

BYLAND WITH WASS AND OLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

14th September 2026 7.00 pm

1.0 Attendees

Councillor Christine Bradley	Councillor Peter Williams
Councillor John Williams	Clerk Mike Bradley

2.0 Apologies

Councillor Stephen Cain

3.0 Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting held on 17th May 2026 were agreed and signed as a true record.

4.0 Matters Arising

4.1 Oldstead Grit Spreading machine

Cllr John Williams to report at the next meeting: Action – J Williams

4.2. Dark Skies initiative

Survey of Byland with Wass and Oldstead undertaken and the Abbey Inn was identified as an area for improvement. Councillor J Williams met NYMNP representative at Abbey Inn to discuss options.

Action: Councillor Bradley to check status.

Part of the accreditation process also includes a local “Dark Skies Project”. **Action: Councillor Bradley to arrange Night Skies Observation.**

5.0 Finance

5.1 Balance of Accounts and Upcoming Expenditure

Balance as of 14th September **£8927.15**

No expenditure forecast.

5.2. Precept Notification

North Yorkshire Council have notified the parish about the process for update of the parish Precept which is due 31st December 2027.

Approximately 82% of the budget expenditure has been committed to date and early analysis suggests that Precept for 20278/28 should remain at £2000, subject to Council approval.

6.0 Changes to Polling District

North Yorkshire Council are currently reviewing changes to Polling Districts and Polling Places. Our polling district now looks to be remaining the same, Amotherby and Ampleforth. Wass Village Hall will continue to be used as a Polling Station.

7.0 Riponian Rally 27th/28th February 2027

Notification received concerning proposed annual rally from Ripon Motor Club. This year the routes indicate that the rally will run through Wass Woods.

8.0 Wass Phone Box

The old BT Red telephone Box in Wass is in a state of disrepair and a meeting was held with Oulston to review how they succeeded in refurbishing their Box.

The Box was refurbished by the village volunteers with the aid of grants with a net cost to the village of approximately £2000.

Councillor Bradley agreed to investigate potential grants and to see whether the Box could be moved to a better location at the crossroads. A meeting is planned with Highways Area 4 to discuss this. **Action: Councillor Bradley**

9.0 Parish Emergency Plan

Increased correspondence from North Yorkshire Council on Emergency Plans suggests that a Parish Plan needs to be prepared. The Parish has already circulated a brochure indicating what to do in the event of emergency and a number of online meetings with North Yorkshire Council have taken place. North Yorkshire Council also have a dedicated website on Emergency Plans which includes a risk register. It was agreed that the Clerk would prepare a draft emergency Parish plan for review.

Action: Clerk to prepare draft Parish Plan.

Red Cross coming on Tuesday 17th November to talk about Flooding and First Aid.

10.0 Joint Parish Forum

The annual Joint Parish Forum was attended by Councillor Bradley and the Clerk on 29th July at Danby Lodge, where we learnt about the Village Enhancement scheme and the Local Plan (see Minute 11.0 below).

11.0 North York Moors NP Local Plan

The Local Plan is currently being updated. It appears that Byland with Wass and Oldstead will remain as "Small Villages" meaning that there will be little or no development.

The local occupancy restriction for new properties is likely to be removed and NYMNP are looking at potentially allowing a "Permanent Residency" condition as a way of restricting "second homes and Air B&Bs".

12.0 Highways Area 4 Annual Meeting

The meeting was attended by Councillor Bradley and the Clerk. Deborah Flowers is now undertaking Customer Relations role until a permanent replacement is appointed. Highways budgets remain tight with only 9p in the pound of Council Tax. Gully emptying, Road Sweeping and Grass Cutting are all now in-house services with Rural Verges being cut 2-3 times annually.

Our County Councillor has £5000 each year to spend in Environmental Improvements.

13.0 Planning

13.1. HP/2026/00262 Rose Hill Cottage Oldstead. Application was approved mid-August 2026.

14.0 Date and Time of Next Meeting

14th December 2026 at 7.00 pm, Wass Village Hall.

Mike Bradley – Parish Clerk