

HELMSLEY TOWN COUNCIL

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 Town Clerk & RFO: Ms V Ellis

Minutes of the Meeting of Helmsley Town Council

6:30pm on Monday 17th February 2025 in the North York Moors National Park Committee Room

Present Councillors V Arnold (Chairman), S Arnold, Duncombe, Fairburn, Johnson, Sagers and Swift.

Also present 16 members of public (all had left by item 6a), a representative of the Friends of Helmsley School (left after 7a which was brought forward to follow 4), NYC Cllr Jabbour (from Item 4) and the Town Clerk.

1. All councillors were present.
2. Councillor Duncombe declared an interest in agenda items 5c and 5d.
3. Four members of the public addressed the council in Public Comments about:
 - The recent attendance by NYMNPAs officers at a Helmsley Town Council meeting and what was said about working and open hours of the NYMNPAs building with particular reference to evening meetings and weekend working. The council was asked to make a complaint about use of the NYMNPAs Headquarters during evenings and weekends for the health, safety and well-being of the residents of Riccal Drive.
 - Road safety on Riccal Drive was questioned as there have been 2 accidents since the new housing was completed.
 - The response made by Helmsley Town Council to the NYMNPAs planning application for its new headquarters on Riccal Drive and the lack of recognition in the response of the concerns of residents or the policies of the Helmsley Plan. The Baumann Lyons report, which contributed to the Helmsley Plan, was quoted from with reference to the design principles for Riccal Drive, 'a mixed distributor road' and 'no direct driveway onto it'. The speaker, on behalf of Riccal Drive residents, asked the council to request that the planning application for the hybrid planning application be rerun.
 - Concern about the proposed NYMNPAs diesel store and the lack of details available.
 - Helmsley's emergence as a destination for fashion tourism and high-end jewellery. Some Helmsley businesses and volunteers are planning a fashion weekend and asked if a councillor would like to be involved.

4. Minutes

The council resolved to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday 20th January 2025 were they were duly signed.

5. Planning. The following applications were considered.

- a) [ZE25/00100/LBC](#) Install timber sliding sash windows to principal elevation, timber casement windows to rear elevation as replacement to existing uPVC windows. Co-op. 3-4 Market Place. **Decision** The council supports the NYC Conservation Officer's comments and would like more details of the windows.
- b) [NYM/2025/0026](#) & [NYM/2025/0027LBC](#) installation of replacement rooflight & half timber slimline double glazed door to rear elevation together with installation of 3 replacement slimline double glazed Yorkshire sliding sash windows to rear & side elevation. 24 High Street.
Decision The NYMNPAs has made detailed remarks about the application and the council supports the improvement work, it is an enhancement.
- c) [NYM/2025/0066](#) Variations of conditions 2 (material amendment) & 3 of planning approval [NYM/2010/0118/CU](#) to allow hard & soft landscaping works together with erection of pergola & permanent display of goods for sale at Duncombe Sawmill & JT Atkinson. Rear of 6 Castlegate.
Decision Support. The area is well looked after.
- d) [ZE25/00147/FUL](#) Erection of external storage building (retrospective) and provision of solar PV panels to south elevation roof. Helmsley Arts Centre, Bridge Street.
Decision The council supports the installation of solar panels for the environment and the shed is needed

- e) [ZE25/00153/73](#) Variation of Condition 02 of planning approval ZE23/00705/FUL dated 08.09.2023 to allow repositioning of the proposed building. Reliance Garage, Station Road. **Decision** Support as per previous response.
- 6. North Yorkshire Council – various.**
- a) The council agreed to respond to the NYC 2025-2035 Public Conveniences Service Plan.
- b) The council resolved to ask North Yorkshire Council to remove the remaining half of the yellow & black height barrier over the entrance the easternmost section of the Cleveland Way Car Park. It is unsightly, blocks the view of the castle as people enter the car park,
- 7. Finance**
- a) This item was brought forward to follow No. 4. The council resolved to approve a grant application for £4,000 now (2024-25 budget) & £4,000 in May (2025-26) from the Friends of Helmsley School. A representative of the school gave a presentation about how funding from the council had been spent and the plans for the improvement of the play area, including sensory equipment.
- b) The council noted that the clerk has paid Helmsley Youth Club invoices directly as the group spent over a year trying to open a bank account without success for grants and is to close. The council has received £212.25 from the Youth Club which has now closed as only 3 children attend. The council thanked Councillor Swift and other volunteers for their efforts to make the Youth Club a success.
- c) The council received the Bank Reconciliation, Payments List & Running Budget.
- 8. Meeting reports.**
- a) Helmsley Town Hall 14/1/25. Cllr S. Arnold. Minutes circulated to councillors.
- b) Helmsley Business. Ms C Frank, Fed. of Small Business. Cllr Johnson. Notes circulated.
- c) Christmas Lights with Christmas Plus 11 Feb on site. Cllrs Swift, S Arnold and the clerk. The clerk gave a verbal report on the changes for 2025 – the power will be carried from a pole within the tree rather than separate. The council noted that permission to hold the event free of charge has not yet been received from North Yorkshire Council.
- d) Provision of a *Changing Places Facility* in Helmsley meeting - included a site visit to the Cleveland Way Car Park 4/2/25. Attended by Cllr V Arnold & the clerk. Minutes to follow.
- e) Ryedale Internal Drainage Board. 6th Feb. Cllr S Arnold. Minutes available.
- 9. Reports for Information Only**
- a) **Chairman.**
- b) **Clerk**
- Helmsley Town Council work in the Churchyard inc. restoration of the Lych Gate is due to start 10th March and to last for 3 weeks. Clerk to attend a meeting with Donald Insall Architects, [Pinnacle Conservation Ltd](#) and church representatives in February.
 - Fireworks Event date 1st November 2025. Deposit paid by Helmsley Town Council.
 - Grass area around The Limes was damaged by a commercial vehicle(s) crossing the grass to an adjacent garden for outdoor works. Reported by residents. The area has been looked after and has recovered well. The contractor has reseeded and the clerk has had posts put up to prevent vehicular access in future.
 - NALC Good Councillors Guide to Finance 2025 (updated), pdf circulated, 1 print out to circulate (new editions of this booklet series are no longer being published by NALC).
 - Helmsley Town Council Internal Audit arranged for 15th April 2024. All day.
 - The clerk submitted an FOI request to NYC [Helmsley Car Park income](#) to the What Do They Know website. All information requested was provided. NYC Income Helmsley over £400,00pa.
 - The clerk completed and submitted the NYC Town & Parish Council Survey for North Yorkshire Council Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) 2024/25
 - Clerk delivered Helmsley Archive Scrapbooks to NYC County Archive for scanning
 - Gravel Ride [Cycling Sporting Event](#) in Helmsley 7 June 2025.
 - North Yorkshire Local Plan - [Call for Sites webpage](#) published which has a link to the mapping website. NYC will update it when sites are added or withdrawn.
 - Helmsley Town Council Cemetery Memorials Report to date has been received (incomplete) and circulated. The Inspection has been held up due to the contractor being unable to work on it for personal reasons but he has done the high footfall areas. Of the memorials laid flat the clerk only knows of one that has been reinstated by the family at their expense but has not checked the High Risk List (39) of those laid flat so it is possible that there may be more. The condition of 76 (Medium Risk) warrant further inspection in 2027.

Signed

Date