

Carlton Water Committee (Funding & Management)

Water Committee Members

Peter Dinsdale (PC Chair)
Stephen Pritchard
Claire Hodgson
Dan Dent
Jess Dinsdale
Marina Briggs
Carol Brown, (PC Clerk)

Minutes of Meeting held on 9th September 2025

The meeting was held at Dan Dents House, Carlton beginning at 4.30pm.

Those present:

Peter Dinsdale (PC Chair), Stephen Pritchard, Dan Dent, Marina Briggs and Carol Brown (PC Clerk).

Apologies were received from Jess Dinsdale and Claire Hodgson.

Minutes of the previous meetings held on 4th July 2025 and 17th July 2025 had only been received by the clerk today and would be circulated to members tomorrow for approval and then placed on the website. The minutes of the meeting held on 12th August 2025 would also be circulated for approval and placed on the website.

No agenda had been provided for this meeting as the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed cash flow and recommendations to the Parish Council regarding funding of the new tanks and water plant for the Parish Council meeting to be held on the 11th September 2025.

An email had been sent to Sharon Hudson and Callum McKeon from North Yorkshire Council (NYC) on 19th August 2025 asking for clarification on the following questions posed to them:

- 1) **Permanent residents have seen a reduction this year of 3% in the portion of council tax attributed to the parish council, why is this? Is it due to the double council tax for second homes? I was led to believe that the second home double payment was all kept by North Yorkshire Council and earmarked for affordable housing, therefore the Parish Council get nothing from the double payment. Is this correct?**
- 2) **Can we differentiate between entities - residents'/businesses/ second homes?**
- 3) **Are we legally obliged to provide water to businesses? As they pay no council tax at all and therefore the Parish Council receive nothing at all towards our water supply, can we invoice them for water and how can we enforce payment if they refuse to pay? Can we turn the water supply off due to non-payment for businesses?**
- 4) **Will North Yorkshire Council support the parish council if we choose the current strategy through the precept?**

Carol informed the committee that no response had been received at this time. She informed the committee that the response would be circulated once received. A discussion took place regarding outstanding debts from businesses for the water supply. It was agreed that a more robust and clear pricing strategy would need to be put in place with the possibility of contracts for businesses to sign up to. Until a response is received from NYC regarding the legalities of this it was decided to put this to one side for now.

As there was still uncertainty regarding the billing of businesses towards the water, Stephen had included a bad debt contingency into the cashflow projection of 25%.

To cover the works required for the new plant it was proposed to recommend for a loan 'in principle' of £75000.00 over 5 years with the PWLB. The loan repayments each year would be approximately £18000.00. In comparison for a loan of £100000.00 the loan repayments would be approximately £22000.00.

It was discussed that a PWLB loan, in principle, would need to be agreed by the Parish Council at the meeting on 11th September 2025. The running of the plant, Parish Council and allowing for a reserve to build is currently costing approximately £22000.00 a year, which is the amount the precept is set at for this current year. To continue with this and fund the loan repayments the precept amount would have to double for at least the first year if the £100000.00 loan was required. If in the following year the funds are not needed the precept could be lowered.

If the PWLB loan is agreed 'in principle' at the Parish Council meeting a consultation process would need to be done as part of the loan application. This would need to be for one month to gauge public opinion. This could be done via survey door to door and email. It was also suggested of some drop-in sessions to allow householders to ask any questions. A revised cashflow would need to be re-done depending on the amount of the loan required. Once this is complete a business case would need to be put together to then go back to the Parish Council for a resolution to proceed with the loan. Dan Dent and Stephen Pritchard will come to the Parish Council meeting on 11th September and give a report.

Carol to send initial cashflow round the Parish Councillors to show that funding is needed to complete the works.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.15 pm

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY
Forward minutes to funding group members for approval	Carol Brown
Place minutes on website	Carol Brown
Circulate response from NYC/Sharon Hudson/Callum McKeon.	Carol Brown
Circulate cashflow to Parish Councillors	Carol Brown
Report to Parish Council	Stephen Pritchard