



Featherstone Town Council

Featherstone Community Centre, Victoria Street, off Station Lane, Featherstone, West Yorkshire,
WF7 5BB

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Regenerating Supporting & Caring for our Community by Wisdom and Courage

Dear Councillor

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

In accordance with the Local Government Act (LGA) 1972, Schedule 12,
paragraphs 10 (2) (b) you are summoned to an Ordinary meeting of
FEATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL to be held in the **GRAHAM ISHERWOOD
SUITE, FEATHERSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE, VICTORIA STREET,
STATION LANE, FEATHERSTONE** on

WEDNESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7.00PM

Vicky Symons
Town Clerk

A moment of reflection
Provided by
Father Joseph

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APOLOGIES AND REASONS
TO THE TOWN CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

AGENDA

<u>Item Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Enclosure</u>
1	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES The Mayor to welcome everyone to meeting To receive and accept any apologies for absence.	
2	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION The meeting is to be opened for the public to address Members on matters relevant to the business of the committee. However, residents cannot take part in the main proceedings of the meeting, this is strictly limited to Councillors. *Note: An answer to any questions raised may not necessarily be available at the meeting. Issues may need further investigation or discussion. Such responses will be communicated in writing to the resident at a later date.	
3	MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest. If you become aware, during the course of a meeting, of an interest that has not been disclosed under this item you must immediately disclose it. Whether you can remain in the meeting and the extent to which you can participate depends on the type of interest you have.	
4	PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 To consider, if thought fit, a resolution under the terms of the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 that the press and public be excluded from Agenda item 20, Mayor and Deputy Mayor 2026/2027 by reason of the confidential nature of the business being transacted.	
5	MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING a) To approve and sign the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council MIN 446/26 to 460/26 held on 14th January 2026 and approve the contents contained therein. b) To approve and sign the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council MIN 501/26 to 507/26 held on the 21st January 2026 and approve the contents contained therein.	7-10 11-12
6	MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS Members will be provided with an update at the meeting.	

7	LIST OF DIRECT DEBITS AND STANDING ORDERS Please see attached list of current direct debit payments and standing orders which are automatically debited to the bank account. As per the Financial Regulation 6.7 these payments to be approved by Full Council. RECOMMENDATION: That the payments be approved for the upcoming financial year.	<u>13</u>
8	PETANGUE AREA Councillor Vickers requested that this item is to be placed on the Agenda for members to discuss.	
9	SMASH – SELF MANAGEMENT AGAINST SELF HARM Councillor S Vickers will report further on this agenda item	
10	100th ANNIVERSARY GENERAL STRIKE 4th – 12th MAY Councillor S Vickers will report further on this agenda item	
11	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS Following on from the January meeting, it was requested that an item be placed on the agenda for Featherstone Rovers. Members to discuss.	
12	COMMUNITY CENTRE CHARGES Members are asked to review the current community centre charges. Members to note that the charges have not changed since 2024. Any changes to the charges will be implemented from 1st April 2026. RECOMMENDATION: That the prices are increased by 20%	<u>14</u>
13	BRADFORD CITY COUNCIL – INFLATABLES Members are asked to approve the cost for the inflatables for Featherstone Gala. This will be for the same inflatables as last year. There has been an increase of 10% on 2025 due to staff costs, vehicle hire, testing, servicing, and insurance. The inflatables that the Town Council currently hire are: IPS Challenge	

	Rock Climber Interactive Play Slide Terminator Torment Camouflaged Assault Course Ultimate Wipe-out Spider Mountain Tots De Luxe Play Zone Play Park Mini Castle Party Bouncer Large Castle Vertical Rush RECOMMENDATION: That members agree to the activities as per last year at cost of £5,830 + vat																									
14	FRIENDS OF PURSTON PARK Any updates are to be provided at the meeting.																									
15	DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE Councillor D Longley will provide and update for members.																									
16	PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS <table><tr><th>APPLICATION NUMBER</th><th>ADDRESS</th><th>PROPOSAL</th><th>DECISION</th></tr><tr><td>25/02095/FUL</td><td>20 Farm Gardens, Streethouse</td><td>Removal of conservatory, proposed single storey side/rear extension</td><td>Approved</td></tr><tr><td>25/02175/COUR</td><td>Monkroyd Farm, Pontefract Road</td><td>Change of use of agricultural building to vehicle maintenance, repair and MOT centre</td><td>Prior approval required granted</td></tr><tr><td>25/02155/FUL</td><td>Boardtek Limited, Warren Road</td><td>Canopy over the existing loading bay.</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>25/01553/CPE</td><td>Caltons Caravan Storage</td><td>Certificate of lawfulness to confirm use of site for storage and distribution</td><td>Approved</td></tr><tr><td>25/02382/FUL</td><td>Land off George Street</td><td>Demolition of existing gardes and erection of 4 flats (use class C3)</td><td></td></tr></table>	APPLICATION NUMBER	ADDRESS	PROPOSAL	DECISION	25/02095/FUL	20 Farm Gardens, Streethouse	Removal of conservatory, proposed single storey side/rear extension	Approved	25/02175/COUR	Monkroyd Farm, Pontefract Road	Change of use of agricultural building to vehicle maintenance, repair and MOT centre	Prior approval required granted	25/02155/FUL	Boardtek Limited, Warren Road	Canopy over the existing loading bay.		25/01553/CPE	Caltons Caravan Storage	Certificate of lawfulness to confirm use of site for storage and distribution	Approved	25/02382/FUL	Land off George Street	Demolition of existing gardes and erection of 4 flats (use class C3)		
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			car parking and associated works																
	25/02129/FUL	161A – 159 A Pontefract road	Change of use of flats/shop to a single dwelling with dormer to rear and external alterations																
	b) ANY OTHER PLANNING MATTERS RECEIVED AFTER THE DATE OF THIS AGENDA c) LICENSING MATTERS (IF ANY) Rovers2026 Limited, Millennium Stadium, Post Office Road, WF7 5EN Grant of premises licence Last date of Representations: 24/02/2025 Live music on and off the premises - Monday to Sunday 12:00 to 23:00 Recorded music and dance indoors and outdoors Monday to Sunday - 12:00 to 00:00 Late Night Refreshment 23:00 to 00:00 Alcohol on the premises Monday to Saturday - 10:00 to 00:00 Sunday 10.00 – 23.00																		
17	CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED <table><tr><th>Date</th><th>FROM</th><th>COMMENTS</th></tr><tr><td>30th January</td><td>YLCA – Weekly Bulletin</td><td>Page 15-19</td></tr><tr><td>29th January</td><td>Mayor of Wakefield – Invite to Curry Night</td><td>Page 20</td></tr><tr><td>23rd January</td><td>YLCA – Weekly Bulletin</td><td>Page 21 - 24</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">Any other correspondence received</td></tr></table>				Date	FROM	COMMENTS	30 th January	YLCA – Weekly Bulletin	Page 15-19	29 th January	Mayor of Wakefield – Invite to Curry Night	Page 20	23 rd January	YLCA – Weekly Bulletin	Page 21 - 24	Any other correspondence received		
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18	URGENT MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION NO DECISIONS CAN BE MADE																		
19	ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS TO BE ADVISED TO THE CLERK																		
	<u>PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL</u>																		
20	MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR 2026/2027 Members are asked to agree the nominations for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. This is to be confirmed at Mayor Making which will be held on 20th May 2026.																		
21	<u>CLOSURE AND NEXT MEETINGS</u> The next meetings of the Town Council will be as follows: Environmental Committee – Wednesday 11th March at 5.30pm																		

	Administration & Finance Committee – Wednesday 11th March at 6.00pm Full Council – Wednesday 11th March at 7.00pm Community Centre Management Committee – Thursday 12th March at 11.30am Events Committee – Thursday 12th March following the Community Centre Management Committee at 11.30am.	
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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FEATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, VICTORIA STREET, FEATHERSTONE ON WEDNESDAY 14TH JANUARY 2026 AT 7.00PM.

Present: Councillor P Belbin, Councillor S Haslam, Councillor J Hutsby, Councillor D Longley, Councillor H Symons, Councillor C Tennant and Councillor M Tennant-King.

In Attendance: Mrs. V Symons (Town Clerk), Leanne Murphy (Town Council Administrator) and Father Joseph (Mayors Chaplin)

446/26 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Action	Actioned By
The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting. Councillor M Isherwood - Holiday Councillor Taylor- Holiday. Councillor P McIntosh – Illness Councillor S Vickers - Holiday		

447/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	Action	Actioned By
The meeting is to be opened for the public to address Members on matters relevant to the business of the committee. However, members of the public cannot take part in the main proceedings of the meeting, this is strictly limited to Councillors. *Note: An answer to any questions raised may not necessarily be available at the meeting. Issues may need further investigation or discussion. Such responses will be communicated in writing to the resident at a later date.	No questions or comments were received.	

448/26 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	Action	Actioned By
It was: RESOLVED: That the following Declaration of Interests be recorded. Councillor M Tennant- King – Non-Pecuniary Interest Agenda Item 15 (Planning & Licencing Matters) – Deputy Chair of Planning at Wakefield Council	The book was signed accordingly by Councillor M Tennant-King	

449/26 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960	Action	Actioned By
If thought fit a resolution that under the terms of the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 that the press and public be excluded from any agenda item by reason of the confidential nature of the business being transacted.	There were no items of a confidential nature.	

450/26 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING	Action	Actioned By
It was:	To be placed on the Town Council website	LM

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on Wednesday 12 th November 2025, Minute Numbers 409/25/A to 424/25/A are approved as a true record and signed the by the chairman.		
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451/26 MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES	Action	Actioned By
It was: RESOLVED: A) To receive the minutes of the Administration & Finance Committee held on Wednesday 6th November 2025 MIN numbers 354/25/A to 364/25/A B) To receive the minutes of the Communications Committee held on Thursday 6th November 2025 MIN numbers 380/25/A to 393/25/A	To be placed on the Town Council website	LM

452/26 MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS	Action	Actioned By
No report had been received by the Mayor		

453/26 PRECEPT 2026/2027	Action	Actioned By
Wakefield Council have requested the Town Council's Precept demand by Tuesday 10th February 2026. The Town Clerk is requesting an Extra-Ordinary meeting to be held on Wednesday 21st January to discuss this in more detail as further information is being sought from Wakefield Council. It was: RESOLVED: That Members approved the request of the additional meeting.		

454/26 DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE	Action	Actioned By
Councillor Longley provided an update and advised that currently there is no back up email should he be unavailable or holiday etc., so he is looking for alternatives and will provided further updates in the upcoming meetings.		

455/26 FRIENDS OF PURSTON PARK/FOUNTAIN	Action	Actioned By
Councillor C Tennant has some concerns over the situation at the park. Friends of Purston Park has no area for storage or access to water for the fountain or plants. This was concerning. Access to toilets was permitted at the Veterans Hub. The Town Clerk had received no reply from Wakefield Council in relation to the responsibility of the fountain being	Town Clerk to email District Councillors to see if the water situation can be looked into.	VS

under the remit of Wakefield Council, however confirmation had been received that if the Town Council were to take this on that this would not be classed as double taxation. It was: RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk email the District Councillors and ask that they review the terms and conditions of the lease at the Veterans Hub to see if the water situation can be rectified, once this had been looked into, the Town Council would advertise for new volunteers for the Friends of Purston Park.		
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456/26 PLANNING APPLICATIONS	Action	Actioned By

APPLICATION NUMBER	ADDRESS	PROPOSAL	DECISION
25/02024/FUL	1 Raven Close	Demolition of existing Conservatory for construction of single storey extension to rear	Approved
25/01915/FUL	107 Featherstone Lane	Raising of the roof line to correspond with 109 Featherstone Lane roof line in order to create a 2 nd bedroom including a rear elevation dormer	Approved
25/02010/FUL	6 Rhyl Street	First Floor extension to rear	Approved
25/01891/FUL	Featherstone All Saints School	Installation of new security gates and fencing to site entrance with associated intercom system	Approved
25/01897/FUL	190 Featherstone Lane	Part two storey part single storey extension to rear and removal of front porch	Approved

d) **ANY OTHER PLANNING MATTERS RECEIVED AFTER THE DATE OF THIS AGENDA –**
None

e) **LICENSING MATTERS (IF ANY)**

457/26 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED		Action	Actioned By
Date	FROM	COMMENTS	
December	Various Christmas Cards One had £100.00 cash inside which was given to Featherstone Food Bank as requested		
16 th December	Email from Friends of Girnhill Lane School thanking the Mayor and Councillors for attending their Christmas Fair		

4 th January	Email from Councillor S Vickers with regards to the Veterans Hub	Members discussed the issue raised in relation to a Facebook post. It was agreed that the Town Council would comment through their own Facebook page advising that the Council have supported the Veterans Hub through grants in the past.
Any other correspondence received		

458/26 URGENT MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION NO DECISIONS CAN BE MADE	Action	Actioned By
The Town Clerk advised that on following on from the IOSH training that staff and Councillor Longley had passed the course and received their certificates.		

459/26 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS TO BE ADVISED TO THE CLERK	Action	Actioned By
Featherstone Rovers Friends of Purston Park		

460/26 CLOSURE AND NEXT MEETINGS	Action	Actioned By
The next meetings of the Town Council will be as follows: Extra-Ordinary Council - Wednesday 21 st January 2026 at 7.00pm Administration & Finance Committee – Wednesday 11 th February 2026 at 6.30pm Full Council – Wednesday 11 th February 2026 at 7.00pm		

Closure: 7.40pm

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF FEATHERSTONE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, VICTORIA STREET, FEATHERSTONE ON WEDNESDAY 21ST JANUARY 2026 AT 7.00PM.

Present: Councillor P Belbin, Councillor S Haslam, Councillor J Hutsby, Councillor K Law, Councillor D Longley, Councillor H Symons, Councillor C Tennant, Councillor M Tennant-King and Councillor S Vickers.

In Attendance: Mrs. V Symons (Town Clerk) and Leanne Murphy (Town Council Administrator)

501/26 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Action	Actioned By
The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received and accepted from: Councillor M Isherwood - Holiday Councillor Taylor- Holiday. Councillor P McIntosh – Illness		

502/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	Action	Actioned By
The meeting is to be opened for the public to address Members on matters relevant to the business of the committee. However, members of the public cannot take part in the main proceedings of the meeting, this is strictly limited to Councillors. *Note: An answer to any questions raised may not necessarily be available at the meeting. Issues may need further investigation or discussion. Such responses will be communicated in writing to the resident at a later date.	No members of the public were present.	

503/26 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	Action	Actioned By
To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest. If you become aware, during the course of a meeting, of an interest that has not been disclosed under this item you must immediately disclose it. Whether you can remain in the meeting and the extent to which you can participate depends on the type of interest you have.	No declarations were received.	

504/26 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960	Action	Actioned By
It was RESOLVED: That under the terms of the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 that the press and public be excluded from agenda item 5 (Community		

Centre Lease) by reason of the confidential nature of the business being transacted.		
505/26 COMMUNITY CENTRE LEASE	Action	Actioned By
Under The Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, the press and public are to be excluded from this Agenda item and will be asked to leave the meeting. Members were provided with an update on the community centre lease and recent invoices received. The Town Clerk had raised a dispute with Wakefield Council over the invoice. The Town Clerk, Town Council Administrator and Councillor Vickers had attended a meeting with the Property Service Manager. Further updates have been requested by the Clerk but have still not been received. Members requested that any updates are brought to a future meeting for discussion.		
506/26 BUDGET 2026/2027	Action	Actioned By
Following a meeting held with Wakefield Council officers the Town Clerk and Town Council are required to review the proposed budget figures Attached to the agenda were the original proposed figures. Members reviewed the budget figures and made an amendment to the Community Centre budget of an additional £10,000.00. All other budget figures were approved. The budget being set at £224,021.29.		
507/26 PRECEPT 2026/2027	Action	Actioned By
Wakefield Council have requested the Town Council's Precept demand by Tuesday 10th February 2026. Members are to decide upon the precept to be levied upon Wakefield Council for financial year 2026/2027. Councillor S Vickers proposed that following the precept working party and previous agenda item that the precept should be set at £215,000.00, showing an annual increase of £3.32 on Band D properties an overall increase of 6.68% It was: RESOLVED: That the precept for the financial year 2026/2027 will be set at £215,000.00.	Inform Wakefield Council of the Precept for Featherstone for 2026/2027	VS

Closure: 7.40pm

LIST OF DIRECT DEBITS as at 1st January 2026					
Purchase Power (PitneyBowes)	Fixed	DDR	Quarterly	£ 12.57	
R Smith	salary	Bank TFR	Monthly	As advised by Karen Vaugh Accountants	
L Murphy	salary	Bank TFR	Monthly	As advised by Karen Vaugh Accountants	
V Symons	salary	Bank TFR	Monthly	As advised by Karen Vaugh Accountants	
Nest Pensions	Pension Payments	DDR	Monthly	As advised by Karen Vaugh Accountants	
HMRC	PAYE & NI	Bank TFR	Monthly	As advised by Karen Vaugh Accountants	
Pro Logic (Office Computers & Emails)	Fixed	DDR	Monthly	£ 65.09	
Qudo Communications Office Telephone & Internet	Fixed	DDR	Monthly	£ 75.38	
McCathy's Safe Shred	Fixed	DDR	Monthly	£ 54.00	Confidential Shredding service
Canva	Fixed	DDR	Yearly	£99.99	Office poster & ticket creator along with social media artwork
Information Commissioners Office	Fixed	DDR	Annual	£ 35.00	
Cathedral Hygiene	Fixed	DDR	Monthly	£127.39	Community Centre Hygiene Equipment
Peninsula Ltd	Fixed	DDR	Monthly	£159.92	Health & Safety (excluding VAT)

COMMUNITY CENTRE CURRENT CHARGES

Hall Size		Community Charge Per Hour	Commercial Charge Per Hour
Small Room		£6	£12
Large Room		£7.50	£15
Full Hall		£10.00	£20.00
Kitchen		£7.50	£15.00
Projector		£2.50	£5.00

Members to note that there have been no increased in 2024 or 2025.

In this week's White Rose Bulletin

- [YLCA News and Reminders](#)
- [News from around the Yorkshire Region](#)
- [NALC News](#)
- [Upcoming Training for Councillors and Clerks](#)
- [Grant Funding](#)
- [News of General Interest](#)
- [Requests for information](#)
- [Councils with Vacancies](#)

YLCA NEWS AND REMINDERS

Clerk buddy scheme for new clerks

Are you brand new to clerking and have been in post for less than one year? If so, you could benefit from having an experienced clerk as a buddy, who will support you and be there for you when needed. YLCA operate a Clerk buddy scheme for new clerks with no previous experience. The scheme matches new clerks with experienced Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) qualified clerks.

The experienced clerk will provide guidance, support, and advice to less experienced officers in the first six months of their new role. The buddy shares their knowledge and skills with the new officer, helping them to navigate challenges, set goals, make informed decisions, and therefore, develop professionally. The buddy will offer contact by phone or e-mail and it may be possible to offer one or more online meetings, using a remote meeting platform such as Zoom. If you're interested, please e-mail: admin@yorkshirelca.gov.uk

YLCA Branch Meetings

Branch meetings are scheduled to take place remotely in February 2026. The dates for each Branch meeting are given below, along with the joining link.

!!Please note revised dates for the Scarborough and Ryedale Branches below!!

One of our agenda items is "Topics provided by members". Clerks are encouraged to e-mail YLCA with details of any topics the council or parish meeting would like to be discussed. These meetings are an opportunity to share ideas, good practice, and to explore solutions to issues that may affect more than one parish. Please ensure you register to attend the relevant Branch meeting prior to the evening it is being held.

If fewer than six representatives register, the meeting will be cancelled. Meetings are being held via Zoom unless a different platform is given:

South Pennine Branch – Wednesday 4 February [Meeting Registration](#)

Richmondshire Branch – Thursday 5 February [Meeting Registration](#)

Hambleton Branch – Tuesday 10 February [Meeting Registration](#)

Harrogate Branch – Monday 16 February [Meeting Registration](#)

Craven Branch – Tuesday 17 February [Meeting Registration](#)

South Yorkshire Branch – Wednesday 18 February [Meeting Registration](#)

York Branch – Thursday 19 February [Meeting Registration](#)

Selby Branch – Wednesday 25 February [Meeting Registration](#)

Leeds Branch – Thursday 26 February [Meeting Registration](#)

Scarborough Branch – Monday 2 March [Meeting Registration](#)

Ryedale Branch – Monday 9 March [Meeting Registration](#)

Any councillor or clerk is welcome to attend these meetings. If the council is unable to send a representative please e-mail admin@yorkshirelca.gov.uk for apologies to be recorded in the minutes.

YLCA Quick Insights: Various topics to listen to, free of charge

We have put together some short free recordings on a variety of topics. Please take a look at the YLCA Quick Insights (pre-recorded webinars) webpage on the YLCA website.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE YORKSHIRE REGION

Mayor's West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan

This statutory consultation ran from 29 July 2025 until 21 October 2025.

Responses to the consultation have been analysed and the Consultation Outcome Report and Executive Summary are available to read at: [Local Transport Plan | Your Voice](#) All feedback is being considered and will inform the final detail of the Mayor's West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan. The post consultation draft plan was taken to the Transport Committee on 29 January 2026. The Plan will be submitted to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for adoption by the Mayor at its meeting on 12 March 2026. If there are any questions about the Local Transport Plan, you can get in touch by:

- E-mail at localtransportplan@westyorks-ca.gov.uk
- Post at FREEPOST, WEST YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY (no stamp required)
- Phone (MetroLine Information Service) on 0113 245 7676
- Ask a question using the [Question & Answer function on the project Your Voice page](#)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NALC) NEWS

Rural Coalition meeting

The chair of NALC, Cllr Hamilton, attended the latest [Rural Coalition](#) meeting, which is a key national partner of NALC. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs confirmed they were continuing to work with other government departments on rural matters and rural proofing. Cllr Hamilton stressed the importance of new mayoralities engaging with rural communities and local councils, especially as they assumed the policing responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioners, which might lead to a refocusing of community safety resources away from rural areas.

Parish-level census data

NALC has urged the Office for National Statistics to [improve access to parish-level census data](#) for small communities, warning that current thresholds risk leaving thousands of local councils without the information they need to plan effectively.

NALC Quarterly activity report

NALC has [published a quarterly activity report](#), which covers October to December 2025. The quarterly activity report details progress in delivering the NALC strategic plan and key highlights.

Estates with unadopted amenities- request for examples

NALC are keen to hear from councils that are aware of privately managed estates in their areas with unadopted amenities, particularly roads, green spaces and drainage systems and any issues or challenges that have arisen as a result. This will help inform NALC's response to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Consultation on reducing the prevalence of private estate management arrangements.

Councils are asked to contact NALC directly by e- mailing: policycomms@nalc.gov.uk by Friday, 13 February 2026.

UPCOMING TRAINING FOR COUNCILLORS AND CLERKS

YLCA's Training Offer for Councillors and Clerks for the next few weeks

Website Accessibility Requirements, Mark Tomkins, Aubergine 262 Ltd (ODF/CDF)

Cost: £10.00 per delegate

Tuesday 3 February, 10.00am to 11.30am

National Planning Policy Framework: proposed reforms and other changes to the planning system – Andrew Towlerton (ODF/CDF)

Cost: £18.20 or £9.10 with small council bursary

Tuesday 3 February, 7.00pm to 8.00pm

Clerks' Discussion Forums

Free of Charge

Tuesday 10 February, 2.00pm to 3.00pm

How to manage wellness in the workplace, Chris Moses, Personnel Advice and Solutions Ltd (ODF/CDF)

Cost: £36.50 or £18.25 with small council bursary

Wednesday 11 February, 10.00am to 12 noon

Appraisals – get it right to avoid conflict, James Corrigan, CHRGS (ODF/CDF)

Cost: £27.40 or £13.70 with small council bursary

Wednesday 11 February, 7.00pm to 8.30pm

Chairing Skills – Full day face to face (CDF)

Cost: £115.00 or £57.50 with small council bursary (includes lunch and refreshments throughout the day)

at Lockwood Room, Cober Hill, Cloughton, Scarborough, YO13 0AR

Thursday 12 February, 10.00am to 4.00pm

E-mail: admin@yorkshirelca.gov.uk for a booking form for the face to face session.

Induction for new Local Council Clerks (ODF)

Cost: £73.00 or £36.50 with small council bursary

Tuesday 24 February, 9.30am to 1.30pm (30 min break)

Freedom of Information (FOI) and Environment Information Regulations (EIR)

Darren Briddock, Breakthrough (ODF/CDF) Communications

Cost: £36.50 or £18.25 with small council bursary

Tuesday 24 February, 7.00pm to 9.00pm

What should a Parish and Town Council publish on its website to be compliant with legislation (ODF/CDF)

Cost: £10.00 per delegate

Wednesday 25 February, 2.00pm to 3.00pm

ODF = Officer Development Framework

CDF = Councillor Development Framework

Parkinson Partnership Finance Training

The Parkinson Partnership offer several topics on Finance Training, below are the new sessions that have been added. The information sheet includes all training available. All courses are £35.00 per delegate, per session. Please register for the training via the [YLCA website](#) to book your place.

Year End & Audit – Councils over £25,000

Thursday 12 February, 10.00am

Tuesday 10 March, 10.00am

Thursday 26 March, 10.00am

Year-end and Transparency – Councils under £25,000

Thursday 12 March, 10.00am

Tuesday 17 March, 10.00am

Income & Expenditure accounts (for larger councils)

Thursday 19 March, 10.00am

NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Common Ground: Building Cohesive Communities' guidance published

On 27 January, the Local Government Association (LGA) and Belong (the Cohesion and Integration Network) published new 'Common Ground: Building Cohesive Communities' guidance.

Supported by funding from MHCLG and developed in direct response to issues raised by principal councils, the new guidance is available to all councils and provides a clear and comprehensive framework for tackling online misinformation, community tensions and hate crime, while embedding cohesion as a priority across local services. It sets out statutory responsibilities, practical approaches and best-practice examples that give local government the clarity and confidence to lead. By linking cohesion work to statutory duties and promoting a shared language and consistent practice, the guidance supports a more coordinated and effective approach across the sector.

The parish sector is mentioned in the guidance albeit perhaps not quite with the enthusiasm for their abilities as much as YLCA and the National Association would like.

Nominations for the New Year 2027 Honours round

MHCLG is inviting councils to submit nominations for the New Year Honours list which will be published at the end of December 2026.

MHCLG is keen to receive nominations for those who have made exceptional contributions in the policy areas covered by MHCLG's remit (these are set out in the nomination form). This includes not just council chief executives, leaders and councillors, but staff at all levels.

The deadline for nominations is 6 March. If you have any questions about the process, please contact: honours@communities.gov.uk

Norovirus cases up 60% in the past two weeks

The [UK Health Security Agency \(UKHSA\)](#) has reminded people of the steps they can take to halt the spread of norovirus. Latest data shows that cases have increased 61.1% in the last two weeks, compared to the previous two-week period. There has been a significant rise in cases in adults aged 65 and over, and outbreaks in hospital settings have increased too. Common symptoms of norovirus include nausea and vomiting, diarrhoea, high temperature, abdominal

pain and aching limbs. Good hand hygiene is important to stop norovirus spreading, which is achieved by thorough washing with soap and warm water.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Floral Displays and Hanging Baskets

Ackworth Parish Council in the Wakefield District would welcome recommendations from member councils for suppliers of floral displays/hanging baskets in West Yorkshire. Please contact the clerk directly by e-mail: clerk@ackworthparishcouncil.gov.uk if you can recommend a supplier. Thank you.

WAKEFIELD'S MAYOR CHARITY APPEAL

SUPPORTING OUR MAYOR'S CHARITIES



Mayor's CURRY *night*

Thursday 19th March
Cinnamon Lounge
Horbury
Starts at 7pm

Tickets £20

Email - Mayor@wakefield.gov.uk
or contact Maureen or Darren

All proceeds to the Mayor's Charity Appeal
Supporting Wakefield District Sight Aid and Wakefield
& District Downs Syndrome Support Group

In this week's White Rose Bulletin

- YLCA News and Reminders
- NALC News
- Upcoming Training for Councillors and Clerks
- News of General Interest
- Councils with Vacancies

YLCA NEWS AND REMINDERS

YLCA Joint Annual Meeting 2025

We are very pleased to report that the rescheduled meeting on 17 January was quorate and went ahead as planned. This follows disappointment at the last two convened Joint Annual Meetings, which were inquorate. Mr Derek Liddell was re-appointed as the President of the Associations' and Sunley and Co of Acomb were reappointed as the Independent Examiner. Several amendments were agreed to the joint constitutions that link the North, South and West Local Councils Associations together (which form YLCA), including a reduction needed for an annual meeting quorum. The 2026 Joint Annual Meeting will be held in September 2026.

YLCA Branch Meetings

Branch meetings are scheduled to take place remotely in February 2026. The dates for each Branch meeting are given below along with the joining link.

One of our agenda items is "Topics provided by members". Clerks are encouraged to e-mail YLCA with details of any topics the council or parish meeting would like to be discussed. These meetings are an opportunity to share ideas, good practice, and to explore solutions to issues that may affect more than one parish. Please ensure you register to attend the relevant Branch meeting prior to the evening it is being held.

If fewer than six representatives register, the meeting will be cancelled. Meetings are being held via Zoom unless a different platform is given:

South Pennine Branch – Wednesday 4 February Meeting Registration
Richmondshire Branch – Thursday 5 February Meeting Registration
Hambleton Branch – Tuesday 10 February Meeting Registration
Ryedale Branch – Thursday 12 February Meeting Registration
Harrogate Branch – Monday 16 February Meeting Registration
Craven Branch – Tuesday 17 February Meeting Registration
South Yorkshire Branch – Wednesday 18 February Meeting Registration
York Branch – Thursday 19 February Meeting Registration
Scarborough Branch – Tuesday 24 February Meeting Registration – Teams
Selby Branch – Wednesday 25 February Meeting Registration
Leeds Branch – Thursday 26 February Meeting Registration

Any councillor or clerk is welcome to attend these meetings. If the council is unable to send a representative please e-mail admin@yorkshirelca.gov.uk for apologies to be recorded in the minutes.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NALC) NEWS

NALC Smaller Councils Committee

The NALC Smaller Councils Committee held its first meeting of the year on Tuesday, where it received an update from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on the government's proposed reforms to the local government standards regime. MHCLG confirmed they are actively seeking parliamentary opportunities to take the proposals forward and are committed to keeping NALC updated as work progresses on this crucial matter for parish and town councils

Reforms to the statutory consultee system

NALC have set out their position in response to the government's consultation on reforms to the statutory consultee system, warning that some of the proposed changes risk weakening protections for communities if not handled carefully. You can read the full response on the NALC website.

Parish and Town Council still exempt from council tax referendum principles

NALC have welcomed the government's proposals to introduce multi-year financial settlements for local government and to exempt parish and town councils from council tax referendum principles for the next three financial years. It is a long-standing priority that will bring much-needed stability and certainty to local government finance. You can read the full response on the NALC website.

Proposed digitisation of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

The Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments has announced a significant step forward in modernising financial reporting for parish and town councils, with work well underway to digitise the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). The new online system aims to make the AGAR process simpler, more consistent, and more accessible for all smaller authorities. The YLCA Branches will be discussing this matter at their February meetings.

England's devolution agenda develops

NALC has welcomed the publication of a new report from the Local Policy Innovation Partnership, which provides a timely and compelling examination of the vital role played by parish and town councils as the community tier of government, and the action needed to ensure they are correctly recognised and supported as England's devolution agenda develops.

Centre for Ageing Better guide

The Centre for Ageing Better wrote an article for the Medical Journal about how devolution offers the potential for local councils to have greater influence on how their communities are shaped, including taking steps to ensure they become better places to age well. Read NALC and the Centre for Ageing Better joint guide on how your parish or town council can make the most of these opportunities.

UPCOMING TRAINING FOR COUNCILLORS AND CLERKS

YLCA Talking Tables Training Day, 12 March 2026 – Thorpe Park Hotel and Spa, 1150 Century Way, Thorpe Park, Leeds, LS15 8ZB. Kindly sponsored by Streetscape Products and Services Ltd, Parish Online and Breakthrough Communications.

Over half of the places for the training day taking place on 12 March have already been booked. This is a full day of training for councillors and clerks starting at 9.30am and covering a range of excellent topics. The full programme is available on the Training Day page of the YLCA website. To avoid disappointment please complete the booking form and return it to admin@yorkshirelca.gov.uk as soon as the council has approved your attendance. We look forward to meeting you all.

YLCA's Training Offer for Councillors and Clerks for the next few weeks

ODF = Officer Development Framework

CDF = Councillor Development Framework

Induction for new Local Council Clerks (ODF)

The induction for new clerks is also for clerks that would like a refresher on how to deal with council business lawfully.

Cost: £73.00 or £36.50 with small council bursary

Face to face session at York House, Tadcaster LS24 9JF

Tuesday 27 January, 12.30pm – 4.30pm

Please e-mail admin@yorkshirelca.gov.uk for a booking form for this face to face session.

Casual Vacancies – how to manage council vacancies lawfully (ODF/CDF)

What is the process when the council has a vacancy? come along and learn how to process vacancies lawfully.

Cost: £27.40 or £13.70 with small council bursary

Thursday 29 January, 7.00pm – 8.30pm

Website Accessibility Requirements, Mark Tomkins, Aubergine 262 Ltd (ODF/CDF)

Cost: £10.00 per delegate

Tuesday 3 February, 10.00am to 11.30am

National Planning Policy Framework: proposed reforms and other changes to the planning system – Andrew Towler (ODF/CDF)

Cost: £18.20 or £9.10 with small council bursary

Tuesday 3 February, 7.00pm to 8.00pm

Holding Better Meetings (ODF/CDF)

Cost: £27.40 or £13.70 with small council bursary

Wednesday 4 February, 9.30am to 11.00am

Cllrs Discussion Forum, Wednesday 18 February – CANCELLED

Parkinson Partnership Finance Training

The Parkinson Partnership offer several topics on Finance Training, below are the new sessions that have been added. The information sheet includes all training available. All courses are £35.00 per delegate, per session. Please register for the training via the YLCA website to book your place.

Year End & Audit – Councils over £25,000

Thursday 12 February, 10.00am

Tuesday 10 March, 10.00am

Thursday 26 March, 10.00am

Year-end and Transparency – Councils under £25,000

Thursday 12 March, 10.00am

Tuesday 17 March, 10.00am

Income & Expenditure accounts (for larger councils)

Thursday 19 March, 10.00am

Training Partners – CloudyIT Training Available

PowerPoint for professional presentations made simple

26 January, 12.00pm – 1.00pm

Cost £45.00 per delegate or FREE for CloudyIT customers

Join this session to create impactful and engaging PowerPoint presentations, perfect for sharing council initiatives and projects with stakeholders.

Bookings for Simplified Appointment Scheduling

28 January, 12.00pm – 1.00pm

Cost £45.00 per delegate or FREE for CloudyIT customers

Unlock the Full Power of Bookings in Just One Hour – Microsoft Bookings is a powerful tool for streamlining appointment scheduling across various council services.

Microsoft Word Intermediate: Mastering reports without the headaches

2 February, 11.30am – 1.00pm

Cost £65.00 per delegate or FREE for CloudyIT customers

Do you get by with what you know but feel you could do so much more? This session will improve your confidence by making you proficient with Word, providing time-saving techniques to ensure Word works with you rather than against you.

NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Cross-pavement solutions for charging electric vehicles

At this week's councillors discussion forum the subject of electric vehicle charging was discussed with concerns around a resident charging their car with an EV cable with hi-vis cable cover crossing a pavement. Government guidance was mentioned which relates to cross-pavement solutions for charging electric vehicles which our member councils may find interesting. Residents should contact the highways authority for further guidance and may also be interested in separate guidance on EV Chargepoint Grants for households with on street parking.

Reporting accidents and illness at work

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is reminding employers to make sure they submit a Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) report for a workplace accident, where necessary.

RIDDOR puts duties on employers, the self-employed and those in control of work premises to report certain serious workplace accidents, occupational diseases and specified dangerous occurrences.

HSE's website has: further information about RIDDOR, including:

- The types of incident that must be reported and those that are exempt
- A step by step guide on how to make a RIDDOR report
- Information on what records you need to keep