

**Minutes of the Annual Melbecks Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 14th May 2026
at Gunnerside Village Hall**

The Annual Melbecks Parish Council meeting was held on Thursday 14th May 2026 at Gunnerside Village Hall. Present were Councillors Alderson, Calvert, Bowe and Strafford with Councillor Silver chairing. North Yorkshire County Councillor Yvonne Peacock was also present. The Clerk was Miss N. Adams.

1. All were welcomed to the meeting.
2. Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from PCSO Tracie Taylor Paige.
3. Election of Officers: Chair: Councillor Silver was nominated as Chair by Cllr Strafford and seconded by Councillor Bowe. There were no other nominations, and this was unanimously agreed.
4. Election of Officers: Vice-Chair: Councillor Bowe was nominated as Vice-Chair by Councillor Silver and seconded by Councillor Strafford. There were no other nominations, and this was unanimously agreed.
5. Declaration of Interests: There were none declared.
6. Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the last meeting, held on 19th March 2026 were agreed to be a correct record, and these were signed by the Chair.
7. Matters Arising.
 - a) Waste collections - to be discussed at the end of the meeting.
8. Finance
 - a) Audit
 - (i) Annual Internal Audit Report: The council noted the Annual Internal Audit Report which has been completed by internal auditor, Richard Hunt, who has examined the accounts of Melbecks Parish Council for the period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026 and was satisfied that they provide a true and accurate representation of the Council's business and compliance with the various requirements over that time.
 - ii) Annual Governance Statement (Section 1): The Annual Governance Statement was unanimously approved by the Council and signed by the Chair and Clerk.
 - iii) Accounting Statements (Section 2): The Accounting Statements were considered and approved and signed by the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer/Clerk.
 - iv) Certificate of Exemption: The Council unanimously approved the Certificate of Exemption, and this was signed by the Chair and the Responsible Financial Officer/Clerk.
 - b) Financial risk assessment: The council reviewed and unanimously adopted the Financial Risk Assessment.
 - c) Financial Statement: The council reviewed and approved the Financial Statement.
 - d) Order to pay – Gunnerside Village Hall: An order to pay and a cheque was signed for £60 for Gunnerside Village Hall. The clerk will send this to the Treasurer of Gunnerside Village Hall.
 - e) Order to pay – Low Row Institute: An order to pay and a cheque was signed for £80 for Low Row Institute. The clerk will send this to the Treasurer of Low Row Institute.
 - f) Order to pay – Yorkshire Local Councils Association: An order to pay and a cheque was signed for £196 for YLCA membership subscription. The clerk will send this to the YLCA.
 - g) Order to pay – Website: An order to pay and a cheque was signed for £842.40 for the website. The clerk will send this to Active Council.
9. Highways
 - a) Highways Reply:

There were no highways updates.
 - b) Peat Gate, issues with cattle grid and road falling away. It was agreed for NYC Councillor to include this issue in her meeting with Highways Officer, Paul Randall which is taking place in June. Councillor Silver to attend if possible. NYC Councillor Peacock will investigate and let councillors know.
 - d) The clerk to report potholes opposite Strands House, and two at Woodend and Trough House.
10. North Yorkshire Council
 - a) Household Waste Recycling: Residents must now register to use recycling facilities.

b) Waste collections: NYC Councillor Peacock advised that there new bins are being allocated to households by September 2026, with one bin to be provided for paper and cardboard, one for bottles and cans, and one for rubbish. Food waste bins are not being considered currently. Less frequent collections will be taking place with black bins emptied fortnightly and recycling monthly. A consultation will take place first and residents should expect to receive a letter shortly. Councillors raised that there could potentially be issues with the number of bins, particularly on the pasture land. This can be raised as part of the consultation process.

b) Updated Parish Charter: Councillors noted receipt of the Updated Parish Charter.

11. YDNPA

a)

Protected Tree Applications: Calvercote, Gunnerside, fell 1 x eucalyptus - no comments or objections were raised.

b) Protected Tree Decisions: Hazel Garth, Low Row, remove 1 x sycamore, (approved, replant recommended) no comments or objections were raised.

c) Planning Permission: Application to vary planning permission R/01/100D to permit the continuation of the Scott Trial motorcycle event on land at Arkengarthdale, Gunnerside and Reeth Moors and surrounding area: The council raised no comments or objections regarding this planning application.

d) Listed building consent - Listed building consent for repointing of the external stonework using a traditional lime mortar mix on a like-for-like basis in terms of joint finish and appearance at Pursglove Cottage, Brocca Bank, Feetham, DL11 6PS - R/05/128C/LB

e) Listed building consent for replacement of existing windows with new like-for-like double glazed units incorporating slimline glazing and replacement of existing doors with timber doors, including traditional ledge and brace and stable door designs, to complement the historic character of the property at Pursglove Cottage, Brocca Bank, Feetham, DL11 6PS- R/05/128D/LB

12. Any other business

a)

Reeth Surgery update

NYC Councillor Peacock provided an update on the progress so far and it was noted that another meeting of the Parish Council working group is taking place on Monday 18th May 2026 at 6.45pm at Grinton. Councillor Bowe to attend.

b) Dog waste bin, Gunnerside: It was agreed for Councillor Silver to ask Geoff West to look at this and provide a quote for repair.

c) Councillor Bowe raised an issue with the public toilets in Gunnerside which are now being cleaned by contractors rather than North Yorkshire Council. Previously, the cleaners would also empty the dog waste and recycling bins in the village at the same time but this is now not happening. NYC Councillor Peacock will investigate this and report back. Councillor Peacock also confirmed that there are no plans to upgrade the toilets in Gunnerside and increase the cost, which is happening at some other toilets across the area. It was suggested that a general waste bin could be considered for the village.

d) It was suggested that the Parish Council could make a donation towards the cost of fuel for the generator at Gunnerside Village Hall as it has funded this at Low Row Institute. Councillors Bowe and Silver will contact Richard Lewis regarding different options.

e) The clerk was asked to report that the street light number one in Low Row at Peep O' Day has no number on the sign. The clerk will report this to the council.

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 16th July 2026 at 7.30pm at Low Row Institute.

As there was no other business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.