

Clerk to the Council: Jessica Bedford
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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at The Rockingham Arms, Towton on Tuesday 20th May 2025 at 7.30pm.

The meeting opened at 7.33pm

Present: Cllr T Fielden (Chairman) and Mrs J Bedford, Clerk to the Council and six members of the public.

MINUTES

1. To receive apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllr P. Fletcher.
2. To approve, as an accurate record, the Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 02 May 2024 as a true and correct and record.
Resolution: To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 2nd May 2024 as a true and accurate record.

3. To receive a report from the Chairman regarding the Parish Council's work over the past year.

The Chairman provided the following report:

The Parish Council has continued with existing initiatives in support of the Parish over the past year.

The Village Field, purchased by the Parish Council, continues to be well maintained and is used by different sections of the community as a rural walk and allotments.

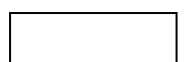
The Parish allotments have a low vacancy rate and a strong group of longstanding users. During the year the Parish Council installed a water connection at the allotments for use by allotment holders.

The Parish Council Flood Group has been supporting the flood defence campaign in Kirkby Wharfe where floods regularly inundate homes in the village, most seriously in December 2015 but on many occasions since. These floods are caused by the arrangement of Environment Agency assets. The Parish Council Flood Group operates temporary flood defences stored on site in Kirkby Wharfe. During the year, these were repaired and maintained by the manufacturer's agent.

In early 2025, after more than ten years of lobbying, the Parish Council Flood Group received funds from the Environment Agency via North Yorkshire Council for the reinforcement of land adjacent to some of the homes at risk at Kirkby Wharfe. The funds were first allocated in 2022 but had been delayed by layers of bureaucracy. The reinforcement will be carried out in July 2025 and will bring a vital improvement in the flood resilience for those homes.

The Parish Council continues to support road safety in Towton, with particular attention to traffic on the A162, which is monitored by equipment within the flashing speed signs installed by the Parish Council. Data is gathered by these signs periodically to assess whether County authorities need to be involved.

The Parish Council continues to operate a balanced budget, applying careful stewardship of public funds and limiting unnecessary expenditure of Council Taxpayers' money. The largest single outgoing is the 50-year loan repayment relating to the purchase of the Village Field. Where possible, one-off expenses are met by one-off grants, such as the renewal of batteries and pads in the Parish Council defibrillators during the past year.



The Parish Council continues to support the communities within the Parish with beneficial initiatives at extremely low cost.

4. To consider any matters raised by the registered electors present at the meeting.
None

The Meeting closed at 7.41pm

Chairman's signature: _____

Date:

DRAFT

