portal. Please see the note below for the meaning of Return Options.

(2024/2025 – 147) The Clerk requested that agenda items to be considered at the next meeting of the Parish Council should be sent direct via email or post to arrive no later than 1 week prior.

(2024/2025 – 148) It was confirmed that the next regular meeting of the Parish Council would be on

A schedule of meetings appears at "**Appendix D**", below.

(2024/2025 - 149) The meeting closed at 9.05pm

These minutes were recorded and prepared by the Clerk to the Parish Council, David Taylor.

Signed as a true record by Cllr Dr Steve Byfield, Chairman

Date:

At the Regular Meeting of the Fountains Abbey Parish Council held on **10th March 2025** it was resolved by unanimous vote to approve these Minutes, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, as a true and correct record. These Minutes were then signed by the Chairman accordingly.

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The signed Minutes are held in the Parish Council minute book at the Clerk's address, below, and can be viewed by prior appointment.

Clerk : David Taylor. 57 Whitcliffe Lane, Ripon, HG4 2LB. 01765 601693

When returning a standard form Parish Council Notification consultation decision there are four options that the Council can return. These are:-

Option A – The Parish Council has no objections.

Option B – The Parish Council objects on the planning grounds set out overleaf.

Option C – The Parish Council does not object to or support the application but wishes to make comments or seek safeguards set out overleaf.

Option D - The Parish Council supports the application.

Appendix "A" –

Cllr Felicity Cunliffe-Lister

Report to Fountains Abbey Parish Council

January 2025

Highways.

Nothing to report

Youth Council

Work continues with Cllr Brodigan on this and she has an agreement, in principle, with Outwood Academy to host a YC, and interest also from the Grammar School. Once this is place I will be able to help invite rural groups to join.

Community Partnership (Ripon)

The Steering Group met this month and the Task and Finish Groups were established. I am chairing the Connectivity group and assisting with the development of skills training in the area.

NYC Budget

The proposed budget has been circulated. NYC has been hard hit by the removal of the Rural Services Delivery Grant, central government has reallocated this funding to areas of deprivation (mostly urban). With a proposed increase in Council Tax to 4.99% the current draft budget shows a deficit of £32M, which, after provision for efficiency savings this year of £25M from the move to a unitary council, will leave a shortfall of £4M. Locality budgets are under threat, and I am concerned that for all the disruption caused by the changes to the Home to School transport policy there may not be actual savings made – we will not see the numbers for this until after the start of the academic year. The schools most at risk from this policy are thought to be those on the county boundary.

Long Course Weekend

I am waiting for a meeting date to see what is proposed for this year in way of routes and plans for improved communications.

Boundary Commission

We are now waiting for the Commission's proposals, and the consultation period that follows.

Connectivity

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I am still waiting on the public announcement for the Gigabit delivery, to establish which dwellings are scheduled to be connected. I have written to DCC about poor connections to smart meters, which renders them unusable – this is due to the reliance on a long range radio signal rather than mobile signal. Whilst mobile signal is also patchy in many areas, I have asked why this cannot be used as an option where available.

Locality Budget

My budget is now fully allocated. This includes a donation towards the village hall repairs and to Studley Royal cricket club's nets.

Planning

I am not aware of any current planning issues – other than the correspondence I have been copied in on.

Waste Collection vehicles

Having discovered how inefficient these vehicles are, I am in contact with the fleet officer to discuss more efficient options such as hydrogen

Farmers' Meeting

I was on the panel at a public meeting in Thirsk Auction Mart recently, to discuss the concerns surrounding the proposed removal of Agricultural Relief on inheritance tax. I have circulated a questionnaire to those who attended to establish their views on solutions such as raising the threshold, and I will be writing to Defra and local MPs to lobby for their concerns to be considered.

Household Support Fund

North Yorkshire Council (NYC) has been allocated £3.54million as part of the sixth phase of the Household Support Fund scheme. The scheme has been funded by the Department of Work and Pensions and runs between 1 October 2024 and 31 March 2025. This funding is to support low-income households most in need, including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers and disabled households.

A large proportion of the funding is being used to provide targeted support to 19,012 eligible households across the district from 8th January 2025. These households will receive a letter between 8th to 21st January, giving them a shopping e-voucher code and asking them to redeem their voucher online by no later than 13th February 2025. The voucher will be a single e-voucher worth £150. Customers will be able to use their voucher at nine different supermarkets across the district.

The eligibility criteria for receiving a voucher is for households who were in receipt of the maximum means tested council tax reduction on 1 December 2024.

Households do not need to let us know that they are eligible - we will write to everyone who meets the eligibility criteria using contact details provided by the NYC Welfare and Benefits Team. The letter will also include information about other organisations offering help and support as well as a flyer about pension credit that has been produced by the charity Independent Age

Those who are unable to redeem their voucher online and have no family, friends or neighbours to assist, will be offered the option to seek support in their local Library or Council offices.

Customers who have no support network, no digital access and are unable to leave their home, will be advised to contact the NYC Customer Service Centre – (on 0300 1312131) - where a community-based solution will be sought.

The Household Support scheme is also providing additional funding to the following local support agencies - Local Food-banks; The North Yorkshire Local Assistance Fund; Warm and Well Energy Support scheme; The NYC Care Leavers Team. Further details about the support these agencies offer, can be found at: www.northyorks.gov.uk/cost-living-support

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The project ensures that households have access to competitive deals through a hassle-free process. Suppliers compete for the opportunity to offer households the lowest energy tariff, and there is no need to compare different tariffs as everyone registered receives a personal offer.

Since 2012, the Big Community Switch has seen more than 2.1 million people register their interest in switching energy contracts.

Cllr Felicity Cunliffe-Lister

Cllr.felicity.cunliffe-lister@northyorks.gov.uk

07592 114800

Appendix "B" – Schedule of accounts approved for payment.

i.	Fusion Systems	Inv 16808
ii.	DN Taylor	StOfEx Dec 24
iii.	DN Taylor	Salary 27122024
iv.	HMRC	PAYE
v.	Jo Martin	Xmas decs
vi.	SRVH	Grant Monies

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Appendix "C" – Bank reconciliation for the period to 8th July 2024

Bank Reconciliation as at 20.01.2025 Including all payments (up to and over £100.00)

Nat West - 0000000061	£	2,276.97
Nat West - 0000000073	£	400.63
	£	2,677.60
Less unpaid sums	£	151.88

£ 2,525.72

Sub Total

£ 2,525.72

Cash Book

As at 02.12.2024

Nat West - 0000000061	£	2,677.92
nat West - 0000000073	£	1,398.97
Sub Total	£	4,076.89
Add receipts - Sched 2	£	1.66
Subtract payments - Sched 3	£	1,400.95
Less Accounts Outstanding - Sched 1	£	151.88

£ 4,076.89

£ 4,078.55

£ 2,677.76

£ 2,525.72

£ 2,525.72

Schedule 1

20.01.2025	Hugo Fox	Website Hosting	£	143.88
20.01.2025	YLCA	Training	£	8.00

Total Sched 1

£ 151.88

Schedule 2

31.12.2024	Nat West	Interest	£	1.66
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Total Sched 2

£ 1.66

Schedule 3

06.01.2025	Fusion Systems	Inv 16808	£	14.16
06.01.2025	DN Taylor	StOfEx Dec 24	£	26.18
06.01.2025	DN Taylor	Salary 27122024	£	244.27
06.01.2025	HMRC	PAYE	£	57.20
06.01.2025	Jo Martin	Xmas decs	£	59.14
08.01.2025	SRVH	Grant Monies	£	1,000.00

Total Sched 3

£ 1,400.95

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Appendix "D" – Schedule of Forthcoming Meetings of Fountains Abbey Parish Council:

Schedule of Meetings 2025 - 2026

Meetings are held in Studley Roger Village Hall.

Monday 11 th March 2025	Ordinary Meeting.
Monday 12 th May 2025	The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and will be preceded by the Annual Village Meetings for Aldfield, Lindrick & Studley Roger and followed by an Ordinary Meeting.
Monday 14 th July 2025	Ordinary Meeting.
Monday 8 th September 2025	Ordinary Meeting.
Monday 17 th November 2025	Ordinary Meeting.
Monday 12 th January 2026	Ordinary Meeting.

All meetings are held at Studley Roger Village Hall on the 2nd Monday of the month unless otherwise stated.

All meetings start at 7.30pm unless otherwise advised.

There will be a public participation session lasting 15 minutes prior to the start of each meeting. Details conduct at public participation sessions are available on the Parish Council Website www.fountainsabbeyparishcouncil.org.uk and at the meeting itself.

Ordinary Meetings will be held every other month. Extra **Planning Meetings** will be held where necessary.

Annual Village Meetings will be held in succession before the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council