

ALDWARD AREA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 5 May 2026 at 7.00pm

Present: Matthew Cliff, Lynette Evans, Sarah Robinson, John Topliss

In attendance: Alison Pollock (Clerk and RFO), Will Taylor (for co-option)

Apologies for absence: Cllr Nigel Knapton, North Yorkshire Council

Minute (note that year notation runs from the annual council meeting, hence “26” refers to the 26/27 year)

04/26 Declaration of interests in agenda items – none

05/26 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10 March 2026 – approved and signed by the Chair. There were no matters arising not covered on the agenda.

06/26 Co-option of Will Taylor as councillor for Aldward Parish – the Council resolved to co-opt Will Taylor and the necessary paperwork was completed.

07/26 Public forum – no members of the public were present but several had raised issues with the inadequacy of the sewerage treatment facility in Aldward and the consequent tinkering activity. Lynette Evans had been liaising with Yorkshire Water as had several residents. It was resolved that the Chair would write to the Chief Executive of Yorkshire Water and would raise the matter with the local MP Sir Alec Shelbrooke.

08/26 Defibrillator cabinet in Flawith – it was noted that the cabinet’s heater appears to be faulty, and the Clerk was asked to circulate costs for a replacement. John Topliss will liaise with the proprietors of the Flawith Galtres vet practice to see about fitting a replacement. The Clerk noted that if the existing cabinet is recycled with the new supplier there could be a £100 discount and the Clerk was asked to find out more about this.

09/26 Finances –

- a. receipts and payment, CIL monies, bank balance on 31 March 2026 were noted
- b. reserves at same date were noted
- c. accounts prepared for year ended 31 March 2026 were reviewed and approved, and it was resolved to again submit a Certificate of Exemption from a Limited Assurance Review provided by an External Auditor
- d. it was noted that bank account signatories have been updated to John Topliss, Lynette Evans and Alison Pollock, with 2 signatories required
- e. updated contract terms for clerk were agreed, principally that the working from home allowance is updated to £130 per annum, annually uplifted in line with inflation

Signed.....Chair.....Date

- f. thanks for given to Gemma Chapman for again reviewing the accounts that had been prepared as at 31 March 2026.

10/26 Speeding reduction measures

It was noted that speed reduction measures including improved signage had been implemented in Youlton, following assistance of Cllr Knapton. Mr Topliss advised that speeding vehicles remain an issue in Flawith, and he reminded the Council that he and a resident will be meeting with Sir Alec Shelbrooke MP on 15 May with an aim of getting occasional police enforcement action.

11/26 Aldwark play area – Mr Cliff advised the Council that contractors will be on site on 12/13 May to install some replacement items. Prior to this, residents will do a tidy-up and remove some rotten stumps. Thanks were noted for the financial contributions from the Friends of Aldwark village (£500) and Locality Grant (£496) from North Yorkshire Council. The Clerk was asked to include a short notice in the local newsletter.

12/26 Date of next meeting – 8 September 2026 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.