

BAGBY AND BALK PARISH COUNCIL

Contact: bagbyandbalkpc@gmail.com

Copies of Agendas/Minutes/and other relevant parish information from 1/4/2019 is available on the Bagby and Balk Parish Council Website <https://bagbyandbalkparishcouncil.co.uk/>

Copies of Agendas/Minutes before 1/4/2019 are available on the North Yorkshire Data website:
<https://www.datanorthyorkshire.org/JSNA/search-results?s=bagby+and+balk+parish+council>

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Bagby and Balk Parish Council **Wednesday 14th January 2026**

Present: Cllr McKenzie (Chair), Cllr Varey (Vice Chair), Cllr Crick, Cllr Cook, Clerk R Hedger, North Yorkshire Police Support Volunteer Allan Skilbeck, North Yorkshire Police PCSO Nigel Warby, NYC Cllr Baker

2025-26.118 Public Participation

The Chair welcomed PCSO Nigel Warby and Allan Skilbeck from North Yorkshire Police and thanked them for attending. Please see **2025-26.125.4**.

2025-26.119 Apologies

1. To **Note** Apologies and Approve Reasons for Absence

Cllr Southwell had submitted her apologies in advance due to a clash with a new councillor training session. These were accepted.

2025-26.120 To Note any Declarations of Interest

1. To **Approve** Dispensation Requests
2. To **Note** Declarations of Interest not already declared under members Code of Conduct or members register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None at this time.

2025-26.121 Minutes

1. To **Approve** the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting 10/12/2025 and the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting 17/12/2025

The minutes had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Councillors resolved to accept these as a true reflection of the meetings and they were signed by the Chair.

2025-26.122 To Receive reports for North Yorkshire Council

NYC Cllr Baker noted that the Government expects council tax to rise by 4.99% in each of the next three years to help plug funding gaps. Councillors expressed concern, noting that the move to a unitary council was intended to create savings. NYC Cllr Baker noted these concerns.

Green bin licences can now be paid for the year ahead. Cllr Cook noted that the licence had increased in price quite significantly, and Cllr Varey shared her concerns regarding the increase in cost to residents. Cllr Cook noted that this seemed a steep increase given that the waste is being recycled rather than disposed of. NYC Cllr Baker confirmed that she would pass on the Council's concerns on the subject.

Alec Shelbrooke MP will be holding a surgery at the Galtres Centre in Easingwold on 5th Feb, 10am until 12 noon.

2025-26.123 To Note and Discuss any Planning issues

1. To **Note** NYC Planning Applications Notices received

None at this time.

2. To **Note** NYC Planning Decision Notices received

ZB25/02022/FUL	Change of use of existing garage into a gallery space and retrospective formation of car parking area.	Scott Creative Arts Foundation, The Art House, York Road, Thirsk
GRANTED		

Councillors noted the decision notice.

3. To **Note** update from Highways regarding footpath connecting Mile House in Bagby to Thirsk

Councillors noted an email from Highways stating that it is not known why a footpath was not created when the site was developed, and that the local highway authority does not currently have any funding to carry out this type of highway improvement.

2025-26.124 To Note or Approve Finance and Governance issues

1. To **Note** the current Bank Reconciliation

Councillors noted the current bank reconciliation documents. The current bank balance is £5303.23.

2. To **Note** Budget Monitoring

The clerk had reviewed the budget monitoring document prior to the meeting and shared **these** findings with councillors. Councillors noted the areas in which the Council had spent over and under the intended budget **for 2025/26**, and it was resolved that a portion of available funds identified be spent on necessary training **courses** prior to year-end and audit for 2025/26.

3. To **Consider** approving the payments detailed below:

JW & JE Gray	Allotment gate	£840 (£700 + £140 VAT)
--------------	----------------	------------------------

Councillors approved the above payment. The clerk noted that she would also submit a VAT claim before the end of the financial year.

2025-26.125 Allotment update

1. To **Update** on contact with Planning re. hedge-planting

No update.

2025-26.126 Other Business and Correspondence Received

1. To **Discuss** Assertion 10 and switch to gov.uk email and website

The Chair noted the necessity of changing email provider as soon as possible given the introduction of Assertion 10 to the audit process. Cllr Varey noted that the current email system is not without its complications and was in favour of a switch if this allowed the clerk to carry out her duties without difficulty. Councillors enquired about the support available to them in adapting to the new IT system. The clerk agreed to look into this at the earliest opportunity.

2. To **Note** report of verge damage on Church Lane

Councillors noted that verge damage had been identified on both Church Lane and Bagby Lane in recent weeks, with Bagby Lane more severely affected. The clerk informed councillors that she had reported this damage to NYC. Cllr Cook also noted the continued danger posed by the water running down Bagby Lane, as identified at a previous meeting, and councillors instructed the clerk to report the water on the road for a third time, as this had recently frozen and caused a gritter to slip and crash into a hedge.

3. To **Discuss** telephone signal issues

Cllr Varey noted that mobile telephone reception appears to have worsened recently, and the Chair agreed. The clerk had received a recent government report on rural mobile coverage the day prior to the meeting, and it was resolved that the clerk would forward this information to councillors for a more informed discussion at the next meeting.

4. To **Discuss** local community awareness and crime prevention

PCSO N Warby and Volunteer Area Coordinator A Skilbeck attended the meeting and noted that North Yorkshire Police are keen to connect with those living in rural areas. The Chair asked if a representative would consider attending Parish Council meetings in future, and N Warby noted he would attend whenever available and would continue to send monthly reports for discussion at meetings. There were 2 reports to North Yorkshire Police in Bagby in December – one report of flooding and one of drink driving.

A Skilbeck informed councillors about community messaging – North Yorkshire Police provide free information on crime reports etc in the area, with residents encouraged to sign up and receive notices as well as providing feedback to North Yorkshire Police. Cllrs agreed to post leaflets on the Parish Council notice board for residents' information.

The Chair raised the PC's concerns regarding increased traffic to and from Monk Park Farm due to licensing changes and an increase in events. The Police confirmed they are aware of this development.

2025-26.127 **To Note matters for information for next monthly meeting agenda**

1. To **Confirm** 2026 grass-cutting arrangements for North Yorkshire Council
2. To **Update** on Bagby Lane water drainage issues
3. To **Discuss** telephone signal issues
4. To **Discuss** community crime prevention matters

2025-26.128 **To Confirm date, time and venue for next meeting**

Meetings start at 7pm – next meeting is 11/02/2026 at Power Point, York Road, Thirsk.