



Minutes of a meeting of Sutton on the Forest Parish Council held on Wednesday 14 January 2026 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillor Shearman (chair)  
Councillor McMeekin  
Councillor Prowde  
Councillor Barry  
Councillor Rankin  
Councillor Knighton

In Attendance: NY Councillor Taylor (NYC)

One member of the public attended for item 11.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were received from the Parish Clerk.

### **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **26.1 Report from North Yorkshire Council**

NY Cllr Taylor reiterated that the NYC finances are in a very difficult position. The annual budget for NYC is now set over a three year window, ie the agreed annual budget remains at the same level for three years. Budgets for core spending are down by £20m pa. When combined with other expenditures, the total shortfall is around £40m pa, inevitably leading to cuts and redundancies.

The current overspend on special education needs is around £12m. This is a nationwide issue.

The final recommendations for the North Yorkshire Boundary Review confirm that Sutton-on-the-Forest will now remain with Huby in the Huby & Tollerton division.

The Department for Transport has released a rating system grading how well local councils are tackling the issue of potholes and road resurfacing. North Yorkshire Council has been graded Amber.

#### **26.2 Minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2025.**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2025 had been circulated. These were agreed as a correct record, proposed Cllr McMeekin and seconded Cllr Prowde.

## 26.3 Matters arising

3.1 **Speeding complaint:** The councillors noted a complaint about speeding vehicles entering the village on York Road. Unfortunately this is a long-standing issue with all the roads into the village, and the councillors many attempts to tackle the problem. A third MVAS (Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign) has been purchased by the Parish Councillor to help slow speeding vehicles. Residents are encouraged to report issues directly to the police traffic bureau (via NY police website) as individual reports help to support the PC's efforts. Cllr Shearman and Clerk to draft a response and send.

**Action: Cllr Shearman, Clerk**

3.2 **Support for Rose & Crown:** The councillors noted that, despite being full on Xmas day for lunch, very few village residents visit the pub. This is likely to be down to the demographic of the village, a change in general social habits and the increased costs. The members agreed to circulate a survey to try to understand whether any changes might encourage regular visits from the village residents. Cllr Prowde to include additional wording re staff in draft survey and arrange printing. Cllr Knighton to set up an online version of the survey to circulate on social media.

**Action: Cllr Prowde, Cllr Knighton**

3.3 **Memorial Garden:** The Councillors noted that reaction to the idea of creating a memorial garden and bring the land back into use had been positive and so this should be pursued. John Barras had drawn up an initial plan which Cllr Prowde would scan in to be circulated to the other Councillors. The next step would then be to get it cleared. The design could then be developed. Cllr McMeekin to arrange a date for PC to meet at the orchard and discuss options.

**Action: Cllr Prowde, Cllr McMeekin**

## 26.4 Public Participation

4.1 One member of the public attended to discuss agenda item 11, support for the Rose & Crown.

## 26.5 Finance

5.1 The following payments were approved, proposed Cllr Knighton, seconded Cllr Barry.

18.12.25	BACS		All Hallows	Cemetery	2,400.00
19.12.25	BACS		Inc Dot	Newsletter Dec	147.88
29.12.25	BACS		HMRC	Clerks PAYE	261.20
8.1.26	BACS		Grey village hall	Room hire	210.00
8.1.26	BACS		S M Bracewell	Clerks expenses	105.84

5.2 The financial update had been circulated and was noted. Cllr Knighton to raise query regarding the Green Maintenance reserve. It was also noted that the level of rent should be reviewed to ensure it remained appropriate.

**Action: Cllr Knighton, Clerk**

## 26.6 Planning

6.1 The planning update as circulated was noted.

**26.7 Reports from village organisations**

7.1 Village Hall: A Quiz night has been arranged for 14 February, and ticket uptake has been very popular already.

7.2 Playing Field. Bob to source a battery-powered grinder to remove rivets on bins, and also to replace bolt on gate. A 'dogs on lead' sign will be made to address the issue of dogs being off lead on the playing pitch and around the children's play area.

**Action: Cllr Shearman/clerk**

7.3 Newsletter: to include a call for new volunteers to help deliver the Sutton Times.

**26.8 AOB:**

8.1 Vacancy on Council – seeking a new council member to replace Cllr Rankin who has intimated that he will resign at the end of this current year. He has also said that he is willing to continue to advise on planning applications after his resignation for which we are very grateful.

8.2 Cllr McMeekin noted that an email had been circulate from NYC inviting responses to the government consultation on alternative fuels for heating. Cllr Knighton opposed the use of the specific links used in the original email as they seemed biased. However, an alternative method of communicating about the consultation should be agreed and circulated to residents. Consultation deadline 10 February 2026.

**Action: All**

8.3 Hedge trimming for MVAS: Cllr Prowde noted that this has not be done, despite the previous confirmation from NYC that it had already been cut back when they visited. Cllr Prowde to follow up.

**Action: Cllr Prowde**

8.4 Canadian Memorial – additional budget requested this year to allow for expected increase in number of visitors and costs.

**26.9 Date of next meeting**

Next meeting **Wednesday 11 March 2026. Chair**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.30.

Signed:

Date: