

Byland with Wass Village Meeting

7:30 pm 11th May 2026 Wass Village Hall

Minutes

Welcome by Councillor Bradley

Welcome Everyone,

Again, we welcome new people into the village and say goodbye to others, especially Peter Rymer who was chair of the Parish Council when I was elected in 2003.

This is the fifth time I have chaired this meeting and looking back at my notes I seem to say each time how lucky we are to be living in this beautiful place. We all want it to remain so and this is an opportunity to discuss keeping it that way.

As well as the environment, we need to keep each other safe. The Wass Community Email system and the Parish Website continue to inform residents. We held a Bystanders can be Lifesavers event run by the WI and the Parish Council which gave residents skills to use a defibrillator and do CPR.

Last year's speaker told us about resilience and emergency planning and the clerk sent out a copy of the leaflet to help with that. I hope you have downloaded it and read it through.

We are looking for more people to join the Emergency WhatsApp group. If you feel you may need help if you fall or have an accident, and really that could happen to anyone, or, you feel you can help another person then please join the group. We are due for another practice call soon.

In 3 weeks' time everyone will be pulling together to make the Open Gardens a success and the village will be looking its best. Although it will be hard to beat the stunning Spring displays in all the gardens recently.

This is a very small community and things only happen if we all get involved. Please volunteer and don't leave it to someone else.

On that note, this is my last time chairing the Village Meeting as I am not standing for election next year. Please think about joining the Parish Council- it's only 4 times a year and the chairman and clerk do most of the work. I didn't know anything when I was elected and I have learned a lot over what will be 24 years.

In total 12 people attended the meeting.

Apologies

John and Margaret Jackson	Dom Jones
Elsbeth Ingleby	Susanne Guthrie
Gemma and David Harker	Quentin and Tracy McMaster
Sue and Dave Norcliffe	Olof and Kate Hagerstrand
Peter and Diney Gilruth	Paul Johnson and Annie French

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting 19th May 2025 previously circulated were signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Resilience and Emergencies

Cllr Bradley along with Cllr Cain attended a number of Emergency Planning meetings both online and in person.

Household Emergency Plan leaflets were distributed to residents in Wass via Email and it is also displayed on the Parish Website. Leaflets will be distributed to Oldstead residents at their forthcoming Village meeting.

Highways

Parking at Abbey Inn

Some parking on the road at Byland has continued although this appeared to be a one off event. **Action: Cllr Bradley continue to monitor**

Flooding At Byland Abbey

Recent update from Highways Area 4 as follows:

Identified an important underground chamber and main pipe partially obstructed with roots. Since clearing this the system has performed much better and the flood has dissipated although this remains heavy weather dependant. Area 4 have committed to regular jetting to keep the drains clear and have some further ideas which they intend to trial over the winter.

Caravan Waste

No further incidents of toilet waste emptying recorded.

Matters to be discussed

Dark Skies Lighting

A number of leaflets were available for review by the village highlighting the benefits of becoming a Dark Skies accredited village notably:

- Communities without street lights are more exclusive and therefore your house prices are higher
- Important to wildlife and human wellbeing
- Good for the rural economy as hotels and pubs benefit from more tourism
- Reduces energy and carbon emissions

Installing downlighters when they need replacing and making sure external lights are on timers are key to reducing light emissions, it's about being aware of the requirements when you need to instal or replace lighting.

Accreditation starts with a survey of the village to highlight potential areas for improvement and creating a plan for this.

There is also a requirement to hold 2 outreach events per year, perhaps one in Byland and Wass and one in Oldstead. These might include something educational, perhaps a “Stargazing event for children in the village.

The attendees and residents apologising prior to the meeting all felt that this was something the Village should undertake. **Action: Cllr Bradley to contact remaining Byland with Wass residents to gain their approval.**

Precept

The precept is currently £2000/yr or approximately £24 per household across the two parishes.

Most parishes across North Yorkshire Council utilise the services of a paid Parish Clerk due to the inability of parishes to get local residents to perform the role. Most parishes are therefore paying around £2000/yr for a part time clerk which would mean doubling the current precept.

Nothing is about to change but once the current clerk retires the parish might have to bear an increase in costs to fund a replacement.

Telephone Box

The Telephone Box at the crossroads requires substantial renovation. Repainting and repair could be in the region of £2000. The view of the meeting was to retain the Telephone Box but to obtain further information on options/costs. **Action Cllr Bradley.**

Other parish Matters raised by meeting

Village Library

Residents to be contacted to find out how extensively the Village Library is used and to inform the Village about opening times etc. **Action: Cllr Bradley**

Verges

Question related to cutting of verges by Highways Area 4 was raised. Highways Area 4 only cut the verges that cause a visual obstruction on corners such as those at Byland Abbey. Responsibility for cutting verges in the village remains the responsibility of residents.

Mike Bradley – Parish Clerk