**Thixendale Parish Council**

Ordinary Meeting Minutes

Thursday 8th October 2026 - 18.00 hours

**Attendees**: David Griffin (Chair), Charles Brader (Vice Chair), Charlotte Russell, Gerald Bainbridge, Eileen Birrell.

**In Attendance**: Pauline Foster, Keith Bristow, Ismail Ahmed, Lisa Griffin (minute taker).

**Apologies**: Gordon McIlroy

The Chair introduced and welcomed Ismail Ahmed to the meeting as a guest. Ismail is the nominated Conservative Party candidate for Wolds and Thornton le Dale in the local council elections due to take place in May 2027.

**Minutes from the meeting 21st May 2026**:

The combined minutes from the meeting and AGM held on the 21st May 2026 were accepted as a true record.

**Matters Arising**:

There was a discussion regarding local road conditions, Martinholme Hill in particular is in disrepair. The village has many roads in and out and some need to be repaired. Drainage is poor which causes blocked drains that subsequently affect the condition of the roads. North Yorkshire Council are aware and have cleaned the drains. Previously, soak aways have been put in at the bottom of Thixendale Road towards Fridaythorpe to resolve the same issue which have worked well. Waterdale has been in good repair following the substantial resurfacing that took place several years ago, but is now showing many cracks that need attending to before it degrades.

There has been recent infrastructure work on water mains on the outskirts of the village, however, road closure signage was poorly placed and it created a circular route that meant people could not find their way into the village. The road signs are not clear, and many are left up long after the work has completed. There are a number of road signs still on the verges causing danger to road users.

The Chair wrote to North Yorkshire Council to raise concerns about the effectiveness of the signage at these works and ask that greater care be taken in future by contractors to ensure diversions are appropriate. The response received advised that this was the responsibility of contractors and not the Local Authority and it was agreed that should similar issues arise in future, early contact would be made with the Local Authority to ask contractors to rectify the situation. It was also pointed out that following the works the road signage had been left for many weeks and months and some signs are still on the verges.

**Parish Precept**:

EB stated that she had applied for the agreed 5% increase on the precept and when the response was received from North Yorkshire Council with this year's accounts it was actually 6.7%. EB telephoned the council and spoke to a member of staff, and it was explained to EB that the number of band D properties had decreased and to make up the difference in the funding the precept was raised by more than the 5% proposed.

GB had received some documentation regarding this matter, but it did not explain which properties were which bandings. EB will follow up and request further paperwork to explain the difference and how the calculations were made.

The grant has already been allocated for 26/27 but the information will assist in the decision for next financial year in 27/28.

***Action: EB to follow up with the Local Authority to obtain further information regarding the precept and the property bandings.***

**AONB (National Landscape) update**:

A formal proposal has been submitted to the Secretary of State for the Environment regarding the Natural England decision to include Thixendale in the AONB (National Landscape). The Chair provided an overview of the journey and the parish poll that took place due to local concerns about local businesses wanting to develop and potential restrictions on local development. The final say now rests with Secretary of State and there was a discussion about whether the Parish Council wished to approach the Secretary of State to reinforce our concerns as a Parish Council?

CR agreed that it would be a good option to reinforce our position from the Parish Poll and our concerns and this was echoed by other parish councillors.

***Action: Chair to draft a letter to the Secretary of State and circulate for agreement prior to submission.***

**Parish Plan update**:

The Parish Plan is progressing and the next meeting is on 2nd November 2026. Mary Ansty is mapping the village to include in the plan. All of the relevant components have been drafted, and CR has been collating local photographs. We now need to find a person who has the desktop publishing skills to put the plan together.

***Action: Chair to approach Sam Felce, a previous resident, who has a drone to capture some aerial photographs of the parish for the plan***.

**Financial update**:

EB provided the current financial position, balance £6602.60 as of 28.09.26. However, this shows the 5% increase rather than the 6.7% discussed earlier. Grass cutting funding of £11.82 has been provided by North Yorkshire Council and it is believed that this is for the local cutting of the verge near to the junction of the main road with the pub, which the council used to cut and no longer do so and is undertaken by CB on behalf of the village.

**Emergency Briefing Film**:

EB attended Pocklington Arts Centre and viewed a film called “National Emergency Briefing” which aims to bring to life the national climate and nature crisis. A number of scientists and doctors attended a briefing in Westminster’s Central Hall to bring together leaders in society to lobby the Government to take action. The “National Emergency Briefing” is a film that is a resume of the Westminster event. The film is being shown in public venues across the country to increase interest in the subject and invoke local action. EB would like to show the film in Thixendale Village Hall and share the information and hopefully invoke a further discussion.

The Chair asked whether the film was endorsed by the Government and EB was not sure whether that was the case.

KB asked whether there were recommendations for Parish Councils and EB did not believe that this was the case and in Pocklington there wasn't much discussion following the film.

KB raised the issue of the licence payment required for film screening in such venues and this would need to be researched before any screening could take place.

GB thought originally that the film would be about emergency planning and civil contingencies and EB stated that elements of this are included in the film. Thixendale might want to think about having an emergency plan for the village in case a crisis occurred where we were isolated with no food supply and energy.

PF stated that in years gone by the village hall was nominated as an emergency centre and there were nominated individuals in the village should such an emergency occur.

***Decision: EB would undertake further research regarding the status of the film and any licensing conditions for screening in the Village Hall. Once this has been established the Village Hall committee to be approached about arranging a screening in the Village Hall and relevant advertising of the event.***

**AOB**:

EB raised the Local Council Association £144 annual fee for membership, and their role is to provide support, information, assistance and grant funding opportunities. However, all we have received is email information and no other benefits and we want to decide whether it is worth it. IA stated that Pickering Parish Council have used its membership for advice such as HR matters and they deliver Parish Council training courses. It can be supportive to the Parish Clerk. GB stated that most of the information is for training courses. Parish councils need a gov.uk email address and they can help with this, but we can go about this in other ways and it does not have to go through the Local Council Association. GB also gets a lot of emails from North Yorkshire Council and they can also provide advice.

We have paid the subscription for 26/27. A decision is required whether we wish to continue with the subscription for following years.

***Decision: All agreed to terminate the renewal and keep under review in subsequent years.***

The Chair has received a co-opted member application to join the Parish Council from Russell Chapman, who would like to join the Parish Council.

***Decision: All agreed to co-opt Russell Chapman onto the Parish Council.***

**Next Meeting**: 18.00 hours. 7th January 2027.