

STOCKTON-ON-THE-FOREST PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE
HALL ON WEDNESDAY 29 JULY 2026 AT 7.30PM

Councillors Present: Bryan Cockerill David Crossley
 Russell Dowson Rosie Dunn
 Chris Small

In Attendance: Parish Clerk Fiona Hill

Public: 0

27/1 a) To receive apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting:
Stephen Flint

b) To consider the approval of reasons given for absence:
Resolved / Approved (Unanimous)

27/2 To discuss the casual vacancy: Nothing to report

27/3 To record declarations of interest in items on the agenda: None

27/4 a) To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27 May 2026:

Resolved / Approved (Unanimous)

b) To confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting 2026:

Resolved / Approved (Unanimous)

27/5 To discuss matters arising from previous minutes:

Parish Council Website –

The Parish Clerk had exchanged email with Bentleys of York as follows:

From: Bentley of York

Sent: 08 June 2026 12:25

To: Parish Council

Subject: Website

No problem.

Thank you for the payment, all received at my end,

From: Parish Council

Sent: 08 June 2026 09:33

To: Bentleys of York

Subject: Website

Thank you, that clarifies thing for me 😊

We will endeavour to get sorted by 18 September 2026, to avoid having to pay for additional domain charges

From: Bentleys of York

Sent: 04 June 2026 11:51

To: Parish Council

Subject: Website

Not sure how to say it differently?!

As per the dates on invoice 11165 – to host until February 2027 – hosting for 1 year 26/2/26-25/2/27 which will require a domain name renewal on 19/9/26 (until 18/9/27) to cover until February 27 due to the approx. 5 month overlap.

Approved

Date

From: Parish Council
Sent: 04 June 2026 09:14
To: Bentley of York
Subject: Website

Forgive me but I just need to clarify –
Do the invoices cover hosting until February 2027 and the domain until 19 September 2026?

From: Bentley of York
Sent: 03 June 2026 12:19
To: Parish Council
Subject: Website

Looking at the email trail there are two slightly contradictory statements
In your email dated 12/3/26 you state : “..., I think you should invoice the Parish Council until February 2027, which will give time for everyone to make their plans, then the current website can stop.” which elicited the invoices until 2027
Then on 7/5/26 you say : “...the domain name has only been arranged until 19 September 2026, so this is the deadline I am working to.” Which is what I was referring to in the latest email...?!

Not sure which deadline you want to work to ? If you can confirm when you want the PC part of the website to “cease” to avoid any doubt?

If it is February 27, then a further domain renewal is required, if you are stopping in September 26 then the next domain renewal is not required.

From: Parish Council
Sent: 03 June 2026 09:16
To: Bentleys of York
Subject: Website

Please can I query why the Parish Council website will end 19th September 2026, when your latest invoice says -
1 year of hosting (2026-**2027**)
Renewal of Domain (2026-**2027**)

From: Bentleys of York
Sent: 02 June 2026 13:44
To: Parish Council
Subject: Website

Further to our conversation this morning I can confirm that the arrangement with the Parish Council will end on 19th September 2026 when the domain name “rental” will become payable again and (hopefully!) your new PC website will be up & running by then.

We will put a link to your new website, from the old one, for anybody looking for the Parish Council (would appreciate a link back to the “old” website for anyone interested in the community activities!)

There are no further charges applicable & the invoices (11157 & 11165) already submitted are the final ones.

Hope this answers your questions?

The Parish Clerk had email Cllrs as follows:

Further to my email dated 16 March 2026, when I attached details of the quotations received/requested, I report the following:

- The Parish Council needs to purchase a new website that is compliant with the new Gov.UK legislation, that is set up before the current domain/hosting runs out (18 September 2026)
- Parish Council Websites, used by Flaxton Parish Council have a Basic Package costing £569.00. The domain name and hosting costs would be extra and ongoing. This company produces a good website and has received excellent feedback from the Chairman
- Parish Online charge only £250.00 for the first year, but £350.00 each subsequent year, so over a period of time, I believe this will be more expensive.

Approved

Date

- Therefore, on balance, I recommend Parish Council websites
- The Transparency/Website ring-fenced funding has now been spent, so in future the budget should include expected domain name/hosting costs.
- I would suggest £150.00-200.00, which should also allow for unspent monies to be ringfenced for future purchase of laptop/printer

For discussion tonight.....

Resolved / The Parish Council would use Parish Council Websites to purchase the basic package at a cost of £569.00. The hosting and Domain Name would be extra. (Unanimous)

The Parish Council would consider ear-marking funds for website/IT costs when setting the 2027/28 budget.

27/6 To discuss long-standing matters:

- Issues within the parish – grass cutting, litter, speeding:
 - Several visits by speed van
 - Grass cutting OK
 - Litter not too bad

27/7 To receive any matters raised by members of the public:

A Willow tree opposite Cherry Tree Farm is rotten and in need of work, so the Parish Clerk would report this to City of York Council.

27/8 To receive matters raised by City of York Ward Councillors:

Nothing to report

27/9 To report and make relevant recommendations on new planning applications:

None

27/10 To discuss the Stockton-on-the-Forest Play Area:

Cllr Flint had conducted the inspections this month and found no issues.

Cllr Small would conduct the inspections next month.

Cllr Flint reported as follows:

1. General. The area was found to be in fairly good condition with grass cutting being carried out as I left the area. There was a substantial amount of litter which was picked up, mostly the sweet wrappers which children brought from the local shop. The entry gate was found to be loose, an attempt to tighten the screws had limited success.
2. Play activities. All play activities were inspected and appear to be in a safe condition, although some bird droppings are present. The large Square table/climbing platform (not sure what it is called) one of the seats/steps had come off and another was very loose. I have removed the old rotten screws and replaced them, the seat/step now secure. One of the seat/step is missing and it should be noted that the wood is in poor condition and will need replacing within a couple of years.
The Round-a-Bout is turning freely but not knowing how much resistance it has had in the past it is difficult to know if there is still a problem with it.
3. Picnic tables. There are two Picnic Tables at the top of the area, both are in poor condition and one is becoming unsafe and in my opinion should be removed. I believe this should be considered a Health and Safety issue and maybe both should be removed.

The Parish Council was asked to report North Yorkshire Police that teenagers are using the play area in the early hours, entering gardens and suspected of taking garden lights.

27/11 To discuss matters raised with/by representatives of following outside bodies:

- Rights of Way – Nothing to report
- Foss Internal Drainage Board – Nothing to report
- North Yorkshire Police – Report received/noted
- Stockton Hall Hospital – Nothing to report

27/12 To report any new correspondence received by the council: None

Approved

Date

27/13 To receive matters raised by members:

- The bench had still not been replaced, after the old one was removed during the works on the disabled access at the bus stop on sandy lane (W3W – wiggles originals consented)
The Parish Clerk would chase this up with CYC.
- The gulleys had been cleaned, so Cllr Crossley would check the one near Beanland Lane, which was blocked.
- City of York Council would be asked to clean the road edges, as following rainfall, this would re-block the gulleys
- Community Caretakers had recently worked in the parish and while there were some improvements, some work was disappointing. Cllr Small would prepare a report to be sent to City of York Council.
- National Highways/City of York Council would be asked to cut back the overgrown vegetation effecting the visibility splays at the junctions of Hazelbush Crossroads, Barr Lane, Holtby Lane, Common Lane and North Lane

27/14 To discuss matters raised with/by Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer:

- Bookkeeping current year to date – Cllrs had received a bank reconciliation totalling £38880.18, along with an income & expenditure report.
- Financial Management – Internal Controls – Conducted, everything found in order
- Financial Management – Unity Trust Bank – Additional Signatories – Needed Urgently
- Payment approval:

Parish Clerk/HMRC	Salary/PAYE	£
Aspects Horticultural	Play Area Work	£84.00 x3

Resolved / Approved (Unanimous)

Cllrs would check if the strimming around the village furniture had been done.

27/15 To confirm the dates of the future meetings as:

2026 - 26th August, 30th September, 28th October, 25th November, 16th December

Approved

Date