

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF POTTO PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2025 AT 7.00 PM AT POTTO VILLAGE HALL**

1. Reminder by the Chairman of the Councils expectations for the audio or visual recording of this meeting

No requests received.

2. Apologies for absence and approve reasons for absence

Present: Councillor Mr A Wilde (Chairman), Councillor Mrs E Griffin.

Apologies: Councillor R Walker, Councillor Mr I Macpherson, Councillor Mr S March and County Councillor D Huggill.

The meeting was not quorate.

3. Minutes of December's meeting

The draft minutes of the December meeting were discussed, the meeting was not quorate so minutes could not be resolved.

4. Matters Arising from last month's meeting

4.1 Police Report - received from PCSO Maguire. One report of arson/criminal damage. No further information given.

4.2 Footpaths, Bridges and Stiles – Following storm Darragh, the fallen trees were removed from the bridleway and the steps onto the riverside path. The large tree near the Owl bench was removed professionally.

A resident contacted the Parish Council regarding the remains of the bridge at the entrance to the Goulton Beck lodge site, it was agreed to contact Planning Enforcement to establish if this is a historic bridge.

4.3 Annual Returns 2023-24 - The response to the Final Report and Certificate together with the Decision letter from PKF Littlejohn were discussed.

4.4 Traffic Calming - The speed sign will transfer to Seamer next week..

4.5 ICO - Freedom of information requests and reviews, the following cases were discussed:

- EJ/2023/0005 - Rescheduled
- IC-293418-Z2B3 - Ongoing

A review of a FOI requests was carried out, it was agreed that appropriate responses were provided.

4.6 Village Heating Project – Information from the survey had been received with over 65% of household responding, the consultants have completed a Village Heating Study and are continuing their research.

4.7 Parish Plan – To be reviewed at next meeting.

4.8 Potto Village Hall. Upcoming events:

- 1 February – Miss Lindsay's Secret play.

Rishi Sunak’s office has contacted PPC to express an interest in attending any of the PVH events this year. The email has been forwarded to PVH.

5. Report from Unitary Councillor

County Councillor Hugill sent his report via email:

Councils have now received from Government their final settlement figure ahead of the budget and Council Tax setting which does not make good reading for North Yorkshire Council.

1. Despite welcome increases in grants for adult social care, children services and homelessness, the combination of employers National Insurance costs with the cessation of Rural Services Grant sees the council's bottom line worse off by £6.7m.
2. The council has received no Recovery Grant at all as the government has used a formula to target those areas with the highest levels of deprivation. Areas of higher deprivation in the county have therefore been “averaged out”.
3. Allocations for children services have also been done on a new formula which places greater emphasis on deprivation and is again at the expense of more rural county areas.
4. Additional funding for those more urban deprived areas has been introduced in advance of the longer-term funding reform for local government yet the cessation of Rural Services Grant has been implemented immediately with no transitioning relief. It has been indicated that government will review rural pressures as part of the longer-term funding reform 2025/26 figures show that urban authorities receive 41% more in government funded spending power per capita compared to rural areas. This disparity has widened from last year, highlighting the growing inequities in the distribution of government support. Furthermore, despite receiving significantly less government funded spending power, rural residents continue to pay 20% more in Council Tax per head than their urban counterparts

The Table below illustrates levels of council tax and median wages across the country:

Authority Type	Band D Council Tax*	Median Wage (£)	As % of Band D	Band D per Head of Pop.	Over 80s as % of population
North Yorkshire	2,282.95	546.4	23.9	0.401	6.93
Unitary - Rural	2,257.86	583.25	25.8	0.362	6.17
Shire Council	2,239.51	591.68	26.4	0.363	5.83
Unitary - Urban	2,204.62	621.95	28.2	0.297	4.11
Metropolitan District	2,188.45	591.53	27	0.277	4.5
Outer London	2,085.82	647.88	31.1	0.341	3.62
Inner London	1,629.21	909.29	55.8	0.413	2.38

One positive to appear from this gloomy scenario is that we are starting to deliver savings of up to £ 60m as result of the move to one Council from the former two tier set up of the Districts and County.

This week sees proposals for the setting of Council Tax being discussed by the executive followed by a decision of full Council in February.

6. Planning Applications to consider and decide upon

- 6.1 ZB23/01765/DCN - Application for discharge of conditions re levels and parking (5&6) 20/02290/OUT - Land to rear of 42 Cooper Lane.

7. Planning Decisions of Hambleton District Councils

- 7.1 Ref: ZB23/01873/CLP - Proposed use of houses, curtilages, land and grounds at Numbers 3 and 6 Potto Hall as two properties with private residential garden and curtilage. Potto Hall, Parson Back Lane, Potto. *Awaiting Decision.*
- 7.2 Ref: 22/00984/FUL - Change of use of land for the siting of 3 holiday chalets. Land to the south of Butcher Lane, Potto. *Awaiting Decision.*
- 7.3 Ref: ZB23/01765/REM - Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval 20/02290/OUT for the construction of one detached dwelling; Land Rear Of 42 Cooper Lane. *Awaiting Decision.*
- 7.4 Ref: ZB24/01593/FUL - Retrospective application for a shepherd's hut with hot tub and toilet. Potto Grange Farm, Potto. Send comments regarding concerns as to the amount of these type of applications in the area. *Awaiting Decision*

8. Matters requested by Councillors.

- 8.1 Traveller Site - Concerns were raised around use of traveller site near Preston's of Potto. Amount of white commercial vans and static homes have appeared on site. Enforcement has been contacted and will be inspecting. Discussed more caravans being present.
- 8.2 Stell Inspection - Date will be organised in new year, no blockages noted at the moment. Discussed flooding around the village, photos will be taken after next big rain fall.
- 8.3 Pam Fanthorpe Bench - Discussed email received from Pam Fanthorpe's daughter and offer of a new bench in memorial to her. Councillor Macpherson is corresponding with pam's daughter.
- 8.4 Grass Cutting - Contacted by Council regarding grass verge cutting for 2025, discussed and approved.
- 8.5 Two complaints were made to the standards board by members of the public the complaints were assessed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Independent Persons for Standards, and it was concluded that no action should be taken in relation to the complaints, and the councillors exonerated. It was noted that of the more than forty complaints made over a ten-year period none had been upheld by the standards review board. It was also noted that this behaviour is clearly a continuation of the vexatious campaign being carried out against the parish council by these individuals.
- 8.6 The same member of the public has also submitted another complaint to the parish council regarding the clerk, the matter was discussed and found to have no factual basis, it was further noted that this behaviour is clearly a continuation of the vexatious campaign of harassment and abuse being carried out against the clerk by this individual.

PPC clearly stated that they will not accept aggressive or abusive behaviour towards any of its members, employees or partners in any form, behaviour of this type is wholly unacceptable.

9. Finance

9.1 To receive bank reconciliation and budget comparison to 21 January 2025.

- Community Account £ 8,749.39
- Business Premium Account £ 5,140.54

Invoices:

to be agreed YLCA	£26.30	to be agreed
Salt Scoops	£ 17.39	to be agreed

9.2 Precept - The precept for 2025/26 was sent to NYC in November.

9.3 Budget - The current budget and expected expenditure were discussed.

9.4 Clerks Salary for January. Agreed.

10. Correspondence

To note correspondence received not specifically dealt with on this agenda.

10.1 Discussed Emails correspondence and actioned responses.

10.2 Review of Correspondence.

11. Any Other business

None

12. To confirm date & time of next meeting

Next meeting date Tuesday 18 February 2025 at 7.00pm.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.15 pm.