

MICKLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Notes of a meeting of Mickleton Parish Council, held on Monday 15 September 2025 at 19:00 in Mickleton Village Hall.

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

25.115 APOLOGIES: J Lonsdale.

25.116 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None.

25.117 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 JULY 2025: These had been circulated, taken as read, approved and signed.

25.118 TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES, NOT INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA: None

25.119 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

25.120 PLANNING MATTERS

DM/25/0967/FPA – West Tofts – Erection of an agricultural building – notification received from DCC that this planning application had been referred to the Planning Committee.

DM/25/0555/FPA – Grassholme Plantation – new forest road

DM/25/01715/PNA – Prior notification for the construction of a forestry road

DM/25/02248/PA56 – Prior approval application for the construction of a forestry road.

From the information included in the 3 above planning applications, the construction of any new forestry road has to comply with standards set down by the Forestry Commission. The above planning applications are setting out the details for the construction of the new forestry road.

DM/25/01724/VOC – Plot 1 Cobblersgate Lane – variation of Condition 2 to allow design changes and loss of garaging.

Although the Parish Council had made an objection, correspondence was read out that there was support for this development.

25.121 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Flooding at Icaron Bridge – this to be dealt with shortly.

Yarker Lane Salt Bin – The location for the bin was still being looked at.

Additional Dog Bins for the Railway Walk. - Clerk had reported this to the Countryside Ranger Team. R Carrick had replied giving his support that there were issues with dog fouling and had passed our request over to the Clean and Green Team.

Mrs R Fowler asked if DCC would look again at the issues of dog fouling on Cobblersgate Lane and see if they would consider putting a bin towards the top end of the lane

Croft Yokes Traffic Lights – Traffic Lights Ref; No DUR133 Croft Yokes – Reported that following the recent road re-surface, the traffic lights were not operating at the level before and people jumping the lights – DCC to investigate on 30 July – still issues – Clerk to follow up.

Croft Yokes/Eggleston Lane Junction – Since resurfacing the “give way” road markings had not been done – Clerk had reported this.

Croft Yokes Lane -Road markings on the lane had not been done – Clerk to Report

Flooding on the B6277 past Icaron Lodge – Road starting to have standing water and flooding at the entrance to Icaron Lodge – Clerk to report to DCC to investigate.

25.122 PLAYGROUND

Boundary Wall Fencing – The new fencing was now in place and awaiting completion.

ROSPA Inspection – The issues raised would be looked at shortly.

25.123 BUS SHELTER - The new guttering to be done shortly.

25.124 FINANCE

25.124.1 Current Financial Statement – This had been circulated.

25.124.2 Payments to be authorised. None

25.124.3 Bank Credit Card – This had been received.

25.124.4 PAYE – This had been applied for and waiting to set up with HRMC.

25.124.5 Bank Signatory Form – This had been received, form signed by the Chairman and Clerk to add Mrs C Hartas onto the bank account as the third signatory,

25.124.6 Clerk's Pay rise – Clerk reported that the NJC had agreed a 3.2% pay rise for Clerks, which was back dated to 1 April 2025. NJC – Point 8 will rise from £13.26 to £13.90 per hour (a yearly increase of £133).

25.125 REVIEW OF COMMON LAND WITHIN THE PARISH – Still awaiting a reply from Mickleton Moss Committee.

25.126 MICKLETON FIXERS

Swift Boxes – As all the 20 boxes had been placed on various properties within the village, Parishioners were still requesting boxes. It was agreed to fund another 20 boxes for next year.

Christmas Lights - D Shepherd reported that he was currently looking into what was available for decorations to be battery powered.

25.127 WEST PASTURE ROAD POST BOX

Clerk reported that she had not heard anything from the Post Office and would follow up.

25.128 .GOV.UK WEBSITE

Clerk reported that the initial cost to set this up was around £300 and the annual running cost of the new website would be around £250 per year. Agreed for the Clerk to proceed with the change over.

25.129 CORRESPONDENCE

DCC Standards Committee Recruitment – Cllr Mrs C Hartas confirmed that she had put her name forward for consideration as a Parish Councillor representative on this Committee.

Durham Community Action – An invitation to the Landline Switch over Webinar on 2 October. BT have until the end of January 2027 to move all of its customers to a digital service.

Clerk reported that she would do this online session.

DCC Networks – Clerk reported that these were still on hold – to investigate when they would be operational as they are vital link for additional funding for parishes.

25.130 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 19:00 Monday 20 October 2025

D Hancock gave his apologies for this meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:00

Signed

Date