

NABURN PARISH COUNCIL

www.naburnparishcouncil.org.uk

Chair: L Gunson – chair@naburnparishcouncil.org.uk

Clerk: S Mercer - clerk@naburnparishcouncil.org.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of Naburn Parish Council held on 2nd March, 2026 at 7:30p.m. in the Church

Attendees: Cllrs K Atkinson, A Bean, J Britton, A Clark, S Gray, L Gunson (Chair), C Hill, J Jefferson, S Raimes

Apologies: Cllrs, V Phillips, Clerk

Absent: Cllr P Ashworth

Members of the Public: Mr and Mrs P Waterhouse

2. Identify confidential items. The item to discuss the formal complaint by A Oultram was agreed to be classed as confidential.

3. Interests. None.

4. Minutes Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting of 5th January, 2026 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5. Finance (none)

6. Planning

6.0127 The application for a new fence at Lilac Cottage, Front Street. 26/00024/FUL was discussed. There was concern about the unnecessary removal of the hedge and the height of the fence panels which would detract from the existing rural look, particularly from the river. There had been objections passed to Parish Councillors from 2 other non-direct neighbours. Also, if this was, as stated, to stop the applicant's dogs escaping, it seemed illogical to only be fencing one side of the garden rather than both sides and the end. It was considered that there were far more environmentally friendly ways of preventing dogs escaping. The 2 Councillors who undertook the consultation recommended the PC object and this was unanimously agreed. **ACTION. Cllr Bean to respond to CoY Planning**

6.0128 The application for a single storey extension at 1, Ferry Farm Cottages. 26/00048/FUL was discussed and the recommendation from both Councillors who consulted was to have "no objections." Both neighbours were supportive and the view was that the very small front porch extension would actually enhance the look of the property. Unanimous agreement to "not object". **ACTION. Cllr Gunson to respond to CoY Planning**

6.0129 The Millbridge large house extension for which the owners have not applied for planning permission was discussed. Whilst Cllr Bean had written several times to CoY Planning Enforcement as an individual, it was agreed that he should write again on behalf of the Parish Council complaining about the lack of any apparent action from CoY and how it made a mockery of what we do as a PC regarding planning applications.

ACTION. Cllr Bean to write to Becky Eades, Head of Planning and Development Services (becky.eades@york.gov.uk)

7. Flooding

7.1 Cllr Gunson updated the meeting on his recent conversations with the CoY Flood Manager, the summary of which is that the new Flood signs will only display "Road Closed" when the Viking recorder is at 3.9m/4.0m so as to prevent 'crying wolf'.

8. Highways

8.4 The state of the road condition of Moor Lane was discussed. Because the CoY Council had been filling potholes on the 2/3/26 and hopefully 3/3/26, it was agreed to assess whether there were any remaining potholes once the work was complete.

8.5 Cllr Gunson updated the meeting on the request for Vehicle Activated Speed signs. This is presently with a CoY Transport and Planning Engineer to assess whether we can have permission to buy some signs and erect them.

8.6 Cllr Gunson gave an update on the Community Speed Watch initiative - Mike Beresford has agreed to host a meeting of the 5 volunteers on 3/3/26 at his house.

8.7 Cllr Gunson gave an update on the path along Naburn Lane that runs behind the hedge. The CoY have agreed to cut the hedge & scrape the soil off over the full 1.5-2m width and have applied to North Yorkshire Council for a grant to tarmac it.

8.8 Cllr Gunson gave an update on the damaged traffic cones on the B1222 verges since the parking restrictions at Christmas. McArthur Glen had in the last week, sent out a team and collected 30 cones and 7 bags of plastic fragments. They have also contacted CoY Highways about the issue.

8.9 The option of requesting permission for gateway fencing at the 30mph sign at the north end of the village was discussed. Whilst it was considered a very good idea to help reduce speeds, it was agreed to wait until we know the decision of CoY on the Vehicle Activated Speed signs, as implementing both may be unnecessary.
Approx cost £1500.

8.10 There was further lengthy discussion on matters regarding the safety issue at the north end of Front Street. Cllr Gunson had consulted with residents of 10 properties at the north end of Front Street. Several fully supported the CoY's proposal. The others felt it would be preferable to have some off street parking if at all possible. A "No left turn" option was not seen as a major issue. All felt safety was a concern and that increased parking restrictions were therefore inevitable. As regards the PC's position when the Executive member for Transport makes her decision, Cllr Gunson put forward 2 compromise solutions which allowed for one parking space in front of Lilac Cottage and one, possibly two outside Callan but it was felt by the majority that the PC should accept the CoY professionals proposal. It was agreed, however, that before a final decision is made, Cllr Gunson would measure the width of the road outside Callan to see whether it is wide enough for the safe passage of large vehicles past parked vehicles and so provide at least 1 possibly 2 parking places at that end of the street.

It was brought to the attention of the Parish Council by one of its members that the report that had been distributed by Mr Merrett to all members during the Parish meeting in November 2025 contained an inaccuracy. One of its key arguments is that the installing of yellow lines would be contrary to CoY Council's policy, stating that 1.5 parking spaces should be provided per property. The actual policy states that there should be a maximum of 1.5 parking spaces per property, not an entitlement as implied in the report, and is for new developments, not existing. The policy states that this is to encourage the greater use of walking, cycling and public transport. The argument in the report is therefore irrelevant to this situation.

9. Community Areas and Buildings

9.55. Cllr Gunson updated the meeting on the use of the Reading Room as a Hairdressers Salon. Contracts are now signed, work is underway inside and the process to transfer the electricity contract to Aliko is in process.

10. Communication

10.01 The potential changing of the IT provider for the Parish Council's website and emails at the end of the present contract to make the PC website more intuitive was discussed. This was to make it easier to add new content to the website which would then become the main source of communication for the PC. The Village Facebook page would only be used by the PC for key announcements and not for discussion of PC matters. **ACTION.** Cllr Jefferson to investigate available alternative sites but also ask whether the supplier of web services for his other voluntary bodies, a system which is very easy to use, would allow us to set up a shadow site to test its ease of use and be ready for the changeover.

10.02 It was agreed that there were no notices for the Parish magazine this month

11. Miscellaneous

11.03 Cllr Raimes read out the report on the John Knowles Education Foundation.

11.04 The complaint received from A. Oultram was discussed under "confidential items".

12. Outstanding action items

8.2. The issue with the walking surface at the end of Vicarage Lane and towards the Sustrans cycleway/footpath was discussed again. Since the last meeting, it has been discovered that a strip of the route, about 10m long, from the end of the public highway to the bollards has no known owner and is likely to be a historic anomaly with Land Registry records. The CoY footpath map shows the public right of way path starting from the end of the public highway. According to government policies, if the owner of the land crossed by a public footpath is unknown, the primary responsibility for maintaining the surface of that path falls upon the local highway authority. Consequently, the CoY Highways will be asked to spread some scrapings or gravel on the muddy area. **ACTION.** Cllr Gunson to email Highways

9.54. There was a discussion about trees in the Parish and TPOs. It was agreed that should any Councillor feel that a tree should be protected which is not already on the TPO list, then they should record its position and discuss at the next meeting. The City of York Council website shows a map of where the existing TPOs are located. **ACTION** All

12.37 The halyard on the flagpole needs replacing. **ACTION.** Cllr Gunson to order and ask Cllr Phillips to splice. The cutting of the giant Leylandii trees along the boundary of the Water Treatment Plant was discussed. **ACTION.** Cllr Jefferson to write to Yorkshire Water asking what type of screening they intend to erect to replace the trees

13. For Information items: (none)

14. Public participation.

15. Confidential items

15.1.The formal complaint of the Parish Council and Chairman by A Oultram, which was firmly rejected by CoY Legal Dept, was discussed. The complaint was predominantly about the fact that the Parish Council did not carry out a consultation before requesting that the City of York Council address the safety issue at the north end of Front Street, an issue that had been raised by a number of residents. The City of York Council Legal Officer made it very clear in her rejection of the complaint that Parish Councils are not responsible for consultations - that is the role of the Local Authority (City of York Council in this case) and the consultation was carried out by CoY Council exactly as required by law. The Parish Council had in fact consulted with 10 residents at the north end of Front Street even though they had no need to do so.

16. Items for consideration at the next meeting.

17. Closure of meeting and date of next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9:30pm

Next meeting:- Annual Meeting of the Council Monday 11th May, 2026 at **7pm** in the Church followed by the Parish Council meeting at 7:30pm.

Signed Dated
Chairman