

BURTON-CUM-WALDEN PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2026

A meeting of the Parish Council was held at Old Hall Stables, West Burton, on Tuesday, 1 September 2026.

Present: Mrs Sally Sahin, Chairman; Mr David Dent, Mr Andrew Landau, Miss Jane Ritchie and Mrs Victoria Whitehead, Councillors; Mr Richard Nolan, Clerk

In attendance: Mr D Witcombe, Dr M Sigsworth and Ms Lorraine Middleton

1. Apologies

There were no apologies, all the members being present.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 7 July 2026, having been circulated to all Members, were confirmed as a true record, and duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Clerk's Report

The Clerk presented the Clerk's Report on the following matters:

- Clerk's Salary
- Best Kept Village
- Parking around the Green
- Speed limits in and around the Village
- Planning
- Tour of Britain 2026
- Council Finances

RESOLVED: that the Clerk's Report be received and noted.

5. Parking around and Access across the Green

Mr Witcombe told the Council of his concerns about emergency access to his house and houses adjacent to his. Dr Sigsworth told the Council of his concern about parking blocking his right of way over the Green to his garage.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Council did not object as owner of the Green to the placing of suitable signs on its land (a) to indicate Emergency Access in front of Mr Witcombe's house, and (b) to indicate the need for access to Dr Sigsworth's garage; and

(ii) That the Clerk, when communicating with Mr Witcombe and Dr Sigsworth, should indicate that there are statutory rules about signs on, or adjacent to, a public highway, and that these rules are not matters for the Parish Council, so the Parish Council should not be taken as giving any consent pursuant to those rules, but rather only that the Parish Council has no objections to the signs as owner of the land to the placing of the signs on its land.

6. Signage at the Waterfall

The Council again considered reports of anti-social behaviour and trespass at and above the Waterfall.

RESOLVED: to purchase a suitable sign to warn against such behaviour and have it erected near to the existing Interpretation Board.

7. West Burton School

The Council received an oral report from Councillor Sahin on developments relating to the School. Councillor Sahin reported that: (i) she has been checking the building weekly since hand-over from North Yorkshire Council; (ii) representatives of Upper Dales Community Land Trust

("UDCLT") have visited the School; (iii) UDCLT is interested in acquiring the freehold of the School to redevelop it as social housing; and (iv) she will arrange a further meeting between her, the Clerk, Julie Fox of UDCLT and other representatives of UDCLT to take the matter further, towards a concrete proposal that can be put to the community for consideration.

8. Rental Charges

The Council considered the rental charges for the three areas of common land owned by the Council, Hudson Quarry, Morpeth Scar and Stoney Wood. The Clerk confirmed that the review of the rental charges for Morpeth Scar was not due until 2028, and that the review of the rental charges for Stoney Wood was not due until 2029.

RESOLVED: That the rent for Hudson Quarry should remain at £5.00 per annum.

9. Arrangements for Bonfire Night 2026

Councillor Andrew Landau, of the Fox and Hounds Inn, confirmed that he would once again be holding the fundraising Boozy Bingo event on Friday, 6 November 2026 at the Fox and Hounds, and that the usual barbeque would be available on the night of the Bonfire. The Clerk reminded the Council that according to Issue 70 of the Parish Newsletter (January 2026) there was £2,214.62 in the designated Fireworks Account.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Bonfire Night event be held on the evening of Saturday 7 November 2026; (ii) That the Risk Assessment for the event be brought to the next meeting; (iii) That Mr Peter Wheeler be asked to organise the event as he did last year, (iv) That, subject to weather and practicalities, the turf should be lifted for the site of the bonfire on the weekend of 24 October 2026 and replaced after the Bonfire no later than the weekend of 14 November 2026, and (v) that the Clerk that the Council offer Mr Wheeler an honorarium of £50 for all his work.

10. Arrangements for Christmas 2026

Councillors considered arrangements for Christmas, and it was agreed (i) that the switch-on of the Christmas Tree lights should be on the evening of Sunday 6 December 2026, and (ii) that the traditional mulled wine and mince pies at the Fox and Hounds Inn should follow the switch-on of the lights. Councillor David Dent kindly agreed to put up the tree and decorate it in time for the event on 6 December 2025.

RESOLVED: (i) That the Clerk should order the tree, and ask the owner of the Black Bull if they would be willing again to allow their electricity to be used to light the tree; (ii) That the switch-on should be on the evening of Sunday 6 December 2026.

11. Indexing of Minutes

The Clerk reported that minutes of meetings of the Parish Council, and Annual Parish Meetings, had been indexed in an Excel spreadsheet for the years 1996-2012 (inclusive). Indexing remains to be done for the years 2013-date. The indexing had been done by Miss ECM Nolan, the Clerk's niece, and had taken her 50 hours.

RESOLVED: To note the index, and to receive and approve Miss Nolan's invoice for £750.00, aware that she is related to the Clerk, and recalling that the Council had previously authorised payment at £15.00/hour (Minutes of 2 June 2026, Item 7). See also Item 17, below.

12. Parish Caretaking Services

The Council considered the provision of parish caretaking services

RESOLVED: To continue the present arrangements for parish caretaking services.

13. Possible Installation of a Defibrillator in Walden

Following a request from a resident, the Council considered the possible installation of a defibrillator in the disused phone box near Walden Chapel.

RESOLVED: To ask Mr Neil Smeeton of the Burton-cum-Walden Emergency group to investigate the feasibility and cost of such an installation.

14. Storage of the Emergency Generator

The Council received and considered communications from the Treasurer of West Burton Village Hall about concerns raised with him that the Emergency Generator is presently kept in a location in the Village Hall which might pose an unacceptable fire risk for the purposes of the Village Hall's insurance.

RESOLVED: To investigate the possibility of having the Emergency Generator stored in a dedicated outbuilding at Old Hall Stables, next to the Village Hall, such investigation to include checking the effect (if any) of the proposal on the Council's insurance.

15. Items for Inclusion in the Parish Newsletter

Councillor Ritchie gave the Clerk a list of topics for possible inclusion in the September 2026 Parish Newsletter.

16. Items of Interest or Concern from the NYC Parish Update, the YLCA White Rose Bulletin and the YLCA weekly News and Notifications

Councillors raised no items of interest or concern arising since the last meeting of the Council in any of (i) the NYC Parish Update, (ii) the YLCA White Rose Bulletin and (iii) the YLCA weekly news and notifications.

17. Invoices

The Council received an invoice from Miss ECM Nolan for £750.00 (see Item 11, above).

RESOLVED: To approve and pay the invoice.

18. Notice of meetings and reports of meeting attended

There were no meetings to note or report, other than those mentioned above.

19. Items for the next agenda

RESOLVED: that in addition to any matters mentioned above, the following additional items should be brought forward:

- Clerk's Salary
- Bonfire Night Risk assessment.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Date of the next meeting: **Tuesday, 6 October 2026 at 8.00 pm** in the Village Hall (or in Old Hall Stables if the Village Hall is then still out of commission).

Chairman

Sally A Sahin

Date:

6 October 2026