

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF POTTO PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 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, Councillor Mr I Macpherson, Councillor Mr S March, Councillor R Walker and County Councillor D Hugill.

Apologies: None

3. Minutes of December and January's meetings

The draft minutes of the December 2024 and January 2025 meeting were discussed and agreed as a true record and resolved.

4. Matters Arising from last month's meeting

4.1 Police Report - received from PCSO Maguire. Nothing to report.

4.2 Footpaths, Bridges and Stiles - Following storm Darragh the remaining part of the large tree near the Owl bench has to be professionally removed.

Discussed the surface dressing around the owl seat, it was agreed to purchase some weed proof membrane and gravel for the area.

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 is currently in Seamer. Speed sign was in village over Christmas fastest speed was recorded at 1:30am of 60+ mph coming into village.

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

- IO-227960-L6Q7 – case dismissed
- EJ-2023-0005 - rescheduled
- IC-293418-Z2B3 - ongoing
- IC-329882-J6G7 – ongoing
- UA-2924-001502-GIA – Member of the public V The Information Commissioner - 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 has shared the monthly project highlight report. Discussed concerns with location. Next phase is full feasibility pilot study.

4.7 Parish Plan – To be reviewed at next meeting.

4.8 Potto Village Hall. Upcoming events:

- Monday 31st March – Lent Lunch

4.9 Annual Review of Policies and Procedures - Agreed for 2025 with no changes.

- Standing Orders
- Financial Regulations
- Risk management strategy.
- Freedom Of Information Policy
- Publication Scheme
- Retention Of Documents Policy
- Policy on recording Council Meetings
- Complaints Procedure
- Data Protection Policy
- Transparency Code Check list
- Management of Unacceptable Contact Policy
- Unreasonable Complaint Policy
- General Privacy Notice
- Code of Conduct

5. Report from Unitary Councillor

NYC Councillor report

- We continue to be a Conservative-led Council, building on over 25 years of stable local government, making sound financial and not knee-jerk decisions or chasing populist causes for headlines` sake.
- Demand continues to rise for services, especially older people. This is good as it means more people are living longer. There is also increasing demand for children with special educational needs, including their transport. Our transport bill has risen from £20m before Covid, to over £50m now. Regrettably unpopular decisions have had to be made about limiting home to school transport to the legal minimum.
- The financial situation is dire with the new government having little understanding of the costs and pressures faced by rural councils in general, and this one in particular. We only have 4 / 7 Conservative MP`s in Parliament to speak out in support of our views.
- In particular withdrawing £14.3m rural services support funding at a stroke and without any transition period is adding hugely to our financial challenges. We have faced the largest hit of all rural councils.
- We have mounted a legal challenge to this as the decisions behind it are not sound. The govt has said there is no evidence rural services cost more, rural areas are affluent, and we have put this grant into unnecessary reserves. We reject all these assertions.
- Fortunately we have made savings of nearly £40m because of combining 8 councils in North Yorkshire. We have reduced the number of senior managers and will continue to dispose of unnecessary buildings.
- However we will still have to raise Council Tax by the maximum 5% allowed. Actually this is what government **expect** us to do.
- We are addressing the affordable housing crisis by allocating all our second homes council tax precept into housing schemes. We are the first and only council to do this.
- We face a challenge to find sites and then deliver the new mandatory housing targets of over 4200 houses per year. We don`t think there is capacity in the construction industry. If we don`t deliver, govt will either fine us ie you, or take planning decisions in London.
- We have issued a call for sites, and 1500 have been put forward. **This does not mean that all will be approved, or even selected for inclusion in the Local Plan**, but we are being transparent about what has been put forward by owners and developers. Any site put forward will have to go through the planning consent process
- We are building a new road at Kex Gill on the A59, to replace the old road which has suffered 15 closures through landslips in the last 10 years. This is the biggest road scheme we have undertaken, and being a key route across the Pennines from West to East it is for the benefit of the region, not just NY.

- Heavy snow then lingering sub-zero temperatures was a surprise recently and caused significant disruption. Normally our winter weather events are very wet, but mild. We are doing an internal review of winter activities in case snow and ice becomes more frequent.
- After 10 years of operation, although reducing it by half, we will maintain the locality budget for each member to support their communities at the original £5k when introduced. Yet another cut that has to be made because of the Rural Raid on Resources.
- Essential to the council's success is working with you, listening to your concerns and priorities. We have set up a series of consultation forums with you and officers to support you, and you are welcome to attend our Area Committee meetings, and have items on the agenda to discuss.

6. Planning Applications to consider and decide upon

6.1 None

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*
- 7.5 ZB23/01765/DCN - Application for discharge of conditions re levels and parking (5&6) 20/02290/OUT - Land to rear of 42 Cooper Lane. *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 chased for an update.
- 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 against councillors 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 and against a number of PPC policies and procedures, it was agreed to respond to the individual in line with these policies.

- 8.7 It was noted that a number of the salt scoops had been removed from the salt bins in the village, it was agreed to purchase some new scoops.

9. Finance

- 9.1 To receive bank reconciliation and budget comparison to 18th February 2025.

• Community Account	£ 8,510.01	
• Business Premium Account	£ 5,140.54	
• Invoices:		
to be agreed YLCA	£26.30	Agreed
Additional Salt Scoops	£17.39	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 and February. Agreed

- 9.5 The outstanding invoice for PKF Littlejohn was discussed.

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 25 March 2025 at 7.00pm.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.30 pm.