

PRESTON-UNDER-SCAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 24 February 2026

Present: Councillors Fletcher, Higham, Knights and Sayers

Clerk: Linda Stevens

Also present:

Unitary Councillor Sedgwick, PCSO Diane Smith, 1 member of the public

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Amsden (Chairman)

41. Election of Chairman for the Meeting

Resolved:

That Councillor Sayers be elected Chairman for the Meeting.

42. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11 December 2025

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11 December 2025 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

43. To declare Councillors' interests in items on the agenda: None.

44. Action taken since the last Parish Council Meeting on 11 December 2025

Moor Road update – the Clerk had been advised that North Yorkshire Council's Structures Team were progressing the proposed works and were aiming to deliver remedial works in the summer of this year. They would contact the Parish Council directly in advance of any works being carried out to notify of dates etc. and, as a road closure was likely to be required, they would discuss any specific access needs at that time.

The extent and nature of the works to be undertaken were not yet known. The Council accepted an offer from Councillor Sedgwick to ask the Highways Team to provide the Clerk with that information.

45. Finance and Banking

Resolved:

(1) To note the following opening balances as at 1 February 2026:

Current Account: £ 2899.29

Savings Account: £ 2,330.49 (including interest for 2025)

- (2) To note the payments authorised by the Clerk under her delegated authority, or which were contractually required to be made since the last meeting of the Parish Council, as shown in bold typeface in Appendix A to these Minutes.
- (3) To approve the Third Quarter Financial Review for 2025/26 as submitted to the meeting.

46. Village Maintenance

(1) **Issues Arising:** None

(2) **Grass Cutting Schedule for 2026**

Resolved:

To approve the following revised schedule for grass cutting (village and cemetery) during 2026 (subject to weather conditions) which reflected the Council's decision to reduce the number of cuts from 13 to 10:

April - 1 cut

May - 2 cuts

June - 2 cuts

July - 1 cut

August - 1 cut

September - 2 cuts

October - 1 cut

47. Wensley Quarry

(1) Update on Planning Application

Councillor Sayers reported that he understood that it was Tarmac's intention to submit a revised planning application to North Yorkshire Council by the end of February 2026.

The public exhibition held in the Village Hall on 24 January 2026 had been well attended by local residents and it was acknowledged that Tarmac had put considerable effort into that exhibition.

The Residents Group continued to review documents relating to the proposed revised planning application as these were provided to them by Tarmac.

Councillors noted this update.

(2) Appointment of Parish Council representative to the Quarry Liaison Meeting

Councillors considered the appointment of a Parish Council representative to attend meetings of the revived Wensley Quarry Liaison Group, the first meeting of which would be held in the Village Hall on 26 February 2026.

Resolved:

That Councillor Fletcher be appointed to represent the Parish Council on the Wensley Quarry Liaison Group.

48. North Yorkshire Council – consultation on Draft Enforcement Plan

Councillors considered North Yorkshire Council's (NYC) draft Local Planning Enforcement Plan which:

- Set out how NYC Would in future undertake its role of enforcing planning control,
- explained how NYC would manage planning enforcement in a clear, robust, proactive way that was appropriate to the area and how it would:
 - Respond to alleged breaches of planning control
 - Take enforcement action where it is expedient to do so
 - Monitor compliance with strategically important planning decisions and minerals and waste sites

The purpose of the Plan was to make clear what those undertaking breaches of planning control and those reporting them should expect from NYC and how NYC would prioritise and undertake its investigations as well as the monitoring of minerals and waste sites and strategically important planning decisions.

Whilst welcoming the publication of the draft plan and its clarification of how enforcement activity should be carried out, Councillors emphasised the need for NYC to undertake effective enforcement in accordance with the plan (once approved) if it was to maintain public confidence in the planning system.

Resolved:

(1) That the Parish Council welcomes and supports the content of the Local Planning Enforcement Plan, but emphasises the need for NYC to implement the Plan effectively, once it has been adopted.

(2) That the Clerk, following consultation with the Chairman of this meeting, be authorised to respond to the consultation questionnaire.

49. Cemetery Update

Councillor Higham reported further on the ongoing development of a number of new policies and practices relating to the management of the Cemetery. It was anticipated that the following would be available for other Councillors to review and comment on shortly:

- Cemetery Policy
- Revised Regulations
- Guidance on the Granting of Exclusive Rights of Burial and their subsequent assignment, transfer etc
- Guidance on Memorial Inspections
- Grave Digging Policy
- Cemetery Risk Assessment

She was currently waiting for clarification from the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management as to their membership fees.

Councillor Higham further reported that some of the saplings planted in the Cemetery Extension during 2025 had taken but that it may be necessary to use some of the Locality Grant of £400 from North Yorkshire Council to purchase some larger specimens.

Councillors noted Councillor Higham's update.

50. Biodiversity Update

Councillor Knights reported that he had been working on the production of a nature diary for the Environment and Biodiversity section of the Council's website for which he was hoping to attract a number of people as contributors. He was also hoping to be able to re-establish contact with Wensleydale Railway to undertake an exploratory examination of the Wensleydale Railway Wildlife Corridor with a member of the Railway Team who had completed the necessary Health and Safety Training.

He was aware that several residents had taken part in the Great British Birdwatch.

Councillors noted Councillor Knights' update.

51. Asset Register - Review

Resolved:

That the revised Asset Register for 2026 be approved, subject to the inclusion of the

Iridium GO Satellite Base Station, donated by North Yorkshire Council for use in emergencies (est. value £800).

52. Risk Register – Review

Resolved:

That the updated Risk Register for 2026 be approved.

51. Planning Applications

New Applications: None received

Upcoming Applications: None notified

Update on Previous Applications: No updates outstanding

52. Date and Agenda Items for the next meeting.

Resolved:

That, subject to Councillor Amsden's concurrence as Chairman, the next meeting of the Parish Council, and the Annual Village Meeting be held on Thursday 21 May 2026

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

CHAIRMAN