

MICKLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Mickleton Parish Council, held on 20 October 2025 at 19:00 in Mickleton Village Hall.

PRESENT: D Shepherd (Chairman), Mrs R Fowler, Mrs C Hartas, J Lonsdale, and P Anderson.

25.131 APOLOGIES: D Hancock.

25.132 CO-OPTION TO THE PARISH COUNCIL: Paul Aldrich was welcomed to the meeting and agreed to be co-opted to the Parish Council, The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed.

25.133 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2025 – These had been circulated, taken as read, approved as a true record and signed.

25.134 TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES, NOT INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA. None

25.135 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

25.136 PLANNING MATTERS

DM/25/0967/FPA – Erection of an agricultural building – approved.

DM/25/0555/FPA; DM/25/01715/PNA and DM/25/02248/PA56 – Application for a new forest road for Grassholme Plantation – awaiting a decision.

DM/25/01725/VOC Cobblers Lane houses – awaiting a decision.

DM/25/02667/VOC Land to the South West of Dale View – Variation to Conditions 2 and 7 of the planning application DM/20/0276/FPA.

Condition 7 of the planning permission required the applicant to make improvements to the surface of the access of Silver Land and a passing place before the site was brought into use. This has not been complied with. The applicant is proposing a protective surface to reduce the risk of further compaction to the root systems of the hedgerow and tree systems, The Parish Council agreed to remain neutral on this matter.

25.137 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Flooding of Icaron Bridge – It was agreed to do the verge clearance this weekend.

Flooding at Icaron Lodge Entrance – Clerk reported that this had been raised with DCC.

Yarker Lane Salt Bin – With the approach of winter, this to be placed in a suitable position.

Additional Dog Bin – Still waiting for a decision from DCC.

Croft Yokes Traffic Lights/Road markings – the road markings had been carried out, but there was still an issue with the traffic lights. This had been reported and to be followed up.

25.138 PLAYGROUND

Boundary Wall/fencing – this had been completed .

Basket Ball Hoop – D Shepherd reported that the hoop had been lowered. A new net had been fitted, which would need to be replaced owing to the size of the net.

25.139 BUS SHELTER

The replacement guttering to be fitted shortly.

25.140 FINANCE

25.140.1 Current Financial Statement – this had been circulated.

25.140.2 Payments to be Authorised – The Parish Council authorised the following payment:

A Atkinson (installation of playground fencing) £6504.00

25.140.3 PAYE – Clerk reported that the Parish Council was now registered for PAYE and was awaiting the activation code.

25.140.4 VAT Submission – Clerk reported that she would submit a VAT submission reclaim early, rather than wait till the end of the year.

25.141 REVIEW OF COMMON LAND WITHIN THE PARISH

Still awaiting a decision from Mickleton Moss Committee.

25.142 MICKLETON FIXERS

Swift Boxes – Owing to the popularity of the boxes, 20 additional boxes to be made.

Christmas Lights – T Wilson attended the meeting to give information regarding the tree lights at the Village Hall, He informed the Parish Council that the lighting of 2 trees in the car park had cost £400 and he estimated that lights for the remaining trees would cost approximately £1500.

The lights came in strings of 20 bulbs, which connect together. Once the lights were placed in the trees, they remain there. Councillors thanked T Wilson for his attendance and information.

Discussion then took place regarding the lighting of the trees in the village hall car park. It was felt that the tree lighting was the responsibility of the village hall, but the Parish Council agreed to offer a donation of £800 towards tree lights.

D Shepherd reported that he had done some costings towards using battery operated lights to start decorating the village. On the lines of what Staindrop have done, a set of battery operated lights which would be attached to a mesh and then wrapped around some of the telegraph poles within the village which do not have street lights, would cost around £66 a set.

It was agreed to buy and make up 1 set of lights and if effective then to buy a further 10 sets, to start lighting up the village.

25.143 WEST PASTURE ROAD POST BOX – This was now operational.

25.144 .GOV.UK.WESBITE - Clerk reported this was ongoing,

25.145 CORRESPONDENCE

Durham Police – As the Parish Council receives a monthly report regarding statistics of cyber crime, within the report are details of where to report the various types of crime, Clerk reported that these contact details could be placed on the website.

NALC/CDALC have notified everyone regarding the increase of their subscriptions. Clerk reported that she would prepare the draft budget figures for the November meeting, for Councillors to set the 2026/27 precept at the December meeting.

DCC Consultations – One of the current DCC Consultations was The Exceptions to the Empty and Unfurnished Properties and Second Homes Council Tax Premiums,

Discussions took place regarding the number of empty properties within the village and it was agreed that Councillors identify these empty properties and give a list to the Clerk at the next meeting,

Also a discussion took place regarding the lack of social housing within the village and the need for more social housing. This had also been identified at a recent seminar held in the village hall.

Houses bought as second homes within the village brought little income to the area, but although the village had a large number of holiday cottages, which did bring income into the area, the number of holiday cottages should be restricted. The younger residents of the village who wanted to remain in the village are unable to do so owing to property costs and a lack of rental properties, thus a need for more social/affordable housing. It was agreed that this matter should be an agenda

item for the Annual Parish Meeting.

25.146 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 17 November 2025.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:25

Signed Date

APPROVED