

Newsham Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 28th January 2026

1. Present Cllr. C Brown, Cllr. L Taylor, Cllr. R De'Ath, Cllr. M Markwick, Cllr. M Hall

Apologies - None

2. Declaration of interest

Cllr. MM as a neighbour of an applicant submitting a planning application

3. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting on 26.11.25 were agreed and signed by Cllr. LT and Cllr. CB

4. Matters Arising from the previous minutes

Hope Moor Wind Farm

Cllr. CB has discussed the proposed wind farm with C. Cllr. A. Thompson and the leader of NYCC regarding NYCC involvement from a preliminary stage and also liaising with Durham County Council to understand its position.

A follow up email has been sent. Cllr. CB will inform Cllrs of any further contact.

Resident SM read a statement to the Councillors regarding the proposed Hope Moor Wind Farm. The statement appears at the end of these minutes.

The PC agreed to support the question on the scoping element raised by SM and will send an email to NYCC planning officers and executives asking for a reply including a confirmed official NYCC position on this concern.

Action Cllr CB by Feb1st

Cllr. LT will contact local MP Rishi Sunak to raise awareness of the Parish Council's concerns.

Action Cllr LT by Feb 1st

Cllrs have been advised an action group meeting regarding this development has been arranged at Newsham Village Hall on 23rd February. The Parish Council will not formally attend this meeting; any Cllr attending will be there solely to listen to the views of Newsham residents and not to express opinions or take questions.

5.Planning Applications

ZD25/00754/AORM

Approval of Reserved Matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) further to Outline Permission 21/00397/OUT

Land For Development Moor Lane Newsham North Yorkshire

Cllr. LT informed councilors of changes to outline planning

- No street scene illustration in relation to adjacent properties
- Windows overlooking adjacent properties
- Parking
- A site meeting has been requested

The Parish Council cannot support this application as it stands

ZD26/00018/CLP

Certificate of lawfulness application for erection of single storey extension to rear of Abbots Croft, Newsham

Action Cllr M.H to visit site by Feb 15th latest

ZD25/00725/DEM

Application to determine if prior approval is required for demolition of agricultural buildings Long Green Moor Lane Newsham Richmond North Yorkshire DL11 7EF

6.Financial Statement

The Clerk shared account details and bank statements.

The Reserve Account interest has decreased

The clerk will transfer £198.89 from the Reserve Account to the Current Account.

The clerk reported that the signatories for the Parish Council accounts had been updated.

Councillors agreed and approved the accounts.

7.Grass Cutting

2026 will be year 2 of a three-year contract with NYC

Councillors discussed the areas cut by NYC.

The clerk will renew the grass funding grant from NYC.

Action Cllr. RCD by March 1st

A hedge beside a public footpath which has become overgrown requires trimming. Cllr. RCD will contact the owner.

Action Cllr. RCD by Feb 15th

8.Any Other Business

- Councillors discussed the flooding on Dyson Lane. A drain cover is missing.
Action Cllr CB will report to highways immediately.
- Cllr. MM reported two streetlights in the village which are remaining on during the day.
Action Cllr. MM will report immediately

Councillors discussed the large recovery vehicle which is often parked very close to the junction on Dark Lane adjacent to the village hall. It was agreed that it is a significant obstacle to clear vision and potentially a hazard. It was suggested parking could be offered in the village hall car park.

Action Cllr MM to raise at next VH Cttee Meeting

- Village Hall Survey - three members of the village hall committee have drawn up a list of action points following the recent survey. A meeting with Parish Councillors CB, RCD and MH will be arranged to discuss.
- **Action Cllr CB to arrange meeting date within February**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm

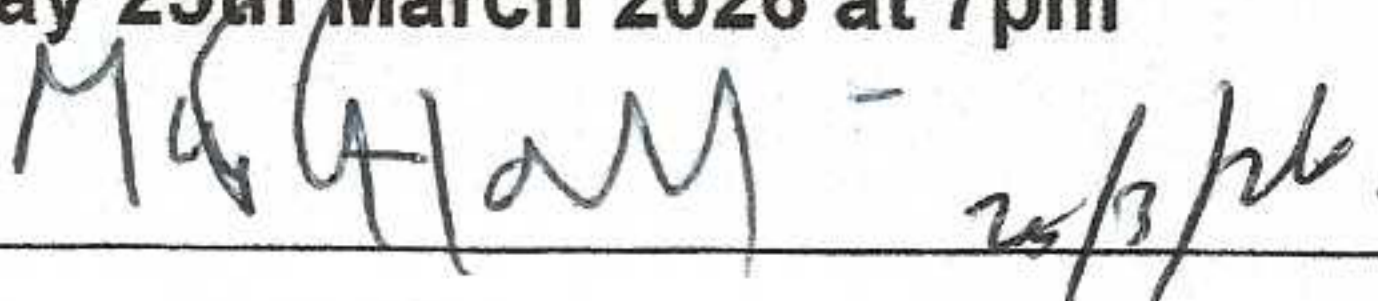
9.Date of the next meeting

Wednesday 25th March 2026 at 7pm

Signed



25-3-26



SM RESIDENT STATEMENT REGARDING HOPE MOOR

I would like to make the council aware of a concern about the process of community consultation and the significant impacts it could have on residents in Newsham and the wider area. This statement is not about the merits of the Hope Moor wind farm itself, nor whether people support or oppose it. As I shall explain later, the concern is relevant not only to the decision whether to go ahead but also to how we are able to deal with problems if it does proceed.

First, let me describe the concern about the process. Then, I will provide a couple of examples to illustrate the potential impact that a bad process can have on residents.

This application is different from any other application that we have experienced. We are all used to a process that is defined by the Town and Country Planning Act, or TCPA for short. However, this application is being processed under the legislation for National Strategic Infrastructure Projects, or NSIP for short.

This means two things. The first is that the decision is taken by the Secretary of State rather than by the local councils. The second – and this is the origin of my concern – is that the process is radically different. NSIP turns the process on its head and the timings become front-loaded.

To explain this, let me describe the familiar TCPA process in five stages, and then compare it with the NSIP process.

In TCPA:

1. The developer submits an application.
2. People then look at it to see what issues it raises — benefits and drawbacks.
3. Those issues are debated locally.
4. Monitoring and mitigation plans are developed.
5. A decision is made by the council.

Importantly, stages 3, 4 and 5 can be revisited if new issues emerge.

But in NSIP the order is all jumbled up. Importantly, all the issues have to be identified up front, before anything else, and they can't easily be revisited. So, the process in NSIP is:

1. The list of issues to be discussed or examined is drawn up (into what's called a Scoping Report).
2. Those issues are then examined within that scoping framework.
3. Monitoring and mitigation are designed within that same framework.
4. The application is then submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.
5. The Secretary of State then makes a decision.

If an issue is not identified at the first (scoping) stage, it may never properly enter the process at all. To illustrate the kinds of later problems this can cause, let me give you two examples of what could happen if the project is approved and the development goes ahead.

First, farm water supplies.

It is reasonable to assume that Olsen's scoping will include a hydrology assessment focused on the immediate turbine area. However, across the wider area there are many farms that rely on springs and streams for domestic and agricultural water supply. If those supplies fall outside the scoped area, they may not be assessed for knock-on effects of the development. Once the development is complete, if problems such as drying up or contamination arise, there won't be any official monitoring or obligation on Olsen to take remedial action. At that point, the farmers will be left to sort the problems out themselves and at their own expense.

The second example is Newsham residents.

Standard scoping often works within certain distances from the turbines, which may place Newsham outside the area considered for some of the impacts. Line-of-sight analysis shows that turbines will be visible from the village and, because of the shape of the terrain and under particular atmospheric conditions such as night-time temperature inversions, turbine noise may be audible. If Newsham is not included at scoping for noise impact, again there may be no monitoring or mitigation. Residents will be left to deal with any problems on their own. This might include, for example, the turbines keeping some people awake on warm, summer evenings when it is necessary to have windows open. If, however, Newsham noise is included at the scoping stage, then it may be possible to agree monitoring and mitigations when they are needed. This might include stopping the turbines at night when they keep residents awake.

Both examples point to the fact that the scoping stage is not a technical detail — it is a critical stage that determines not only the criteria that are used to make the decision, but also what sort of monitoring of impacts is put in place and how to manage any problems that occur. That is why it is important that the community can influence what goes into the scoping report itself, rather than there only being community consultation after the Scoping Report is produced.

Olsen are producing the Scoping report now. They expect any community input into Scoping to come via the council or statutory consultees. In practice, that means the council is the only route for our views into the Scoping report. The Planning Inspectorate also say that it is North Yorkshire Council's responsibility to decide how to feed community information into Scoping, and that they should engage with the developer as soon as the project is deemed viable. Clearly, given that Olsen are well into the Scoping stage, that point is now well past.

The problem is, North Yorkshire Council do not see an active role for themselves in this Scoping stage. They won't do anything until there is a formal start to the project, which hasn't yet happened.

This means that there is unlikely to be a meaningful community consultation about the Scoping report. This could lead to long-term problems such as the water and noise examples I gave earlier and others. My purpose in raising this tonight is to place this concern on record.