

SKEEBY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday, 30th January 2025
at 7pm in Skeeby Jubilee Village Hall**

There was a 10 min open public speaking session prior to meeting

****** Draft Minutes – subject to approval at the next meeting ******

Attendees - Councillors (Cllrs) – I Moreton (Chairman) (IM). J Budden (JB). J Frankland (JF). K Richardson (KR).
County Councillor Angus Thompson (AT)
Clerk - Nadine Dudman (ND)
2 residents

1. Apologies

- 1.1 No apologies for absence were given
- 1.2 The reasons for absence were approved

2. Declaration of Interest

- 2.1 to receive any declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the Agenda. There were none raised.

3. Minutes from the last meeting

- 3.1 The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the parish council held Thursday, 28th November 2024 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

4. County Councillors report

County Cllr Angus Thompson was present. He provided an overview of his report which is filed with these minutes.

5. Police bulletin

- 5.1 The Police report for January 2025 was received.
- 5.2 Cllr IM mentioned Skeeby is not listed separately. Clerk ND to contact North Yorkshire Police to find out why

ACTION – CLERK ND

6. to receive information on the following on-going issues & decide on further action where necessary

- 6.1.2 Vehicle Activated Signage (VAS) – to receive information relating to funds available from the Skeeby Solar farm project. Cllr JF confirmed that the request for funding was submitted on the 14th January 2025 & this years funding will be released in May / June 2025

APPROVED BY ALL

ACTION – JF

- 6.1.3 other anti-speeding measures (signage) - an update was received from Cllr JF. He shared print outs of possible Community Speed Watch (CSW) signage for consideration which included types that could be attached to posts in the Village by temporary means such as cable ties costing approximately £16 each. He commented that members of the CSW team have offered to pay for these. The Parish Council expressed their gratitude to members who have offered to fund these & unanimously agreed that these could be mounted on posts of Skeeby Parish Council

APPROVED BY ALL

ACTION – JF

6.1.4 speed data collection

Cllr JF advised that a "data logger" had been mounted in the Village on the post opposite the Village Hall where the Vehicle Activated Signage (VAS) may be installed to see the difference the new speed pillows have made. The results showed 85% of vehicles were travelling between 29 & 33mph. Prior to the road upgrade speeds were between 54 & 67mph, since the works were completed this has reduced to between 45 & 54mph. Cllr JF will review the criteria for getting a mobile speed camera deployed in the Village.

ACTION – JF

6.1.5 Community Speed Watch (CSW)

Cllr JF updated the Parish Council that a new Villager is a welcome addition to the team. New lightweight fold out CSW signs have been provided which are more friendly to use. North Yorkshire Police have thanked the CSW team for their work. Councillor Angus Thompson requested a snapshot of the teams findings on email

ACTION – CLERK ND

6.1.6 20's Plenty national campaign

Cllr JF reported that Community Speed Watch (CSW) groups are pushing for North Yorkshire Council (NYC) to come on board as in other areas of the UK they have seen a 28% reduction in casualties (around 500 fewer people). 35 other Councils have signed up. Cllr JF to gather further information from the organiser to enable the Parish Council to consider joining the scheme

ACTION – JF

6.2 Best Kept Village Competition

6.2.1 to receive an update on the sign to be mounted celebrating the Village "best newcomer" win

Cllr KR advised it will cost around £20 for the plaque. Cllr IM to provide Cllr KR with the Rotary Club Certificate for the wording

ACTION – KR

6.2.2 to receive feedback from Cllr IM on the criteria for the 2025 criteria. Cllr IM he has not received this as yet but will share it with Parish Council as soon as it arrives

ACTION – IM

6.3 Training - "Induction for Clerks" provided by YLCA at the cost of £70 at October 2024 meeting. Clerk ND advised that she is attending the 4 hour training session on-line over 2 evenings at the end of February 2025

ACTION – CLERK ND

6.4 Parish Council Communications - to receive an update from Clerk ND on the following

6.5.1 designated mobile phone

Clerk ND advised that this more time is required to explore the possibility of this

ACTION – CLERK ND

6.5.2 new email address / host & 6.5.3 new website / host

Clerk ND advised that she has spent considerable time exploring the best solution & company for the Parish Council to use. She presented the results to the Council which concluded that WJP Software Ltd meet all the needs & are very reasonable. She also commented that it will mean all the Parish Council IT needs are handled by a single company, making it easier & more efficient to manage

6.5.3 postal address

Clerk ND reported that Ian Crisop Accountancy are happy to become the Parish Council's postal address without any charge. Clerk ND commented that over time the intention is to receive very little if any physical post as most suppliers will sent correspondence via email

6.5.2 & 6.5.3 WERE APPROVED BY ALL

ACTION – CLERK ND

6.5.5 publication of Parish Council Minutes / Agenda in the Darlington & Stockton Times. To receive an update from Clerk ND who advised further research is required into the feasibility

ACTION – CLERK ND

6.6 resignation of Councillor Rosslyn Dixon – to receive an update from Democratic Services

Clerk ND advised that Democratic Services were notified of the resignation on the 30th October 2024. They have now provided the “Notice of Vacancy” that needs to be displayed publicly until the 5th March 2025

ACTION – CLERK ND

7. Play Parks

7.1 latest play parks inspection - to receive the latest report

7.2 missing “No ball games” sign in Springfield. Cllr IM confirmed the new sign been mounted

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED - MATTER CLOSED

7.3 report delays

The Clerk ND commented that there have been apologies for delays in providing reports while a new system is adopted at North Yorkshire Council (NYC)

7.4 Removal of moss. Cllr JB advised that the stock of “Wet & Forget” is very low. Clerk ND advised that this would be ordered as a high priority

ACTION – CLERK ND

8. Village Green

8.1 to receive a report of any issues relating to The Village Green

8.2 bus shelter light – to receive an update on thank you letter. Clerk ND advised a thank you letter was posted through the Resident’s door

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED - MATTER CLOSED

8.3 beech tree – to receive an update from Cllr IM

The Parish Council agreed unanimously that as the tree experts report found no immediate danger was present that this will next be reviewed in January 2026

NEXT UPDATE DUE – January 2026. ACTION - MATTER CLOSED

8.4 bulb Planting – to receive an update from Clerk ND on re-imbursement from Exalon of cost

Clerk ND advised Excalon have been contacted, awaiting a response

ACTION – CLERK ND

8.5 Richmond Road refurbishment – to receive an update on removal of spots of tarmac on pavements & spray markings from Clerk ND. Clerk ND advised more time is needed to advise the Parish Council on best way forward

ACTION – CLERK ND

8.6 footpath near school house badly re-instated footpath – to receive an update from Clerk ND

Cllr JB commented that it is best to contact the Public Rights of Way Officer & find out who is responsible for this & to determine if the Parish Council own it. If the Parish Council do own it the contractor who completed the works will need to be contacted & asked to re-instate it. Clerk ND advised more time is needed to advise the Parish Council on best way forward

ACTION – CLERK ND

8.7 emptying of bins in both Springfield & Linden Road

The Clerk ND advised that County Councillor Angus Thompson had commented that this is the responsibility of the Parish Council. The Parish Council discussed & considered the removal of the bins should this issue re-occur

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED - MATTER CLOSED

8.8 Bridal Way sign opposite Oliver Lane – to receive an update from Clerk ND
Clerk ND advised more time is needed to advise the Parish Council on best way forward

ACTION – CLERK ND

8.9 Skeeby Manor – resident has reported the grass is damaged outside the property caused by parked vehicles - to consider & agree a way to prevent further damage.

Cllr JB commented it would be good practice to put something in writing to both the owners & developers to make the Parish Council's position clear. It was agreed that as the owners of the property have been approached & will repair any damage this would not be necessary

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED - MATTER CLOSED

8.10 building material vehicle damage to Village Green opposite St Agatha's Church, near the railings - to consider & agree a way to prevent further damage.

Cllr JB commented it needs to be re-instated. Cllr IM commented it may be best to wait until the works are completed. The Parish Council agreed that it should write to the developer & advise that re-instatement is required

ACTION – CLERK ND

8.11 Cutting back of trees after leaves have dropped – to receive an update from the Parish Council

Cllr IM advised that the contractor has quoted £2,060 including VAT to complete the works at the entrance of Hall Farm & Linden Road play area. Cllr's JB & KR commented that the works need to take back the height to below 7ft to allow for re-growth. Cllr JB commented that no planning permission will be required as it's a danger to the public & has been reported as part of the playparks safety measures. The Parish Council unanimously approved the cost & Cllr KR will arrange the works to start with the contractor

ACTION – KR

9. Planning Matters

9.1 to review & agree response to any Planning Applications

9.1.2 building site Reference ZD24/00662/DIS. 42 Richmond Road. Discharge of condition number 5 in relation to application number - ZD23/00471/VAR - proposed render is Weber's weberpral M coloured monocouche render, in 'light beige'. Objection deadline 31st January 2025

The Parish Council raised no objections to this amendment

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED - MATTER CLOSED

9.1.3 Planning Request ZD24/00443/LBC - PROPOSAL: Listed building consent for replacement of 15no. sliding sash windows and 1no. Yorkshire sliding sash window deemed beyond repair. New windows to match existing in hardwood incorporating slimline heritage 4/4/4 double-glazing. Cllr IM commented that this has been refused by North Yorkshire Planning

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED - MATTER CLOSED

10. Finance

10.1 to receive a financial report from Clerk ND

10.2 To consider & agree the following payments out

10.2.1 Clerk's salary

1 st September to 30 th November 2024	£476.19
1 st December 2024 to 31 st January 2025	£317.46
10.2.2 HMRC (Employer Tax)	£ none
10.2.3 No Ball Games sign	£ 26.40

10.3 to note the following payments in

10.3.1 T-Bar white lines in Pear Tree Close, 50% cost payment from residents	£131.49
10.3.2 credit from Barclays Bank for delays in actioning Mandate Changes	£100.00
10.3.3 Skeeby Christmas Lights	£263.45

PAYMENTS OUT & IN WERE APPROVED BY ALL

10.4 – to consider re-naming of Bank Accounts. The Clerk ND commented that it may be a good idea to update these for easier reference. It was agreed that the Account ending 666 could be re-named to “playparks”

ACTION – CLERK ND

10.5 – to consider allocating funds to a higher interest rate Bank Account. The Clerk ND commented that in order to achieve this the monies would need to be tied up for at least 18 months. The Parish Council unanimously agreed that this is not in the best interests of organisation as funds need to be available at all times

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED - MATTER CLOSED

12. Highways issues - to consider & agree appropriate action on items below

12.1 report from a Resident on the following concerns in this area of the Village

12.1.1 Barracks Bank - reports of rubbish as you enter the Village before the bridge - old highway signs including a mangled 'Covid' sign. Plastic bottles & carrier bags, large hard plastic sheets along Barracks Bank towards the roundabout

The Parish Council commented that a litter picker is needed. The Village used to have a Warden but they have since retired. It was agreed that that County Councillor Angus Thompson should be made aware of this issue to explore how we may be supported

ACTION – CLERK ND

12.1.2 overgrown hedges are impeding vision when approaching Skeeby Bridge causing a dangerous situation – requests to have these trimmed back by the owner

The Parish Council commented that it is the responsibility of North Yorkshire Council (NYC) Highways Division to address these issues. The Resident is to be advised of how they can report the issues to NYC Highways

ACTION – CLERK ND

12.2 Scurragh Lane – entrance from Barracks Bank is flooded & continues to be the case. This was highlighted as treacherous during the recent show / ice

The Parish Council commented that this is the overspill from the field at Lane End Farm

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED - MATTER CLOSED

12.3 temporary 40mph speed limit at Scotch Corner Designer Outlet. Cllr JB commented that this was commented in last week's Darlington & Stockton Times

12.4 salt bin Olliver Lane. Cllr JB requested the Parish Council explore the possibility of installing a salt bin in Olliver Lane as it's a Public Right of Way & can be dangerous in the winter when it freezes over becoming a sheet of ice. It was agreed that that should be considered in the interest of public safety

ACTION – CLERK ND

13. Skeeby Christmas Lights 2024

13.1 £263.45 was raised this year. To consider a request from the team that this & previous funds raised are used towards the up-keep & any training needed of the defibrillator machine outside the Village Hall. Custodian of the machine advised costs are as follows:

Replacement signs @ £ free of charge

Training (new & refresher held on the same day, unlimited delegates) @ £350 (including VAT)

Rotaid Defib Cover @ £105 + £15 carriage = £120 + VAT @ £144 (including VAT)

Village Hall hire @ £10 per hour x 8 hours = £80, estimated (including VAT)

Total cost @ £574 including VAT

It was unanimously agreed that the money raised from the 2025 / 5 lights would be used to off-set this cost. Clerk ND is to arrange payment of money into the Parish Council bank account & once cleared will give the Custodian the go-ahead.

ACTION – CLERK ND

13.1.2 to consider providing formal thank you to those who were involved in this year's fund-raising. It was unanimously agreed that Clerk ND is to contact the organiser, obtain the names & formally thank them on behalf of the Parish Council.

ACTION – CLERK ND

14. Dog fouling prevention measures

14.1 to consider the best form of action following multiple complaints from residents that dog owners are not clearing up dog mess in the Village. Residents have reported the issue repeatedly to the Dog Warden but there has been no response. Residents requested that as a minimum, signs are erected in Olliver Lane & the footpath near the Old School House reminding walkers that this offence carries fines. Clerk ND reported that she has since heard from the Dog Warden who advised Skeeby is top of the list, there have been delays in the supply of new North Yorkshire Council signage since the merger of Richmondshire District Council.

ACTION – CLERK ND

15. VE Day 8th May 2025 – to consider if the Parish Council can fund commemorations for this Anniversary. The Clerk ND advised that there is a National Beacon lighting, 21:30, Thursday 8th May 2025. It was unanimously agreed that lighting a beacon in the Village is not possible at this time of the year due to crop growth in Halfe Hill. Residents are encouraged to get involved on an individual basis. Cllr IM is to find if the The Village Hall & Travellers Rest Pub are planning to hold any events.

ACTION - IM

16. Northern Power Grid – electricity supply upgrades – to receive an update from the Parish Council regarding recent contact from them. The Parish Council advised that there are works required in the Village to upgrade the capacity. All residents have been advised by letter from Northern Power Grid via post which will include details of how they may contact them with any feedback. There were no objections from the Parish Council.

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED - MATTER CLOSED

17. Rural EV Charging – electric charging points – to consider the viability of installation of these charging points in the Village. It was commented that if the Halfe Hill development goes ahead in the Village it may be that the developer is able to install some as part of the project. It was unanimously agreed that Skeeby is not able to accommodate these as the public car park is not suitable.

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED - MATTER CLOSED

18. Funding from National Lottery - to consider if further funding applications are to be submitted to benefit the Village. It was unanimously agreed that until a decision is given on the solar farm funding no further action is required.

NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED - MATTER CLOSED

19. Correspondence (emails received since last meeting Thursday, 27th November 2024)

The following items were considered

19.1 Holmedale Nature Network – “volunteer sessions”. “Strategy Review”. “Talks & Events”

NO ACTION REQUIRED

19.2 North Yorkshire Council (NYC) – survey “gypsy & traveller accommodation assessment”

NO ACTION REQUIRED

19.3 Matt Ball Architecture – Halfe Hill Development drop-in session Thursday 6th February 2025 4pm to 8pm. Skeeby Village Hall. Public Consultation on a Proposed Development in Skeeby. Cllr JF provided information following a conversation with a member of staff at Matt Ball Architecture – there will be a group of experts in attendance at this session who are available to answer any questions / queries people may have. There have been some changes since the original proposal in 2024. Matt Ball Architecture have requested a closed meeting prior to this drop in session to enable the Parish Council to discuss the updated proposal. A convenient time was agreed.

20. items for the next Agenda

Skeeby Solar Farm Annual Funding - any further funding applications to be submitted which will benefit the Village.
End of Year Financial Report.

21. date & time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 27th March 2025 at 7pm, in the Jubilee Village Hall