

ALDWARD AREA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2026 at 7.00pm

Present: Richard Padgett, Matthew Cliff, Lynette Evans, John Topliss

In attendance: Alison Pollock (Clerk and RFO), Cllr Nigel Knapton, North Yorkshire Council, PCSO Nigel Warby (part of meeting)

Some members of the public joined the meeting.

Apologies for absence: Sarah Robinson

Minute (note that year notation runs from the annual council meeting, hence “25” refers to the 25/26 year)

37/25 Declaration of interests in agenda items – none

38/25 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2 December 2025 – approved. There were no matters arising not covered on the agenda.

39/25 Public forum – no matters were raised.

40/25 Report from North Yorkshire Police on local crime issues – the Council welcomed PCSO Nigel Warby to the meeting. He provided Crime and ASB data for the period 1 Jan 2025 to 28 Feb 2026, and highlighted some local issues. New staff for the Easingwold area are joining the Force shortly.

41/25 Finances – the receipts, payments, bank balance and CIL funds balance were noted. It was resolved to ask Gemma Chapman to again review the accounts that will be prepared as at 31 March 2026.

42/25 Speeding reduction measures

- a) Youlton. Cllr Knapton had organised a site visit with the Highways Officer and a number of measures were agreed for the bend in Youlton: cutting back of ivy/foilage (this has been done by a resident), replacement of the signs with a combined larger ‘bend and junction’ sign, renew the white lining on the road. Cllr Knapton agreed to chase up the remaining actions with Highways.
- b) Flawith. Mr Topliss advised that speeding vehicles remain an issue in Flawith, and he and a resident will be meeting with Alec Shelbrooke MP on 15 May with an aim of getting occasional police enforcement action. Cllr Knapton said that he will be present at that MP surgery session too. Residents in the past have participated in Community Speedwatch but without follow-up enforcement by the Police, the appetite to continue the participation is reduced. Cllr Knapton recommended that the Chair write to Ms Jo Coles, Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime.

43/25 Meeting of Chairman and Clerk with the Chairman and Clerk of Linton on Ouse Parish Council – the meeting was helpful in sharing information of current issues for

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both parish councils. The clerk was asked to contact Tollerton parish council for a meeting along the same lines, to make connections.

- 44/25 Aldwark play area** – Mr Cliff advised the council that one of the firms being asked to quote for the repair work had identified some deterioration since the last safety inspection, and some equipment has been taped off, which was agreed by Mr Cliff and Mr Padgett, as some timber is becoming rotten and potentially failing. This will increase the cost of the remedial works project substantially. The clerk provided details of another contractor that had been recommended as fair value by Linton on Ouse parish council, and this will be investigated. It may be necessary to remove entirely the “stepping posts” if the replacement cost is prohibitive. Cllr Knapton confirmed that a grant from his Locality Budget of £496 was to be made to the parish council towards this project. The council thanked Cllr Knapton and signed the relevant forms.
- 45/25 Aldwark tollbridge** – the clerk advised that as had been requested she had contacted the owner Mr Bell to ask if income, expenditure and usage figures were available. The accounts have not been prepared yet (Mr Topliss undertook to check the year-end date for the Tollbridge LLP) but Mr Bell advised that usage had remained fairly stable compared with before the price increase and that some further work would be needed on the bridge structure. The clerk was asked to contact Mr Bell a few months after the financial year end.
- 46/25 Aldwark Rice Lane/waste spreading** – following complaints from a number of residents, the clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to Myton Hall Farms asking that tanker deliveries are not routed down the Aldwark end of Rice Lane and that damage to the surface is made good. Mr Padgett advised that he had a few times contacted the contractor alerting him to issues including drivers scrolling on phones while driving through Aldwark. The council resolved that Mr Padgett remind the contractor of the agreement with the parish council some years ago and to communicate with the parish council ahead of further spreading/tanker access in Aldwark. The clerk was asked to ensure to send a copy of the letter to Mr Pennock at Myton Hall Farms. Cllr Knapton recommended that Rice Lane damage be logged on the North Yorkshire portal, and to let him know if a response was unsatisfactory.
- 47/25 Broadband update** – it was noted that new cable has been laid in Flawith, Aldwark and as far as Goose Lane from Alne Cross towards Youlton, but no further. Verges had been re-seeded and while the result is not perfect it appears largely acceptable.
- 48/25 Aldwark Arms** – the clerk advised that the landlord of the Arms had said that the pub was not currently on the market but would be soon and he would keep the council informed.
- 49/25 Business continuity plan** – the clerk advised that this was progressing. She agreed to circulate an “index” of contents for the councillors’ consideration.

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- 50/25 Move to .gov.uk website and emails** – the clerk had previously circulated reports from the current website administrator Mr Ian Jackson, and a quotation from one potential new provider. The clerk will seek a further number of quotations having sought input from Cllr Knapton and the clerk of Linton on Ouse parish council.
- 51/25 Planning applications for Aldwark properties 1 New Cottages and Orchard House** – it was resolved to submit a “no objections” response by the parish council for both.
- 52/25 Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) application through Rising Sun Farm/Aldwark Grange existing footpath, requesting to convert to bridleway** – the parish council had been contacted by one resident expressing concern over the proposals. Mr Topliss stated that he had contacted North Yorkshire council expressing concern that there has been no prior consultation with the parish council and residents. He was advised that DMMO process tends to be a lengthy one with applications being dealt with strictly in turn and at some point there will be a formal consultation. It was noted that the parish council had not seen any evidence of prior use of this route by horses or cyclists.
- 53/25 Youlton salt bin** – it was noted that the parish council had funded a refill of the grit bin.
- 54/25 Training for councillors (Off to a Flying Start)** – this is still to be arranged as previous dates have not proved suitable.
- 55/25 Report from Cllr Knapton** – Cllr Knapton advised that budgeting was underway, with the costs of adult social care providing pressure on resources. He also mentioned the Boundary Commission review that is going through Parliament.
- 56/25 Date of next meeting** – 5 May 2026 at 7pm, to be followed by Annual Parish meeting and Assembly.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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