

APRIL 2026

Around and About

CROFT-ON-TEES VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Croft Allotment Association

Anyone interested in taking on an allotment plot please contact Chris Sauer at
chris.sauer@gtc.ox.ac.uk

Defibrillator

The defibrillator has moved from the school
and is now located at the Village Hall

Can anybody help?

I received the following request to the village website,. Does anybody have any information, about what the road was originally for, that could help Denis? If so, please email me at geoff.kell@gmail.com and I will see that he gets it.

My curiosity about Croft bridge has been aroused after reading a book, "Croft's Crossing" by Kathryn Streatfield which my sister sent me. I was born in Dalton on Tees in 1942 and went to Croft school from 1947 to 1955. I also got married in the church in 1963. While at the school, at lunchtime we (myself and another boy) would sometimes go down an unmade road next to the bridge on the Yorkshire side to the river. I see now (from Google) that it's got a fence across it and a gate for pedestrians, also it seems to have a pebble footpath.*

**Also born in Dalton and still lives there in the same house.*

*What I'm curious about is what was the road originally for? Access to a ford perhaps.
Is it now a public footpath?*

Regards, Denis Sharp

Booking the Village Hall is now done through the online booking system at ...

<http://www.croftvillagehall.org.uk>

The Village Online

Village Website: www.croftontees.co.uk

Village Hall Website: www.croftvillagehall.org.uk (with village hall online booking)

Around and About contact email: geoff.kell@gmail.com

Croft Community Notices What's App Group : peter@ryansykes.co.uk

Contributions

Not much to report this newsletter. If anyone has anything they would like to contribute to the newsletter then please let me know by email at geoff.kell@gmail.com.

News from St Peter's Church Croft Services

Apr 5th Easter Day	Apr 12th	Apr 19th	Apr 26th
10:30am Benefice Holy Communion	11am Family Service	11am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer

Diary Dates

- May 1st - Coffee Morning, Village Hall. 10 - 12 noon. **Note no Coffee morning on 3rd April as Good Friday.**
- May 21st Pastoral Lunch at noon. **Note no lunch in April**
- 30th May. Afternoon tea event in aid of St Theresa's Hospice in Croft Village Hall from 2pm

All enquiries for St Peter's please use the dedicated email address stpeterscroft@btinternet.com

Receiving the newsletter by email

If you'd like to help us reduce paper use and support a more sustainable village, please consider opting in for email delivery.

Email me at geoff.kell@gmail.com to receive your newsletter this way. Please let me know your address so we can stop delivering the hardcopy.

Village Hall Classes and Groups

Please email dpyrah@hotmail.com or geoff.kell@gmail.com for contact details

Croft Social Running Group - every Wednesday from 7pm

Youth Theatre Class - every Thursday...

- Age 4-7 Drama: 4:30 - 5:00pm. Age 4-7 Dance: 5:00 - 5:45pm
- Age 7-11 Drama: 5:45 - 6:30pm Age 7-11 Dance: 6:30 - 7:15pm
- Age 11+: Not currently running but available with enough interest



Summary of minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2026 at Croft Village Hall generated using ChatGPT. Minutes are draft until signed at the next meeting

Present: Chair Chaytor-Norris, VC Evans, Cllr Longstaff, Cllr Pears, Clerk: C Liversedge-Gell

- **Apologies and Declaration**
 - Apologies: Cllr Kennedy
 - No Declarations of interest
- **Correspondence**
 - Boundary Commission Update circulated for information
 - Highways drainage works (Kneeton Lane, Middleton Tyas) noted
 - Parish Liaison Workshop - date change pending (March); Clerk to circulate
 - Monk End hedge complaint - no action; road/path private
 - Best Kept Village 2026 - Croft will not enter; interest for 2027 welcomed
 - Landscape Character Assessment shared for review
- **Local Plan - Call for sites**
 - Over 2000 sites submitted across North Yorkshire
 - Public map release for transparency (no consultation yet)
 - Formal consultation to follow later
 - PC agreed to publish and link summary via website and newsletter
- **Community Engagement**
 - Emergency Service Survey to be promoted in newsletter
 - Damage to grass verge near St Peter's Church reported
 - Likely caused by school transport vehicles
 - Clerk to notify Richmond School and request care when manoeuvring
- **Planning**
 - ZD26/00019/LBC – Jolby Manor (Listed Building works)
 - No objections from PC
 - ZD25/00553/VAR – Serendipity (South Parade)
 - Variation approved (reduced build size)
- **Police and Crime Update** - Next bulletin expected March 2026
- **NYC Councillor Update - Key Points**
 - Finance and Budget
 - NYC £42.5m worse off than two years ago
 - Likely 4.99% annual council tax increase (max allowed)
 - Forecast deficits:
 - 2026/27: £17m, 2027/28: £34m, 2028/29: £59m
 - Reserves projected to fall to £40m by 2029
 - Position improved slightly, but still challenging
 - Tourism Tax Proposal
 - Possible £2 per night charge on accommodation
 - Could raise £52m annually. Concerns about impact on small businesses
 - Planning
 - Staffing situation improving with new recruits and merged teams
 - Recruitment remains difficult nationally
 - Councillor avoids commenting on local applications to prevent bias

Next Meeting Wednesday May 6th at Croft-on-Tees Village Hall at 7.00 pm

Everyone welcome to attend



- Housing
 - NYC manages 8,500 homes. Void rate at 4% (above 2.5% target)
 - Delays due to upgrading properties to EPC C standard
- Boundary Changes
 - Finalised:
 - Croft, Middleton Tyas, Dalton etc → Brompton & Scorton division
 - Western villages → North Richmondshire division
- Transport
 - Continued work to improve bus services and routes
 - £6m government funding available for rural transport
 - Public consultation on transport still outstanding
- Other Updates
 - Scotch Corner – no further progress yet
 - Richmond Area Committee – public welcome to attend
- **Village Hall Defibrillator**
 - Cabinet purchased; installation by qualified electrician imminent
- **Carl Les Q&A (County Hall)**
 - Cllr Pears attended on behalf of Croft PC. Key themes:
 - Main Issues Raised
 - Poor communication from NYC (planning, licensing, flood risk)
 - Lack of feedback on planning comments and enforcement actions
 - Concerns over flood risk management responsiveness
 - Limited engagement on school transport changes
 - NYC Response
 - Acknowledged issues; examples requested for follow-up
 - Planning delays linked to staffing shortages
 - Recent recruitment progress noted
 - Positive Feedback on NYC Services
 - Highways teams (potholes, gullies, lighting)
 - Waste/recycling collections
 - Household recycling centres
 - Environmental Health enforcement
 - Online reporting systems
 - Other Topics
 - Litter and fly-tipping – PC support for awareness campaigns
 - School transport communication failures raised
 - PCs encouraged to engage with Area Committees
- **Dog Waste Bins**
 - Overflowing bins at Village Hall and Flood Plain noted. Clerk to:
 - Request larger bins or
 - Increase emptying frequency
- **Website Update**
 - New PC website built and ready for content, rollout to take place over coming weeks
 - Thanks given to VC Evans

Next Meeting Wednesday May 6th at Croft-on-Tees Village Hall at 7.00 pm

Everyone welcome to attend

CROFT-ON-TEES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED

Present: Chair Chaytor-Norris, VC Evans, Cllr Longstaff, Cllr Pears

4th March 2026 7.00pm AT CROFT-ON-TEES VILLAGE HALL

Charlotte Liversedge-Gell Parish Clerk

69 Apologies - with approval for apologies	Cllr Kennedy
70 Declaration of Interest – to receive & consider then decide upon any applications for dispensation	None declared
71 Minutes	Minutes of the meeting held 7 th January 2026 were approved and signed
72 Matters Arising	No matters arising from the previous meeting minutes
73 Cheques for Signing	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. £724.80 for purchase of Village Hall Defibrillator Cabinet.2. £852.50 for Clerk fees – amount covers fees from November 2025, following banking issues with Barclays.3. £90 for Village NYC Grit Bin refill. <p>PC has now applied for bank account with Virgin Money and an updated mandate sent through to Barclays.</p>
74 Correspondence	<ol style="list-style-type: none">(i) NYC Boundary Commission recommendation for changes was circulated to the PC for information.(ii) NYC Highways Proposed Highway drainage works at Kneeton Lane, Middleton Tyas circulated to the PC for information.(iii) NYC Parish Liaison Workshop notification of event date change circulated to the PC. Awaiting final confirmation of date (in March) – Clerk to circulate confirmed date on receipt.(iv) Email received from resident in reply to PC response over a hedge covering a footpath on Monk End Terrace. PC agreed no further action required by the PC as pathway and road concerned are unadopted/private.(v) Rotary Club Best Kept Village 2026 email circulated to the PC. Croft-on-Tees will not participate this year. If there is an interest in this for 2027 competition from residents please

contact the Clerk croftonteespc@hotmail.com or speak to one of your Parish Councillors.

(vi) NYC Parish Liaison "Landscape Character Assessment" circulated to the PC for review.

(vii) The North Yorkshire Local Plan – Third Public Release of 'Call for Sites' Submissions circulated to the PC. Please see the letter from NYC below:

Third Release of information on the North Yorkshire Local Plan 'Call for Sites' We are writing to let you know about an important milestone in the preparation of the local plan for North Yorkshire. We started with the 'call for sites' in April 2024 when we invited landowners, site promoters and developers to submit sites for consideration as allocations in the local plan. These submissions are for a range of uses. The majority are for residential use with additional submissions for employment, retail, and so on. The 'call for sites' closed on 30th November 2025 and we are currently in the process of assessing the 2000+ sites that have been put forward for consideration. We will re-open the call for sites later this year, following the completion of the current site assessment work. Further details about the re-opening of the call for sites will be available on our website in the coming months.

In January and June 2025 we released information about the first and second batches of submitted sites via our public sites map. We are now making a third release of the public sites map available. This map includes any registered sites submitted up to and including 30th November 2025, when the 'call for sites' closed. We are not consulting on the release of the sites at this stage, and are not accepting comments on them, although we are making the information available to ensure greater levels of transparency and to allow you, the community and other interested parties the opportunity to have sight of the submitted sites as early as possible. A comprehensive consultation will take place later that will seek the views of the community on all sites – at which stage further work will have been completed to give a greater direction as to whether such sites are likely to be recommended for allocation or dismissed. You will be able to share your views at that time.

	<p><i>The sites information is available from the Call for Sites webpage which can be found using the link below:</i></p> <p><i>https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/planning-and-conservation/planning-policy/call-sites-north-yorkshire-local-plan</i></p> <p><i>The map allows you to move around the whole of North Yorkshire and see what sites have been submitted for consideration. By clicking on each site, you will see a brief description including the location, site size and the proposed uses that have been put forward by the site promoter. If you have any queries on this, please do not hesitate to get in touch with a member of the Planning Policy & Place Team at callforsites@northyorks.gov.uk</i></p> <p>PC agreed that link to call for sites map and NYC letter text should be included in the next Village Newsletter and highlighted on the PC website. Clerk to flag to Newsletter Editor and arrange with Website Admin</p> <p>(viii) North Yorkshire Emergency Services Public Feedback Survey circulated to the PC.</p> <p>Clerk to arrange with Village Newsletter Editor for Survey details to me advertised - text for Village Newsletter:</p> <p><i>If you would like to have your say on North Yorkshire Police and North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue services, please follow this link: Annual Community Survey - Your Emergency Services, Your Say!</i></p> <p>(viii) A resident supplied images of damage to the grass on the ‘traffic island’ located in front of St Peter’s Church / The Croft Hotel caused by a local school transport service bus/coach. The PC request that all drivers be mindful when manoeuvring around these islands to avoid driving on these features/damaging the verges/grass. Clerk to also pass this message onto Richmond School.</p>
75 Public Participation	No members of the public present
76 Planning	<p>For consideration: ZD26/00019/LBC</p> <p>PROPOSAL: Replacement windows to south, east and west elevations of principal Listed Building, replacement French doors to south elevation, replacement door to north elevation entranceway and replacement soil and vent pipe, internal</p>

	<p>alterations to include replacement and removal of non-historic doors, removal of 1980s installed panelling, alterations to walls of existing en-suite, and reconfiguration of first floor rooms within the 20th century north additions of the Listed Building</p> <p>LOCATION: Jolby Manor Jolby Lane Stapleton Darlington</p> <p>APPLICANT: Mr & Mrs R Allen - No comments or objections from the PC</p> <p>For information: Decision No ZD25/00553/VAR GRANTED</p> <p>PROPOSAL: Variation to condition 1 attached to planning permission 21/00855/FULL - The approved plans are too big for the applicant, hence the application to reduce the overall length of the new build from 16425mm to 14165mm</p> <p>LOCATION: Serendipity South Parade Croft-on-Tees Darlington North Yorkshire DL2 2SR</p>
77 Police & Crime Update	Next Bulletin expected from NYP end of March 2026
78 NYC Update	<p>DIVISIONAL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT JANUARY 2026</p> <p>TOURISM TAX - It has been suggested by government that we implement a 'Tourism Tax'. This would be a levy of £2 per night per person charged on accommodation within the County and the City of York, be it a hotel room, B&B or an Air B&B. If it goes ahead it is estimated that it will generate £52 million per annum and the revenue will go to the Mayor. Needless to say he thinks it is a very good idea. One interesting statistic is that it is estimated that 75% of the revenue will be raised in North Yorkshire and 25% in the City of York. I am not sure that it will be well received by small businesses. It will be just another tax in most peoples' eyes. Please let me know what you think. Email address is below.</p> <p>THE BUDGET - NYC like all authorities, is legally bound to produce a balanced budget. We are, taking all things into account like the loss of grants and the employer's NI increase, £42.5 million worse off than we were two years ago. An increase in council tax is the only way to increase our spending power. The message from Westminster is, 'Increase your council tax by 4.99% ie. the maximum allowed without a referendum of residents, or we will assume that you don't need any more funding from us'. A number of councils up and down the country have asked and been granted permission to increase their council tax by more than 4.99% without a referendum.</p> <p>This can only mean that they are perilously close to a section 114 bankruptcy. Not a club we want to be in.</p>

The government have given an indication that they will fund SEND ie. Special Education Needs from 28/29. This is most welcome news, if correct, as SEND is a substantial cost to NYC and all other councils, with a significant overspend being a problem every year. We have been told that further details should be forthcoming by mid February. So, assuming we implement a 4.99% council tax increase over the next 3 years, the draft shortfall will be: 26/27 27/28 28/29 £17million £34m £59m

On the above forecast, we will have used £59 million of reserves by April 29. At that point we will have £40 million of useable reserves left. We are confident that we can deal with this. You have heard me say previously that we could be facing bankruptcy as an authority by in 3 years, but the position has improved to bankruptcy in 4.5 years if we don't take corrective action. The savings in the current year are now £34 million and the new savings already identified going forwards are:

26/27 £15 million

27/28 £3.5 million

28/29 £2.185 million.

A 4.99% increase in council tax will mean that a band D property will be charged £2,036pa. plus the police and crime charge, and if applicable the parish precept. A 4.99% increase gives an estimated yield of £5.14 million to NYC. So there is no option but to implement a 4.99% council tax increase. Overall however, it is fair comment to say that the outlook going forwards is a little less bleak than it was even 3 months ago. My eye is constantly on the fact that if the figures above prove to be correct then in 2029 we will only have £40 million of useable reserves left.

PLANNING - I am cautiously optimistic that we may have turned a corner in terms of the staffing issues that have plagued us over the last 5 years or more. The team which were working from Mercury House are now working as Richmond and Hambleton Planning from County Hall. Three new members of staff started after the Christmas Break and provided we don't lose any staff.

The one thing which I can be clear about is that the dept. is not under resourced in terms of the budget which is allocated by the council which has shown an underspend in recent times because of staff vacancies. It is a problem up and down the country.

Whilst on the subject of Planning, I would just like to explain that as a member of the Richmondshire Planning Committee I am very careful about attending PC meetings where planning applications are on the agenda. Whilst I support PCs wherever possible with their aspirations in terms of planning applications, I am very careful not to get into the debate regarding the merits or otherwise of individual applications as they may come before the

planning committee on which I am sitting, for determination. I could then be accused of pre-determining an application, rather than going to the planning meeting and making a decision on the basis of a site visit and the evidence, both in favour and against the application, based on what is laid on the table on the day. An obvious example of an exception to this rule is the Hope Moor Wind Farm application for 20 wind turbines above Newsham. This is to be determined by the Secretary of State, not NYC Planning Authority, and therefore I can get actively involved in resisting this application.

HOUSING - NYC is landlord to 8,500 council homes. We currently have 4% voids. This is higher than our target of 2.5% maximum because as houses come vacant we are doing whatever upgrades are necessary to the property in order to get to a position of EPC C which will almost certainly be the minimum requirement by 2030. So we have 7 additional contractors across the county in order to get the upgrades done as quickly as possible, thus avoiding vacant properties where there is both a loss of rent to the council and people are waiting for a home.

In summary, the council will not let substandard properties.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION - The final recommendation by the Boundary Commission has now been published and contrary to what I thought there have been changes to my current division of North Richmondshire. Stapleton and Cleasby, together with Barton and Skeeby will become part of the new North Richmondshire division which comprises of all villages to the west of these villages right up to Newsham. It will also take in the north part of Richmond ie. the Gilling Road end. Middleton Tyas, Moulton, Croft, Dalton-on-Tees and North Cowton will go into a new division of Brompton and Scorton, together with East Cowton, Scorton and Brompton-on Swale. There will be no further alterations or consultations as only Parliament can overturn the Boundary Commission's decisions.

SCOTCH CORNER - I'm afraid I have nothing further to report here. The last news I heard was that the developer is hoping to have their financial support in place by the end of February.

BUS TRANSPORT - I have as I have told you in previous reports been trying to get alterations, in some cases minimal, so that school children as well as residents can make greater use of public transport. The cost to parents of students using public transport was outlined by me in a previous report at approx. £394pa assuming the pupil attends every school day of the year.

The Mayor stated at a Richmond Area Constituency Committee earlier last year that he was going to have a public consultation in the autumn asking residents what they wanted in terms of public transport. This would have been an ideal opportunity for

	<p>residents to give their views for a service which school pupils could use, in many cases by a small re-tweaking of timetables.</p> <p>As you are no doubt aware the promised consultation hasn't materialised. So I am going to have further discussions with officers and Executive Officers regarding what is required at a local level. I think it should be remembered that the Mayor has been given £6 million by the government to develop rural transport.</p> <p>RICHMOND AREA CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE - These meetings are held quarterly in County Hall and any member of the public may attend. The agenda topics relate to the area covered by the Richmond and Northallerton constituency. At the last meeting in November for example, Arriva gave a presentation as a result of much negative feedback regarding many cancellations of the X26 and X27 services between Darlington and Richmond, and what they are doing about the problem.</p> <p>I asked them to consider the above services going through Middleton Tyas village, rather than going from Barton via Scotch Corner then to Skeeby. This they agreed to look into. Anyone interested please come back to me and I will forward you the agenda before the next meeting scheduled for 2nd March.</p> <p>Best wishes,</p> <p>Cllr Angus Thompson North Richmondshire Division, North Yorkshire Council 21st January 2026. My email address cldr.angus.thompson@northyorks.gov.uk</p>
<p>79 Village Hall Defibrillator</p>	<p>The cabinet for the Village Hall Defibrillator (Defib) has been purchased and received. Installation of the Defib by a VH arranged qualified electrician is imminent. Clerk to update the PC when installation completed.</p>
<p>80 Carl Les Q&A Update</p>	<p>Cllr Pears attending a PC Q&A with Cllr Carl Les, Leader of North Yorkshire Council (NYC) Council and NYC North Richmondshire Division Cllr Angus Thompson, at County Hall, Northallerton, 13 January 2026. Please see Cllr Pears report below:</p> <p>“Myself and four Chairs and fellow Cllrs (from: Aldbrough St John; Barton; and, Gilling with Hartforth and Sedbury PCs had just under 90 minutes with Cllrs Les and Thompson on 13 January 2026, at County Hall. Overall session was useful with Cllr Les very much in listening mode to the range of issues raised by PC colleagues. Agreed actions identified</p> <p>In order raised the following main topics were discussed:</p>

1. NYC communications/engagement with Parish Councils – all PC colleagues fed back that they continued to be frustrated by the at times lack of proactive communication with, and feedback received by PCs on a number of issues – especially issues re: planning, licensing, and flood risk management:

1.1 Planning and building control – main issues raised here were lack of feedback from NYC planners on received PC comments on published applications – as to whether taken on board and/or useful/appropriate on planning/listed building consent (LBC) applications, building control (BC) issues and planning and BC enforcement queries and any actions proposed/taken.

Cllr Les acknowledged PC frustration re: lack of response from planning and BC teams. He also shared raised concern that delays in the Council's turn-around of planning matters/applications was not only impacting negatively on planning applicants, but also impacting negatively on local businesses/the local economy – especially on architects, surveyors and other professions, also building firms and allied trades, and material suppliers etc.

He advised that part of the problem was loss of planners, and difficulty in recruiting (this is recognised as a national issue). He reported that: re: recruitment/retention of planning staff:

- Budget - NYC planning service had and retained the budget to recruit and retain planning staff, but fact was that the Council (as was the case with other local authorities – LAs, across the county) were finding it increasingly difficult to recruit.
- Recent recruitment – Cllr Les reported that NYC had had some success re; recruitment having in the lead up to Christmas successfully recruited seven new planning officers (unfortunately, in the same period four existing planning officers had handed their notice in). Linked issue was lack of available experienced / qualified planners.
- Teams and IT arrangements – Cllr Les advised that NYC had now completed the merger of the former Hambleton and Richmondshire planning teams, and had moved them over to a common (NYC) planning
- IT system (former district councils all seemed to have their own proprietary systems)

1.2 Flood risk management - a couple of PCs raised their frustration re: lack of response from NYC Flood Risk Management Team on local flood prevention and risk issues. They also raised frustration with the Environment Agency's tendency to 'more the

goalposts' on licencing/permitting of local - i.e. PC / landowner - led – flood plain management activity, including drainage channel clearance of silt and flood debris. Linked concerns as to the cost of permit and the actual cost of maintenance works were also flagged as an issue for the PC(s) concerned.

1.3 NYC Licensing – a couple of PCs reported frustration with NYC Licensing Team re: (the team's) poor response to enquiries / questions from PCs on local licensing issues, nuisance complaints and enforcement issues

Action: Cllr Les asked for and received examples and details of recent /ongoing (poor/failed) NYC service communication cases, with him promising that he/his office would follow up with the teams concerned.

PC colleagues fed back that it was not all bad, with a number of NYC teams/personnel identified for their overall positive and overall good level of engagement and quick service response (from NYC teams concerned) re: issues etc raised by PCs (and local residents) – including:

- NYC Highways service teams – i.e. public rights of way team re: footpath issues; pothole team – re: road repairs; gully clearing team; street cleaning team; and, street lighting team.
- NYC Environmental Refuse & Recycling Street Collections – a couple of PC colleagues commended NYC Refuse & Recycling Teams serving their areas for ensuring that both household waste and recycling collections during the recent Christmas and New year Period were undertaken in a manner and timed so that households didn't have to store waste for any prolonged period, also that deployed crews planned things so that they ensured that they had the (vehicle) capacity to cope with the increased amount of waste/refuse for disposal that resulted from the recent holiday period.
- NYC Household Waste Recycling centres – PC feedback was that generally residents had a good level of satisfaction – especially when compared to other local authority areas - pleased with service and facilities available at these sites, also as to the helpfulness of the NYC personnel staffing such.
- NYC Environmental Health Team – couple of PC colleagues (including myself) fed back on good and proactive work being undertaken by NYC Environmental Health colleagues

on a number of licenced premises noise nuisance complaint and enforcement issues

- NYC website online reporting arrangements for highways, waste/fly-tipping and other local issues – online reporting tool(s) were identified as a positive in terms of ease of reporting (for those with internet access) and service responsiveness.

2. Litter – issue of roadside litter and also fly-tipping were raised, with PC colleagues raising question(s) as to what NYC might do, working with relevant other bodies – including PCs to address and educate local population (including businesses) and visitors, to promote (as one PC colleague suggested and Cllr Thompson agreed) ‘Keeping North Yorkshire Tidy’. Again issue of feedback to PCs, on NYC enforcement action taken with fly-tippers, litter louts and other litter miscreants was raised. PCs stated that they were happy to work with NYC to promote things locally. Cllr Thompson stated that he was grateful for to date positive response and engagement by PCs on the anti-litter issue. Action: Cllrs Les and Thompson to consider how/follow up with PCs as to how latter might (further) help push our NYC’s anti-litter message

3. School Transport – the issue of the poor communications by NYC Education Department on the change in school transport funding arrangements, and also the delay of the policy change post implementation review was raised (by myself and two other PCs). All PCs present advised that none had received any information from NYC on the then proposed changes during the so-called consultation period, nor had any received any updates from officers since the policy change was enacted. PC representatives also stated their disappointment re: lack of proactive engagement by NYC with PCs and other local stakeholders – including headteachers and school governing bodies/trusts. Action: Cllr Les noted the comments raised and said he would take the lack of PC/local stakeholder communication issue up with the Head of Service concerned.

4. PC engagement / involvement with NYC Area Committees – Cllr Les invited PC colleagues to attend/engage with their relevant Areas Committee – for Croft this would be the Richmond (Yorks) Area Constituency Committee. Action arising: PC colleagues said that they would welcome the opportunity to do so and asked that Cllr Les arrange for his office / the committee clerks to contact PCs to invite them to future meetings.

Cllr Mike Pears OBE

	<p>Croft on Tees Parish Council 20 January 2026”</p> <p>PC colleagues thanked Cllr Pears for attending the session on behalf of the PC.</p>
81 Dog Waste Bins	<p>Dog waste bin provision within the Parish is under review as the bins located in the Village Hall (VH) Car Park and at the Clow Beck entrance to the Flood Plain walk permissive path have over the past few months routinely been found to be overflowing.</p> <p>Whilst NYC have been responsive to emptying the overflowing bins when it has been reported – there needs to be a solution as extra callouts is not a sustainable way of dealing with the issue.</p> <p>Clerk to contact NYC and establish if larger dog waste bins can be acquired and if not to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ask NYC can the frequency of emptying of bins be increased, and • investigate for PC itself to arrange for larger bins to be provided. <p>The PC would like to thank all the responsible local and visiting dog walkers who pick-up after their pets and we hope to have a resolution to the overflowing dog bin issue in the near future.</p>
82 Grass Cutting Quote	<p>Grass Cutting Quote received for the 2025/26 season - £246 per cut which is a 7% increase on last years price. PC agreed with this quote. Clerk to contact Walkers to give the go ahead.</p>
84 Website update	<p>VC Evans explained that the new Parish Council website has been created and is ready for content. This will take place over the next few weeks.</p> <p>PC colleagues thanked Cllr Evans for his continued work on the PC’s new website.</p>
85 Next Meeting	<p>To confirm the date of the next PC meeting is due to be held on Wednesday 6th May 2026 at 7pm at the Village Hall. Please note the AGM with start at 7pm and the Normal PC meeting will follow.</p> <p>Everyone is welcome to attend.</p>

MEETING CLOSED 7.25pm