



## KIRKBYMOORSIDE TOWN COUNCIL

Church House  
7 High Market Place  
Kirkbymoorside  
YO62 6AT

Tel: 01751 432217

[town.clerk@kirkbymoorsidetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:town.clerk@kirkbymoorsidetowncouncil.gov.uk)

## 2025/26 KIRKBYMOORSIDE TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

### BIODIVERSITY & GRASS VERGE MANAGEMENT

Since the last annual meeting in May 2025 the subject of Biodiversity and Grass Verge Management has featured regularly on the Town Council agenda.

#### SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS IN 2025/26:

- 19 May 2025      Agenda item 19. Wildflower Verges
- a. To note that parts of the verges designated as wild flower areas, (as part of the NYMNP Grubs Up campaign) have been cut, contrary to the agreed schedule
  - b. To consider appropriate steps to ensure these areas are not cut again until the late summer
  - c. To consider the frequency of mowing visibility splays in the wild flower areas
  - d. To note temporary suspension of the grass cutting of the A170 verges in support of 'No Mow May'
- 21 July 2025      Agenda item 13. Biodiversity
- a. To receive information on "Biodiversity - Practical measures to help enhance wildlife and address recent legislation"
  - b. To adopt the Biodiversity Policy in accordance with Environment Act 2021
    - I. To note the commitment (detailed at Policy item 6.) to address biodiversity when commenting on planning applications
    - II. To consider drawing up a management plan for the trees and hedgerows at the sports field and play areas, and the verges that the Town Council is responsible for maintaining
- 15 September 2025      Agenda item 12. Biodiversity & Wildflower verges
- a. To receive correspondence from In Bloom and consider any appropriate action
  - b. To receive correspondence from members of the public in respect of the wildflower verges
  - c. To consider management of the trees and hedgerows at the sports field and play areas, and the verges that the Town Council is responsible for maintaining
- 20 October 2025      Agenda item 10. Grass verge management
- a. To receive information from Holly Ramsden on the NYMNPA GrubsUp! project
  - b. To receive the report by Cllr Dowie on the 2023-2025 wildflower verges project
  - c. To receive observations and recommendations of In Bloom regarding the streetscape planting throughout Kirkbymoorside

- d. To discuss new ways forward with verge maintenance to continue to improve biodiversity

17 November  
2025

Agenda item 8. Grass verge management

- a. To receive a report by Cllr Dowie on progress of the exercise to prep & seed the wildflower bank on 4 November
- b. To consider renaming the wild flower bank as “the Nature Area” in order that there is a clearer understanding of the purpose and management of the space
- c. To agree the date of the meeting to discuss options to improve biodiversity throughout the town and review the grass verge management, week commencing 2 February 2026 at 6pm in The Moorside Room

19 January  
2026

Agenda item 10. Biodiversity and Urban Grass Cutting

- a. To note the date of the public meeting to discuss opportunities to improve biodiversity within the town on Wednesday 4th February at 6pm in The Moorside Room
- b. To receive information on North Yorkshire Council's arrangements for urban grass cutting in 2026 and guidance on how to encourage biodiversity within highway verges
- c. To note the available funding for grass cutting of urban highway visibility splays of £1,161.07 (based on the rate of 8.27p per m2) and agree continued grass cutting arrangements

16 February  
2026

Agenda item 7. Biodiversity and grass verge management

- a. To consider and agree that being mindful of the Council’s legal responsibility regarding biodiversity, Kirkbymoorside Town Council will seek to restore and enhance precious habitat within the town
- b. To receive feedback from the public meeting on 4 February 2026, facilitated by the Town Council
- c. To review the contract for grass verge cutting and consider the proposal to reduce the annual number of cuts from 14 to 9
- d. To consider a stepped approach to some verges as trialled in 2025 by North Yorkshire Council
- e. To review the schedule of hedge cutting and consider the proposal to cut each side of the hedges and the top on a two or three year rotation so that blossom and berries are allowed to grow
- f. To consider and agree to designate Nature Areas where native wild flowers will be allowed to grow and management will be to cut and collect in Spring and late Summer
- g. To consider and agree to install Blue Hearts in the above areas with QR Codes giving information about the initiative
- h. To consider and agree to produce a poster showing the 40 native plants identified in 2025 on the bank adjacent to the A170 and West Lund Lane and publication of this information in the Moorsider and displayed on the main Town Council noticeboard
- i. To consider and agree to seek advice from Holly Ramsden (NYMNPAs) regarding a review of the Town Council’s information boards for the Nature Areas
- j. To consider reimbursement of £55 to Kirkbymoorside In Bloom for the cost of

application to the RHS Golden Rose initiative

16 March 2026 Agenda item 12. Biodiversity

- a. To consider designation of nature areas on the western boundary at Old Road play area, where suitable
- b. To consider cutting the inside of the west boundary hedge at Old Road play area every two or three years only, where suitable
- c. To consider inviting the sports clubs to propose suitable small areas at the sports field to be designated nature areas

All considerations are recorded in the Minutes of the respective meetings. Available on the Town Council website via the Agendas and Minutes Link on the Home page.

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL IN 2025/26 (extract of Minutes):

Extract of Minute 25064 dated 21 July 2025.

- a. Information on “Biodiversity - Practical measures to help enhance wildlife and address recent legislation” was **received**.
- b. It was **agreed** to adopt the Biodiversity Policy in accordance with Environment Act 2021.

Extract of Minute 25081 dated 15 September 2025.

First Proposal: “Cllr Riby proposed that the Town Council take notice of the residents concerns and abort the wildflower project.”

Counter Proposal: “Cllr Woodhams accepted that whilst the project has been well intended it is beset by conditions beyond control and if the public opinion is opposed to the project then it warrants review. Cllr Woodhams seconded the motion by Cllr Riby with the specification that the current approach be abandoned and reviewed. “

Final Resolution: “Cllr Coughlan repeated the proposal to abandon the *current* wildflower verges management project with the intention to *review* the opportunities to improve biodiversity within the town and determine a strategy that is supported by local residents through consultation. **Agreed.**”

The Town Council facilitated a public meeting to discuss opportunities to improve biodiversity within the town, on 4 February 2026. The meeting was well attended by members of the Town Council, residents and representatives of In Bloom, Kirkbymoorside and Ryedale Environment Groups, the Town Council’s grass contractor, Holly Ramsden ‘Grubs Up! Project Leader, NYMNPA

Extract of Minute 25130 dated 17 November 2025

*At the September meeting, it was agreed (Minute 25081) to abandon the current wildflower verges management project with the intention to review the opportunities to improve biodiversity within the town and determine a strategy that is supported by local residents through consultation.*

*At the October meeting information was received from Holly Ramsden on the NYMNPA GrubsUp! Project together with reports on the 2023-2025 wildflower verges project and Observations and recommendations of In Bloom. New ways forward with verge maintenance to continue to improve biodiversity were discussed.*

*It was agreed to make arrangements to invite interested parties to a meeting to explore the opportunities available to improve biodiversity within the town and determine a strategy that is supported was made in support of a proposal arising from consideration of the supporting documents at an appropriate agenda item.*

*The area referred to as the wildflower bank is located on the graduated slope beyond the road verge near the junction of West Lund Lane and the A170. Whilst this area has been included in surveys as part of the wildflower project, it has always received sympathetic mowing having been sowed with native wildflower seeds by the contractor in 2015. The Town Council’s decision to revert to the previous grass cutting schedule will not impact this area which will remain sympathetically mown.*

*Upon consideration of the information received, it was agreed to accept the recommendations to promote biodiversity by raking this area and seeding more yellow rattle and planting select native annuals to help support and promote the wildflowers that were seeded back in 2015. This exercise was carried out by volunteers on 4 November 2025.*

- a. It was **agreed** to rename the wild flower bank which will now be referred as “the Nature Area” in order that there is a clearer understanding of why the area is being managed differently. The signage will need to be revised to allow a clear explanation of the area designation in order to better manage expectations.

Extract of Minute 25182 dated 16 February 2026

- a. It was **agreed**, in accordance with the Town Council’s Biodiversity Policy, adopted 21 July 2025, to seek to restore and enhance precious habitat within the town.
- b. Feedback from the public meeting on 4 February 2026, facilitated by the Town Council was **received**, as detailed in the supporting documents.
- j. The schedule of hedge cutting was **reviewed**. Cllr Dowie proposed the top and front of the hedge for the length of the north boundary of Old Road play area be cut on rotation, keeping the areas around the bin, bench and length of footpath behind the toddler play area clear. **Agreed**.
- k. The designation of Nature Areas where native wild flowers will be allowed to grow and management will be to cut and collect in Spring and late Summer was considered. It was **agreed** to determine the location of any proposed Nature Areas through public consultation.
- l. Installation of Blue Hearts in any designated Nature Areas, with QR Codes giving information about the initiative was **agreed**.
- m. Production of a poster showing the 40 native plants identified in 2025 on the bank adjacent to the A170 and West Lund Lane and publication of this information in the Moorsider and displayed on the main Town Council noticeboard was **agreed**.
- n. It was **agreed** to seek advice from Holly Ramsden (NYMNPA) regarding a review of the Town Council’s information boards for the Nature Areas
- o. Reimbursement of £55 to Kirkbymoorside In Bloom for the cost of application to the RHS Golden Rose initiative was **agreed**.

Extract of Minute 21599 dated 16 March 2026

- a. Designation of nature areas on the western boundary at Old Road play area were **considered**.  
Cllr Dowie referred to the area under the trees at the southwest corner at the Old Road play area that is already managed sympathetically and proposed extending this area along the west boundary hedge on the slope immediately below the existing trim trail. **Agreed**.
- b. The schedule of hedge cutting of the west boundary hedge at Old Road play area was reviewed. It was **agreed** to cut the inside of the hedge only, every two years allowing for annual cuts around the bins. The top and outside of the hedge will continue to be cut annually.
- c. It was **agreed** to invite the sports clubs to propose any small areas at the sports field that might be suitable to be designated nature areas.

## COMMUNITY AWARDS

The 2025 Community Awards, kindly sponsored by RACK Systems and Marshalls Slingsby Advanced Composites, were celebrated on 27th September 2025 in the Memorial Hall. Ceremoniously presented by Angus Ashworth of Ryedale Auctioneers and myself as Town Mayor.

Awards were made as follows:

- The Voluntary / Charity / Membership Organisation of the Year Kirkbymoorside In Bloom for the team's fabulous floral displays that promote the town, provide environmental benefits and improve the wellbeing of residents and visitors alike.
- The Individual / 'Quiet Contributor' of the Year Dee Dowkes for her generosity in sharing her daily rambles in photographs and words, and the joy this brings to others.
- The Young Person of the Year Lizzie Myers for her services to Girl Guiding, and being a role model to young people and girls, as well as to the community itself.
- Kirkbymoorside Town Council's Special Recognition Award to Dian & Nick of the Moorside Store for their contribution to the town and its residents.
- The Council's Overall Community Achievement Award of the Year to Jean Illingworth for her work on the Kirkbymoorside Celebration/Awards Day 2024, Flood Support, Music Festival, securing grant funding for events, 10k support, and community Christmas dinner co-ordination.
- Window Dressing Competition Winner of the Year Something Special for its quirky interpretation of quite literally 'falling into autumn'. Judged by the Best Dressed Christmas Window winner, Kirsty @ Love My Hair, and the Town Mayor, Joe Coughlan.

The winners were presented with beautiful glass fused suncatchers made by the artist, Jane Pinder of the Stained Glass Centre, Cayton, Scarborough.

### \*\*\*\* 2026 COMMUNITY AWARDS \*\*\*\*

- Nominations invited from 1 May to 31 July 2026
- Nomination forms available for collection from the Library and Home Decorating Centre and online via the Town Council website
- Community Award Event on 31 October 2026 in the Memorial Hall from 6.30pm

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

### ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FROM THE 2025/26 GRANT BUDGET

Next Steps Grant - Walk & Talk Therapy Sessions	Next Steps Wellbeing	800.00
Grant to contribute towards 2025 WOW Day	Friends of Kirkbymoorside C.P School	800.00
Replace external lighting at Bowls Club	Steven J Dresser Electrical Ltd	1,764.00
"Bandamonium" Traffic Management	Roadway UK TM Limited	419.00
Maintaining Planting around War Memorial	Kirkbymoorside in Bloom	90.00
Purchase of a Remembrance Wreath	Royal British Legion	50.00
Remembrance Day Traffic Management	Royal British Legion	568.00
RHS Golden Rose Initiative Application Fee	Kirkbymoorside in Bloom	55.00
Materials for Kirkbymoorside Honours Board	Tom Trimmings Woodwork	160.00
Materials for Kirkbymoorside Honours Board	Tom Trimmings Woodwork	520.00
		5,226.00

## Additional Financial Allocation to Support Local Events

The cost of £1500 + VAT for traffic management charges for the 2026 event was **agreed**. (Minute 25131 dated 17 November 2025)

The associated traffic management costs of £467.75 + VAT for the Kirkbymoorside Gateway to the Moors Music Festival 2026. (Minute 25132 dated 17 November 2025)

## 2024/25 AUDIT & 2026/27 BUDGET

### 25085 Agenda item 7. Financial matters

- a. Completion by PKF Littlejohn LLP of the limited assurance review of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) for the year ended 31 March 2025 with no matters raised. **Noted**.

### 25129 Agenda item 7. 2026/27 Budget

- a. The 2026/27 Budget Monitoring Document, evaluated by the Finance Committee, was **considered**.
- b. The following recommendations from the Finance Committee regarding the budget for 2026/27 were **received**:

Designation of account no 114\*\*\*\*\* for financial management of all transactions associated with the Vibrant & Sustainable High Streets Fund Phase II grant award.

#### I. Revenue Budget 2026/27

Forecast expenditure of £104,230, as detailed in the Budget Monitoring Document, includes a modest annual £1250 budget for elections in order to accumulate the necessary funds for the expense of the scheduled elections (next in May 2027) which will be recharged to all parish councils by North Yorkshire Council.

#### II. Capital Budget 2026/27: To revise the allocation of earmarked funds, to include the allocation of match funds to the Ryedale View play area project, resulting in the following allocation of reserves:

- i. £49,414.37 earmarked for expansion of the cemetery;
- ii. £21,491.88 earmarked for new play equipment at Ryedale view play area;
- iii. £51,237.95 earmarked for 'Path for Everyone' project <sup>1</sup>;
- iv. £14,000 Specific reserves to include: Staff sickness; By-election provision <sup>2</sup> ; Manor Vale provision; Moorside Room provision; and sports field, play area and skatepark provision.
- v. £45,000 earmarked for sports field development <sup>3</sup> (of which £4000 <sup>4</sup> has been allocated to architects fees – in progress)
- vi. To retain the level of general reserve of £40,000 in accordance with the generally accepted recommendation that Smaller Authorities maintain a General Reserve at between three (3) and twelve (12) months Net Revenue.

The recommendations were **agreed**.

- c. The budget for 2026/27 was **approved** and the precept of £104,230 **agreed**.

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<sup>1</sup> Funds held in Town Council account 314\*\*\*\*\* in accordance with Section 139(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972

<sup>2</sup> North Yorkshire Council Parish Election Recharges Policy September 2025

<sup>3</sup> Minute 23215 dated 18 March 2024 committing to 20% match funding of project costs of £222,000

<sup>4</sup> Minute 24184 dated 17 February 2025

## FLOOD RECOVERY & RESILIENCE

In June 2025 concerns were raised about the amount of debris collecting on the weir at Keldholme and the associated flood risk to the neighbouring properties should there be a storm. Following the devastating impact on the properties in Kirby Mills following Storm Darragh, a number of properties remain uninhabitable, and it is imperative that the watercourse at the weir is kept clear.

The situation was reported to the North Yorkshire Council Flood Risk Management Team who have advised that as the River Dove is a main river it will fall under the responsibility of the Environmental Agency and the query has been passed to the appropriate personnel.

The request by [Water Tight Flood Resilience](#) for the siting of stores at Kirkbymoorside sports field and use of the Football Club facilities, by agreement, from January 2026 for flood recovery works at Kirby Mills was agreed. (Minute 25133 dated 17 November 2025)

Considerations of the Town Council at the meeting dated 15 December 2025:

**25150** Reports from Members representing the Town Council at meetings of outside bodies and on delegated matters:

Cllrs Coughlan, Moffat and Woodhams met with Heather Lagan, Senior Flood Risk Engineer and Hannah Baker, Flood Risk Manager, North Yorkshire Council Flood Resilience on 4 December 2025 for consultation of the Section 19 Flood Investigation. Cllr Moffat summarized the information presented by the Flood Resilience representatives as follows:

Background information setting out the trigger for the Section 19 Report in legal and humanitarian terms, along with the scope of the report including:

- the Flood Management Act;
- Section 19 Investigation requirement;
- the event (Storm Darragh) background;
- locations impacted;
- historical flood data for the affected sites.

The emergency and other agency responses were detailed. This included the immediate, mid-term and subsequent responses that led to the report and recommendations detailed therein.

The report addresses the response for the general locality including Sinnington and Marton with recommendations initially being generic and then focused specifically on Kirby Mills and Keldholme.

The Section 19 Report has yet to be presented to Committee (North Yorkshire Council) but several of the identified recommendations are underway, as are further agency conversations.

### Questions and Answers

**1. Have all those affected by storm Darragh been able to return to their homes and what funding is available to householders for preventative work?**

Flood resilience management of all properties affected by the flooding is ongoing. Two properties have been having extensive works. Funding allocation is dependent upon the extent of works necessary and is capped at £7000 per property.

**2. What is the likely timescale for property owners to receive reports with estimate of costs? Once received how long before owners can agree works with the council (if any)?**

**Water Tight** Flood Resilience have been contracted by the Lead Local Flood Authority, North Yorkshire Council, to undertake works to the properties affected by flooding in Kirby Mills and Keldhome.

Water Tight have been on site since 16th October and, as of 4 December, have completed 44 out of 49 surveys for the Rye Villages Scheme and 43 surveys for the Kirkbymoorside Scheme, with additional appointments scheduled. Across the Dales, 98 surveys have also been completed during this period.

### 3. Once any works are agreed, realistically how long before work on properties will begin?

As of 4 December, Homeowner Agreements have started to go out and several signed Agreements have already been returned. These will continue to be issued, and installations are scheduled to begin in January.

The following information is featured on the Town Council website:

**Water Tight** Flood Resilience have been contracted by the Lead Local Flood Authority, North Yorkshire Council, to undertake works to the properties affected by flooding in Kirby Mills and Keldhome.



**Water Tight** Flood Resilience work on domestic properties installing flood door or flood barriers that go over doorways. They sometimes install pumps into the ground (to protect water from rising through the ground on suspended floors of properties). Other products they install are anti-flood air bricks, non-return valves as well as doing repointing, applying waterproof spray to brickwork and sealing any other water ingress points.

**Water Tight** have been on site in Kirby Mills and Keldholme, for the past two months. Surveys of the affected properties began during the week commencing 16th October. To date, they have completed 44 out of 49 surveys for the Rye Villages Scheme and 43 surveys for the Kirkbymoorside Scheme, with additional appointments scheduled this week. Across the Dales, 98 surveys have also been completed during this period.

Homeowner agreements have started to be issued and installations are scheduled to begin in January 2026.

The Town Council have agreed the allocation of unoccupied space at the sports field to be used by **Water Tight** to situate their stores. This will consist of two 20ft x 8ft containers, and two 8 yd enclosed skips - one for plastic / doors and the other for mixed waste which is usually rubble general waste, nothing toxic or hazardous. Use of the football club facilities has been offered, by agreement with the Kirkbymoorside Football Club, to negate the necessity for an additional welfare unit onsite with toilets and a small kitchen area.

The works are expected to take 10 – 12 months from January 2026. The stores will be attended around 7.30am-8am or at the end of the day around 4.30pm with the odd visit during the day or for stock deliveries. This will ensure minimum disruption to the sports clubs.

The Town Council's formal powers in emergency management are limited compared to principal authorities, however, the Town Council still plays a key role in supporting and coordinating local efforts. Primarily this is achieved through provision of resilience information specific to Kirkbymoorside to the emergency services and North Yorkshire Council and publication of all community safety information received from the respective authorities/agencies.

## EMERGENCY COMMS

Options for emergency comms have been considered at length, the cost of which to be allocated from the balance of the Two Ridings Community Foundation's North Yorkshire Disaster Recovery Fund.

For background information, during Storm Darragh there was no network coverage as the telecoms mast was down and this meant that communication was compromised. The intention of the town Council was to procure suitable devices that allow communication in the event of an emergency and without reliance on mobile networks.

Considerations included alternative radio rebroadcast techniques, logistics of installing an antenna at the Moorside Room to increase the range of the handheld radios, the requirement of a SWR meter and Ofcom licence implications.

The Town Council agreed to purchase six handheld radios and micro mag antenna at a cost of £489.65 + VAT. The purchase of accessories including a 6ft antenna pole and 10m cable @ £32.22 have allowed adequate range throughout the parish.

## SITING OF EMERGENCY STORES

The clerk provided information relating to suitable/permissive locations for a storage facility at Kirkby Mills. The intention was to locate a site for stores to accommodate any equipment that would assist in prevention and response efforts in the event of a flood. The site would optimally be positioned as close to the flood area in Kirby Mills. To date five locations have been investigated within 200m of the affected area. However, each location has presented complications relating to either landowner consent, access requirements, or both. In the absence of an immediate opportunity to create a suitable site it was suggested that the search be broadened to explore availability of any existing storage facilities on the industrial estate. Taking into account that any/all materials needed in the event of a flood response would need to be manoeuvred by vehicle because of their weight/bulk, the additional distance of any stores from the epicentre should not compromise the efficiency of the plan.

A realistic and affordable solution would be to utilise the Town Council's storage container at the sportsfield to store the equipment needed for flood recovery efforts, e.g. wheel barrows, brooms, buckets etc. The First Responders (Fire Services and North Yorkshire Council Resilience & Emergencies) are suitably equipped with pumps and other machinery and have qualified personnel to operate such equipment.

## **MANOR VALE**

Maintenance works identified in the management plan and volunteer activities involving haymaking, coppicing and hedge laying continue. Thanks to the Manor Vale Volunteer Working Group and Don Davies for their continued efforts.

The tri-ennial survey of trees in Manor Vale woodland, Old Road and Ryedale View play areas and the sports field was carried out in March 2026 with works identified according to recommended timescales from 3 months to 3 years. The immediate works have been instructed and quotations sought for all remaining recommendations. These costs will be factored into budget considerations for 2027/28 and 2028/29.

In April 2026, recommendations by the Environment Agency for Natural Flood Management (NFM) works in Manor Vale woodland were **considered** and **approved**. The works were carried out by the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the Manor Vale volunteer working group.

## **MOORSIDE ROOM**

In 2025 the Town Council explored the options available to improve the energy efficiency of the building. Thanks to Steve Henderson, Synergi Energy Systems for his professional support and advice in this matter.

The Moorside Room was subsequently refurbished within the budget of £10,000 allocated from specific reserves. The project included replacement flooring, improved heating including the installation of a destratification fan and additional radiators, replacement windows to the front elevation and redecorating.

Heating @ Moorside Room	Stewart Forbes Electrical Services Ltd	4,060.00
Flooring Installation - Moorside Room	Graham Gamble Joiners & Builders	2,075.00
Engineered Oak Flooring	Calverts Carpets	1,826.67
Moorside Room Decals	Ryedale Printing Works Ltd	144.00
Painting of Moorside Room	S Warner Property Services	1,500.00
		£9,130.67

The venue will be host to the Town Council's exhibit of Lewis Creighton paintings on the weekend of 31 July to 2 August, to coincide with the Music Festival. ***Everyone is invited to this free event.***

The Moorside Room has been the venue for the 2025 summer and winter North Yorkshire Open Studios, regular rehearsals, meetings, baby and parent classes, funeral teas, Christmas market and Santa's grotto.

### PLAY AREAS

Remedial repairs to wet pour surfacing	Synergy Outdoors Limited	393.00
Glue for remedial repairs	BATA	7.07
Annual Play Area Inspection	Streetscape Products & Services Ltd	250.00
Remedial Repairs – To cut off sharp metal and fill hole below skate park	P&A Gospel	80.00
Repairs carried out at Kirkbymoorside Skate Park	King Ramps Ltd	1,745.00
Remedial Repairs – Replacement of gate off Swineherd Lane at Old play area inc. supply of gate and posts and iron work	P & A Gospel	450.00
Sovereign Play Inspections	Sovereign	399.00
Annual Bridleway Clearance works in Manor Value	P&A Gospel	500.00
4G Data Contract Renewal - CCTV at Old Road Play Area	Videcom Security Ltd	540.00
Wash and De Graffiti Play Parks	GB Multitask	450.00
		£4,814.07

CCTV @ Old Road play area, total annual cost @ £540 + VAT monitored by North Yorkshire Council and accessible to the Police

### NEW EQUIPMENT AT RYEDALE VIEW PLAY AREA TOTAL COST £42,000

The Town Council have allocated £21,491.88 from the reserves and application has been made to National Lottery for £20,000 match funding, to replace the play equipment at Ryedale View play area. A decision is awaited. Should the grant application be unsuccessful alternative funding opportunities will be explored.

### SPORTSFIELD DEVELOPMENT

Planning of the project to expand the Squash Club building to incorporate suitable facilities for use by the Football Club and a shared recreation space are ongoing.

In September the initial Feasibility Study document produced by Peter Rayment Designs was received. Peter Rayment Designs were appointed to undertake further architectural services associated with the project and the Phase II Feasibility Assessment was received in October 2025.

In December 2025 advice received from architects Peter Rayment Design specific to the replacement of the dilapidated machinery stores with a suitable structure that a non-material amendment to the existing planning permission would be the most cost-effective route to progress this element of the development. The architect fees of £1280 + VAT for associated drawings and preparation of planning application documents, and fees to the Planning Authority of £298.00 were agreed as Phase 1 Build of the project.

Minute 25163 dated 19 January 2026:

#### **25163** Agenda item 8. Sports Field Development

- a. An update on plans for development of the squash club building to incorporate football club facilities and associated considerations/recommendations arising was **received**, as detailed in the supporting documents.
- b. The request by Kirkbymoorside Football Club to prioritise replacement of the machinery stores as the Phase I Build was **considered**, as detailed in the supporting documents, and **approved**.
- c. The requirement to make non-material amendments to Planning Application 23/00146/FUL in order to replace the machinery stores and associated costs were **noted** as follows:
  - I. £1280 Design fees for preparing proposed drawings and planning application documents
  - II. £298 Planning fees for non-material amendment to planning Application 23/00146/FUL
- d. The specific allocation of earmarked funds, held in reserve for sports field development (Minute 23215 dated 18 March 2024), to the associated costs of the Phase I Build was **agreed**.

March 16 March 2026 Minute 25200 Agenda item 7. Sports Field Development - Phase I Build pursuant to Minute 25163 dated 19 January 2026

- a. The plans for replacement machinery stores were **received** and submission of the Non-Material Amendment to Planning Application 23/00146/FUL to the Planning Authority, at a cost of £368.83 + VAT was **noted**, pursuant to Minute 25163 dated 19 January 2026.
- b. The quotation for services to dismantle the machinery store at the sports field and the certified disposal of asbestos was **considered** and **agreed** at a cost of £4,359.90 + VAT, allocated to cost code 130.

#### **TOWN PROMOTION**

In May 2025 The “Kirkbymoorside Feasibility Study and Action Plan for Growth” produced by The Retail Group, funded by North Yorkshire Council, was **received**. The purpose of the action plan is to improve the appeal, usage and performance of the town centre, based on the evidence and needs of the future customers (residents and visitors) and of the local businesses. (Minute 25010 dated 19 May 2025). The report identified the need for improved directional signage on the A170. The Town Council agreed to pursue the matter with NYC Highways. The signage on the A170 on approach to the roundabout, both east and westbound, in addition to the directional signage on the roundabout itself, has been revised to offer clearer wayfinding to the town centre.

Kirkbymoorside Community Support Group (KCSG) made the Town Council aware of the intention to create a town brand in order to better publicise and promote Kirkbymoorside. The Town Council agreed to support the KCSG in their application to York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority (YNYCA) Vibrant and Sustainable High Street Fund by accepting responsibility for the management of financial transactions

associated with the project, in accordance with Section 139(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.<sup>[1]</sup>, application to NYC for street furniture licences and promotion of the project via the Town Council website and social media platforms.

In February 2026 the design proposal for the town logo and branding, as part of Kirkbymoorside Community Support Group's project funded by York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority VSHS Fund, was received, with enthusiasm.

Jean Illingworth, Kirkbymoorside Community Support Group, provided a precis of the design considerations. The centerpiece of the logo design is a contemporary 'K' monogram that functions as a sophisticated directional device. The subtle woven pattern in the vertical stem is a nod to the town's historical and Viking heritage, while the integrated arrow graphic creates an unmistakable psychological cue to "look here" and "turn here". This design expands on the "Gateway" concept to also direct people to discover the unique offerings of this hardworking, unpretentious market town. The palette pairs deep teal, representing the wild Moors, with a vibrant terracotta orange which is a nod to the red brick architecture and rooftops throughout the town. The intention is that this logo works as a brand and a dynamic navigational tool which can be tailored for use on a variety of display type e.g. on information boards, roadside signs and banners, merchandise etc.

The Town Council supported the design choice, as determined by the partners of Kirkbymoorside Community Support Group's project funded by York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority VSHS Fund.

In March the updated "Welcome to Kirkbymoorside" information panel as part of Kirkbymoorside Community Support Group's project funded by York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority VSHS Fund was **received** and **approved**. The project has also produced History Trail information panels which will be displayed in lectern displays to be installed on the pavement at the junction of West End and Market Place, and on Church Street near the junction the Market Place. The History Trail will be further supported by leaflets produced by the Kirkbymoorside History Group.

The next phase of the Kirkbymoorside Community Support Group's town promotion project is the redesign of the Kirkbymoorside panels featured on the A170.

To date the project has been meticulously planned and very effectively executed. Compliments to the considerable efforts of Kirkbymoorside Community Support Group led by Jean Illingworth.

## **TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

Cllr Debbie Grounds was co-opted to the Town Council at the Ordinary meeting dated 16 March 2026.

There is one casual vacancy on the Town Council. Expressions of interest are invited. Please email [town.clerk@kirkbymoorsidetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:town.clerk@kirkbymoorsidetowncouncil.gov.uk) or speak to a member of the Council for more information.