

BURTON-CUM-WALDEN PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 22 APRIL 2025

The Annual Parish Meeting was held in West Burton Village Hall on **Tuesday, 22 April 2025** at 7.30 pm.

Members of the Council present were: Councillor Jane Ritchie, Chairman, Councillors David Dent, Sally Sahin and Victoria Whitehead, and Mr Richard Nolan, Clerk, and Mrs Sue Ryding, Retiring Clerk

Also present: Eleven residents of the Parish.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

1. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 23 April 2024, having been circulated via the website prior to the meeting, with copies available at the meeting, were taken as read. Mr David Dent proposed, and Mrs Sally Sahin seconded that the minutes were a true record, and this was confirmed by all present. The minutes were duly signed and dated by the Chairman.

The Chairman commented on various actions that had been taken arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

- The Chairman asked for people who lived alone to leave a key with a neighbour, together with details of someone who could be contacted in case of an emergency.
- The Chairman reported on the on-going attempts of the Parish Council to gain clarity over local telecoms – 5G coverage and the contemplated withdrawal of analogue landlines.
- The Chairman noted the continuing efforts of the Parish Council and Stop Ure Pollution to procure an upgrade of the village's sewerage works.
- Finally the Chairman thanked Mrs Sue Ryding on behalf of the Parish for all her 22 years' hard work as parish clerk, and also thanked her husband, Keith Ryding, for his support of her in that role.

2. Annual Report, Parish Accounts and points arising

The Chairman tabled the Annual Parish Report and Accounts.

There was one question on the accounts, concerning how monies for the annual Parish Bonfire Night celebrations were accounted. Mrs Sue Ryding pointed out that these monies were not Parish Council monies, and were kept in a separate dedicated account. Therefore they should not appear, and did not appear, in the Parish Accounts. The Chairman proposed that the totals of donations and expenditures connected to each annual Bonfire Night celebration be published in the Parish newsletter.

Mrs Sue Ryding also informed the meeting of the Parish Council's planning in connection with the anticipated refurbishment or replacement of the Parish's mower.

3. Use of Community Buildings

The Chairman noted that two significant community buildings in the village may face a change of use in the foreseeable future.

First, the Chapel was in the process of closing. If the chapel building is sold, the proceeds will not stay in the village, but will be held by the Methodist Church centrally.

Secondly, the future of the school in West Burton was uncertain. The Chairman emphasised that this meeting was not the place to discuss any possible closure of the school: there are distinct statutory procedures for closure of any school, and no steps had yet been taken to initiate those procedures in relation to the Village School.

What is of significance to the Parish is that the school building is owned by a charitable trust, of which the Chairman of the Parish Council, in her capacity as such, is trustee. It is not owned by North Yorkshire Council or by the Church of England. The terms of the charitable trust governing what is to happen if the school were to close are very dated, and should the school close, those terms will need to be modernised, a slow process which would involve the Charity Commission.

The Chairman noted that it was therefore prudent for residents of the Parish to begin to think of possible ideas for suitable use of the school buildings in the event that the school were to close.

4. Update on A Good Life

At the invitation of the Parish Council, Mrs Julie Greenslade of _____ in Hawes, a community anchor organisation whose area of operation covers the Parish, gave a presentation on the work of that organisation and the support it can offer to residents of the Parish.

Slides used in the presentation will be posted on the parish website in due course.

5. Any items of concern from residents of the Parish

One resident raised the issue of providing more support to those who organise the Parish's Bonfire Night celebrations. These concerns will be passed on to those who organise the celebrations.

6. Any other business

There was no other business.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.32 pm.

Chairman: Jane O. Ritchie

Date: 21st April, 2026