

STAVELEY AND COPGROVE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 26 January 2026 in Staveley Village Hall.

Commenced: 19.00

Concluded: 21.20

Attending: Parish Councillors: P Edwards (Chair), G Bowland, S Whitworth, J Pragnell, D Kenningham. Cllr R Windass (NYC). J Oyston (Clerk)

There were 2 members of the public present.

2026/01 WELCOME

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in a short introduction.

2026/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr D Greenwood.

2026/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Bowland and Pragnell, both being Trustees of Staveley Residents in Need (SRIN), a registered charity, disclosed a 'Registrable Interest' in item 6m) and sought dispensation to speak and remain in the meeting. The interest was not considered an adverse interest.

2026/04 MINUTES

a) The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10 November 2025 were received and considered by the Council. Cllr Kenningham raised the issue of the Council consenting to Robin Barker also being a Trustee of SRIN. Mrs Oyston stated that the matter had been re-entered onto this agenda as no formal decision was taken and noted at the last meeting. [Formal decisions cannot be taken under AOB and must appear on the agenda for the benefit of the public]. Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr Edwards and seconded by Cllr Whitworth. All agreed and a resolution was passed. The Minutes were signed by Cllr Edwards as Chair.

b) The Action Points from this meeting were considered and Cllr Edwards reviewed the completed actions.

2026/05 COUNCILLOR AND OFFICER REPORTS

a) North Yorkshire Council. Cllr Windass gave a detailed and lengthy report to the meeting involving some discussion of the issues with those present. He advised that NYC has now set its budget for 2026/27 and that Council Tax bills would rise by

4.99%. Financial conditions remain very difficult as Government grant has been cut by £40M. NYC's Unitary Authority status has helped make savings as has the disposal of some buildings. NYC is using its reserves to balance its budget. A final briefing for Cllrs is planned.

Cllr Windass reported that he had received correspondence from a local resident regarding the footpath across Pinfold Green and this was noted [see also AOB]. This raised the question of whether there was a footpath across Staveley Walk.

The recent Boundary Commission Report for North Yorkshire was raised and there was discussion about the location of Staveley within the proposed new arrangements.

Cllr Bowland highlighted residents' concerns about a potential new Planning Application for SV2 and the unhelpful situation with the Local Plan. Cllr Windass stated that the former Harrogate area does not have a 5 year land supply and that the existing Harrogate Local Plan does not include the site. In his opinion, NYC is likely to refuse, plus Staveley has already had 76 new homes. This could be appealed and granted on appeal. Highway issues and over-development may also be taken into account. It was noted that the Parish Council is a statutory consultee to the Planning process and has the ability to put forward its concerns should an application be made. Grounds for refusal are categorised as 'clear' or 'strong' and Cllr Bowland questioned the difference. The presence of gypsum and peat and unstable ground were cited by Cllr Windass as examples of grounds for refusal. The Parish Council questioned how they should ensure that the same failings within the Planning process are not repeated on any future development, given SV1's perceived failure to discharge pre-commencement conditions prior to the commencement of site works and NYC's failure to adequately address the stability issues and supervise the terms of the Planning Permission. Cllr Windass agreed to raise this with Andy Hough, Planning Officer at NYC.

A member of the public raised issues about lack of wheel washing, loss of water supply and the failure by Planners to enforce Planning conditions.

Cllr Bowland to contact John Carter and then forward a summary of issues to Cllr Windass.

- b) Cllr Bowland gave a short report about the meeting that had taken place on 26 November 2025 with the Police regarding HGV traffic accessing Staveley Walk via Arkendale Road. It was noted that the Police have 4 Officers across North Yorkshire to deal with such matters and that little can be done other than for the Police to write to offending truck operators. It was considered appropriate to retain the 7.5T restriction on Arkendale Road**

Items 5c) to 5f) were not discussed

2026/06

MATTERS ARISING

- a) Road safety on bridge towards Copgrove. NYC's response was noted and that repairs to the side railings have been made.**
- b) Road accident on Arkendale Road on 3 December 2025. Further to NYC's response, it was agreed that this dangerous stretch of road be flagged at the consultation stage should a Planning Application for SV2 be submitted.**
- c) Flooding on road towards Farnham, beyond the Church. Cllr Edwards reported that work has taken place recently to clear the drain.**
- d) Parking on the Village Green. Further to intervention by Cllr Kenningham, this issue has now been resolved. It was noted that HGV's are cutting the corner, potentially damaging the Green, and suggested by Cllr Whitworth that the Parish Council consider erecting fencing. Mrs Oyston to enter onto the next agenda.**
- e) Request for hedge bordering SV2 to be designated as a non-heritage asset. Mrs Oyston to follow up.**
- f) Request by Cllr Kenningham that the Council retrospectively consent to appoint Robin Barker as a Trustee of SRIN. It was resolved that Robin Barker continue as a Trustee. Proposed Cllr Edwards, seconded Cllr Whitworth.**
- g) Staveley Walk. Further to discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Bowland put a summary of issues together with John Carter and that this is forwarded to Cllr Windass. A possible Teams meeting to take place with Tom Gordon MP and Richard Flinton (NYC).**
- h) Jubilee Business Park, Copgrove - tidyness. It was reported by Cllr Edwards that further to the relocation of Evri, the tidyness of the Business Park is much improved.**

- i) **New Village signage/entrance gates. Further to a reply from Little Ouseburn PC, it was agreed not to progress this matter presently, due to prohibitive costs.**
- j) **Additional Noticeboard, Staveley. A new, additional board was considered preferable for the display of the Council's agenda and Minutes. Mrs Oyston to obtain prices for appropriate noticeboards.**
- k) **Repair/replacement/acquisition of Village benches. Mrs Oyston to contact local joiners for prices to replace the rails in the bench outside of the Royal Oak, Staveley, with timber or composite. It was resolved that a 1.8m composite 'Surrey' bench in brown be obtained for the Village Green from Earth Anchors Ltd at a cost of £634.80 inc. VAT using the legacy of Peter Walker. Proposed Cllr Bowland, seconded Cllr Edwards.**
- l) **Staveley Grass Cutting Contract 2026. Further to discussion, it was agreed that NYC continue to cut the grassed areas as detailed in its email of 12 January, and that the offer of £118 not be taken up. OJW Services Ltd to be approached to quote for the remainder of the grassed areas based on the quality of the service undertaken last year. No other contractors were identified.**
- m) **The Children's Play Area, Staveley. It was proposed that a new lease with SRIN be entered into for a term of 7 years, that replicates the lease of 1994, now expired. Cllr Kenningham tabled a skeleton outline of past events and a copy of the old lease (some clauses missing). Land Agents have valued the 0.8 acres of land at £8000 and suggested a rent of £100 per year. The Parish Council agreed that it is important for the land to be retained by the Charity for the benefit of the residents of Staveley. The question of legal representation was discussed and it agreed that each party has independent legal representation. It was further agreed by the Parish Council that the landlord (SRIN) draft the lease. Quotes for the Council's legal work to be obtained in due course. Cllr Bowland advised that he had ordered the Playground Inspection for this year with The Playground Inspection Co. [This decision must come before the Parish Council in future as Councillors have no legal powers to act independently of the Council].**
- n) **Moving to a .gov.uk website. This item was deferred to the next meeting.**
- o) **Parish Archives and the storage of important Parish Council documents. There was discussion about the current arrangements, the Council's legal responsibilities and the need for the retention of documents. It was agreed that Mrs Oyston price for a filing cabinet.**

- p) VAS Sign cellular connectivity. **Mrs Oyston to contact Neil Horton for advice prior to responding to Damian Snape, FTS**

2026/07 CORRESPONDENCE requiring decision/response

- a) NYC Highway Authority Area 6 invitation to Parish/Town Council workshops to understand the work of service teams within the Environment Directorate
- b) North Yorkshire Council Parish Liaison: Future Ready Fuel Campaign re: Government consultation on alternative low carbon heating options. Deadline 10 February
- c) North Yorkshire Council Parish Liaison: Invitation to a Civic Service and Networking Event 22 February, All Saints Church, Helmsley

All correspondence was noted.

2026/08 CORRESPONDENCE for information

- a) Police, Fire and Crime newsletter December 2025 'Have your say on local police, and fire and rescue funding'
- b) The Local Government Boundary Commission for England. Final recommendations for North Yorkshire

All correspondence was noted.

2026/09 FINANCE

- a) **Allowing for recent expenditure, the balance at the bank stands at £23,318.88**
- b) **There has been no income since the last meeting.**
- c) **The expenditure since the last meeting was endorsed. Proposed Cllr Bowland, seconded Cllr Edwards.**
- d) **No planned expenditure was notified.**
- e) **No items were notified for inclusion on the asset register.**

2026/10 PLANNING

- a) Decision Notice 25/01830/FUL re: Extension to existing storage building and erection of building for storage (retrospective). Abacus House, Jubilee Court, Wath Lane, Copgrove. Permission Refused

This item was noted

2026/11 COMMUNICATIONS

- a) A potential Parish Newsletter/Questionnaire for February 2026. **This item was not considered.**
- b) The Parish Council Facebook page. **This is now in use and has received positive feedback.**

- c) The Parish Council Website <https://staveleyandcopgrovepc.org.uk>.
To be discussed at the next meeting.

2026/12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **The public footpath across Pinfold Green, Staveley, was discussed further to an informal consultation by NYC relating to s.118 of the Highways Act 1980. A Public Footpath Order to extinguish footpath 15.124/9 Lowfield Lane, Staveley is proposed because the footpath now crosses private property and has never been diverted. Given the circumstances, a vote was taken in favour of the extinguishment. [This cannot be regarded as a formal decision of the Council as the item was not entered onto the agenda due to timing]. Mrs Oyston to respond to NYC**
- b) **NYC Parish Liaison. Proposed consultation on the Council's draft Local Planning Enforcement Plan. Previously circulated and noted.**

2026/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This was confirmed as Monday 9 March 2026