

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WIGHILL PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE WHITE SWAN WIGHILL ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2025

Present:

Councillors: Mrs D Spry (Chairman), Mrs L Richardson, Mr S Harvey,
Mr T Parker

Mr L T I Grant (Clerk/RFO)

County Councillor: Mr A Paraskos

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| 1. | <u>Apologies for Absence</u> Cllr Mrs A Ward |
| 2. | <u>Public Questions and Statements</u> None received |
| 3. | <u>Matters Arising from the minutes of the Meeting held on 18 June 2025</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2025 were approved as a true record by all Councillors present with no abstentions. |
| 4 | <u>Highway Matters</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Street lighting in Wighill. Cllrs had noticed that a faulty street light near to the ex BT Kiosk which was reported as faulty, had been upgraded to an LED Version. NYC no longer have stocks of non-LED lamps and will in future replace any faulty lamps with LED versions. ● Road Race through Wighill. It has now been confirmed that the organisers of the annual event, use a Traffic Management Company to arrange a road closure notices with the Highway Authority at NYC. The Clerk has been contacted by email with details about the event. Cllrs discussed the proposed arrangements for access to properties in Wighill during the annual event. The Clerk was asked to request an earlier start to the event so that staff and visitors could have unrestricted access to the White Swan. The race organisers are to be asked to ensure that all race marshals are aware of this access issue. NY Police have been kept updated on the current situation. |
| 5 | <u>Police Matters</u> |
| 5.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parking in Wighill Residents continue to complain about irresponsible parking near the bend. NY Police have recommended that residents ring NY Police if they see vehicles parking and causing an obstruction near the bend. ● Police attendance at PC Meetings NY Police are no longer able to attend rural PC meetings due to reduced staffing. |
| 6 | <u>Financial Matters</u> |
| 6.1 | Funds received <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None |

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| 6.2 | Bank Balance at 31.08.25 was £8,696.27 A copy of the bank statement had been circulated previously to all Cllrs. There were no comments or queries about the Bank Account or financial statistics circulated for the PC. |
| 6.3 | Invoice received and to be paid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None |
| 7. | <u>Planning and Related Matters</u> |
| 7.1 | Planning Applications received and to be determined. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None received |
| 7.2 | Planning Decisions Notified <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None received |
| 7.3 | Planning Enforcement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None Received |
| 8. | <u>PC Administration</u> |
| 8.1 | Next Newsletter. Local residents have asked when the next newsletter will be issued. Cllrs will investigate their availability to start preparatory work. |
| 8.2 | 2026-2027 Budget and Precept request. The Clerk explained the previous problems experienced with the finances of the Parish Council. He confirmed that the precept had been increased in 2023-24 to £4,000 as funds had been exhausted in 2022-23. The precept had then been increased to £5,000 in the current financial year. This action had allowed the PC to create a small reserve to cover unforeseen expenditure. At the end of the 2023-2024 financial year, the PC's reserve was £3648.72. The external Auditor had been consulted about the normal level of reserves for PCs. 100% to 150% of the annual precept is considered normal. After discussion, all Cllrs present without abstention agreed to keep the precept at £5,000 for 2026-27 in order to slowly increase the reserves to cover any unexpected expenditure. |
| 8.3 | Revised AGAR requirements - 2025-26 return The Clerk explained that changes were now being introduced which required Cllrs to confirm that all PC digital correspondence was encrypted and securely distributed. This requires the use of PC email address's hosted by an approved secure provider, in order that the AGAR document can be signed by the Chairman and Clerk to confirm this fact. Cllrs had discussed this issue previously but there is continuing reluctance to accept PC email address's by some Cllrs. The Clerk confirmed that if Cllrs refused to accept this change which he recommended, he would be unable to continue in the role of Clerk/RFO and the PC would need to seek to fill the role with a new Clerk/RFO. A vote was taken on the adoption of PC email address's with two in favour and two against. It was known that Cllr Mrs Ward did not object to the use of a PC email address. |

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| | <p>Cllrs agreed to leave a final decision on this issue until a meeting in February 2026. If at that time a PC meeting is held and Cllrs accept the use of secure PC email address's, it is hoped that sufficient time would remain before the financial year end to implement the change. This would allow a positive response from the PC to the AGAR question. If secure PC email address's were not adopted and a negative response to the AGAR document question was necessary, the Clerk/RFO would not be able to continue to act for the PC.</p> |
| 10 | <p>Councillors Business Items for the next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Former Chairman Mr A Hamilton is no longer able to monitor the condition of the Village Defibrillator. Cllr Mr S Harvey agreed to undertake the work and will liaise with Mr Hamilton. ● A willow tree in Wighill is now overhanging the footpath and appears to be leaning. The same Willow tree has roots which are growing into the highway drains and causing flooding. Cllrs will forward a photograph of the tree to the Clerk, so that it can be sent to Area 6 for attention. It is known that the owner of the property with the tree has emigrated overseas and only the agent selling the property has contact with them. ● Costs of using a secure PC emailing system |
| | <p>Next Meeting 4 February 2026 at 7.00pm in the White Swan</p> |

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