

HAXBY TOWN COUNCIL

The Memorial Hall, The Village, Haxby YO32 3HT

Minutes of a meeting of Haxby Town Council held on Monday 20 April 2026 at 8pm in Oaken Grove Youth and Community Centre, Haxby.

Present: Cllr R. Pearson (chairman)
Cllr C. Cooper
Cllr I. Craven
Cllr T. Fisher
Cllr C. Layfield
Cllr J. Secker
Cllr G. Stow
Cllr I. Thompson

Also present: Alan Draper (town clerk) and two members of the public.

Prior to the meeting, a minute's silence was held for Cllr Grant Cockburn and the chairman said the following:

Grant stepped into the role of council chairman at a particularly difficult time for Haxby Town Council and then became the vice-chairman - a position he held until his untimely death.

Grant was hardworking, fierce, moral, honest and kind - an advocate for the people of Haxby and Wigginton.

Sport was a huge part of his life. Grant was involved in so many activities – football, acting as both coach and referee for the junior teams, rugby, keeping fit, running. A keen former scouting leader. He would lead the parade at our annual carnival (something I think he secretly loved doing!)

He believed in integrity, fairness, justice.

He was a gentleman.

As the man we worked alongside, councillors and staff will all miss his invaluable input into all our lives; his passion, selflessness and verve for life. His time was given freely, and we will all miss him so, so much. Haxby has lost a great supporter.

Speaking personally, my best memory about him was his obvious love for his family – his wife, his sons, his mum and his sister – who will be bereft and lost right now but we will be there if/when needed.

May he rest in peace.

239/2025 Apologies for absence

RESOLVED that apologies and the respective reasons for absence were received and accepted from:

- Cllr I. Cuthbertson
- Cllr C. Hogg
- Cllr E. Pearson
- Cllr T. Richardson

240/2025 Chairman's welcome

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

241/2025 Declarations of interest

No declarations were made other than those already declared in members' respective register of interests.

242/2025 Public question time and participation

No issues were raised.

243/2025 Minutes – council meeting

RESOLVED to approve and accept the minutes of the council meeting held on 9 March 2026.

244/2025 Minutes – committee meetings

RESOLVED to accept the minutes and to confirm the recommendations therein of the following committee meetings:

- Amenities Committee – 2 March 2026
- Events Committee – 2 March 2026
- Planning Committee – 9 March 2026

245/2025 Ethel Ward playing field

a) Progress on the future of the pavilion and to authorise any action(s) accordingly

It was reported from Haxby Town FC Juniors that the Football Foundation will likely only provide up to £25,000 funding due to previous funding for the changing rooms at the pavilion.

RESOLVED to:

- Await the official response from the Football Foundation regarding funding.
- Set up a working group consisting of Cllrs T. Fisher, C. Layfield, J. Secker, G. Stow, I. Thompson and stakeholders, to review the pavilion project.

b) Renewal of the lease for the scout hut, including a request to locate Haxby Foodshare at the scout hut

RESOLVED that due to concerns regarding Haxby Foodshare, the item to be deferred pending receipt of further information.

c) Request from Haxby Town FC regarding equipment and storage at the Ethel Ward site

RESOLVED that:

- Standing order 26(a) be invoked to suspend standing order 7.
- The request for a larger container be approved.
- It is only temporary.
- Haxby Town FC must obtain any necessary planning permission.
- The location is the hard standing near the pavilion (the former nursery play area).

d) Recommendation from the Amenities Committee to procure a new item of play equipment

RESOLVED:

- To approve the recommendation and thus accept the quote for £17,345 (+VAT) from Pentagon Play.

- That a 25% deposit be requested / negotiated with the remainder to be paid in stages.

246/2025 Safer road crossing – Ralph Butterfield school

RESOLVED:

- To support the campaign for a safer road (zebra) crossing at Ralph Butterfield school.
- To promote the campaign on the council’s website and social media.
- Cllr R. Pearson will attend a meeting with City of York Council.

247/2025 City of York Council – community caretakers

The chairman reported on a recent meeting with community caretakers from City of York Council.

RESOLVED:

- To accept and approve the chairman’s report.
- That the community caretakers be asked to undertake other tasks.

248/2025 Police report

RESOLVED to receive the police report for March 2026.

249/2025 Society of Local Council clerks – national conference 2026

RESOLVED that the town clerk be authorised to attend the SLCC national conference in October 2026.

250/2025 Payments – April 2026

RESOLVED that the payments for April 2026 be approved.

251/2025 Exclusion of public and press

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it is in the public interest that the press and public be excluded and that they are instructed to withdraw.

COUNCIL IN PRIVATE SESSION

252/2025 Legal proceedings

The town clerk provided an update on the legal proceedings and the resultant effect on the council’s reserves.

RESOLVED that:

- The claim against the council continue to be defended.
- The advice of Eversheds LLP be taken on this matter and that they be instructed accordingly.

253/2025 Date of next meeting

RESOLVED that the next meeting of full council will be held on Monday 11 May 2026 at 8pm.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Signed Date
 Chairman