



Minutes of Parish Meeting held on 15th October 2025

Present – Anne Stubbs, Philip Fairburn, Jane Stollery, Lesley Zimmerman, Wendy Hoare, Sue Sharp, Andrew Sharp, Neil Armstrong, Sarah Whitney, Yvonne Wilman, Guy Wilman, Paul Booth-Burke, Michael Colver, Jan Buczak, Vicky Buczak (Chair)

Apologies – Alison Farrar, Keith Farrar, Caroline Booth-Burke

Vicky Buczak (Parish Clerk) was approved to chair the Meeting, commencing at 18.30.

1/ Agree last minutes (from 28th April 2025)

Agreed.

2/ Approve costs for urgent surgery on three trees in The Pound

Costs of £2000 were approved. Work will be performed within one month.

3/ Update on repair of bus shelter

Tim Clarkson has been instructed to carry out the repairs, within the budget of £2000 set in the meeting last October. He has been asked to replace like with like, to keep the existing dimensions of the structure, and to alert us before continuing if he has problems honouring these constraints. He will complete the work before Christmas.

4/ Discuss and Vote on amount of grant for the Institute for 2026/27

Paul announced that the Institute will no longer require such grants. He will charge £50 per annum rent for use of the Institute for Parish Meetings. No voting required.

5/ Discuss 2026/27 financial forecast and set precept

Vicky presented a financial forecast, which included the figures noted in points 2 to 4 above. This forecast assumed a precept of £3500 (same as last year). It showed that the current account balance at the end of the financial year would be some £240, and that the reserve Business Premium Account balance would stay at over £2000.

The Meeting approved the proposed precept of £3500.

6/ Update from Planning on Back Lane, Arklow Farm and Solar Photovoltaic farm

- a. Back Lane: The static caravan, which originally was to be taken down by 1st October, is still in place. Planning are aware of this, and assure Vicky that the issue is in hand.
- b. Arklow Farm: Comments on the Certificate of lawfulness for the stationing of the new units can still be made to Planning until the extended deadline of 17th October. Sarah suggested that some blending down work on or around these units would mitigate the effect on the rural environment. Philip said some blending down would happen.

- c. Solar Photovoltaic farm: No more news from Planning. Vicky has asked Yorkshire Water to clarify their intentions on their site, and even to send a rep to come and talk to us about them. They promised to answer her requests.

7/ Update on registration of village green

Land Registry, after much prodding, have finally got back to Vicky, apologising that the application had been “lost” for a while. They confirmed that a survey has been performed, and that they are now working on a definitive map, which will exclude access drives. They will send us their map for approval.

8/ Discuss Community Governance review

This CGR (which can consider Parish creations, mergers, alterations, abolitions etc.) involves us because Spennithorne Parish have requested a merger with a nearby Parish, ours being one of their choices. The Meeting was clear that this was not wanted, and Vicky will inform the CGR to this effect.

9/ Update on Data Protection policy

The updated policy has been posted on the website. Alison has updated the mailing lists to include only those who explicitly agreed to be included.

10/ Update on consequences of nobody volunteering to take over the role of Parish Clerk

Vicky has spoken to the head Parish Councillor for Newton-le-Willows: she said their Parish would not want to take over our Parish Clerk role.

Vicky has also been informed by YLCA that there are a dwindling bank of “locum” clerks who could look after our Parish, and advised us to start advertising the role in advance, with which they would help.

Since Vicky intends to step down from her role in April 2027, YLCA would not yet comment on pricing for this role, which in any case would vary by individual.

We are aware of one Parish representative being paid £2000 per annum, compared to £600 for us. Inevitably hiring a professional Clerk would significantly increase our Precept, and hence the Council Tax paid by all households.

If no volunteers come forward by the next Parish Meeting in April/May 2026, we will start advertising and use YLCA help to find a professional Clerk.

Info

- a. Dog poo increasing in village green area south of crossroads – please be vigilant
- b. A Christmas Tree will be put up in same position as last year, beginning of December
- c. Thanks to Paul, Andrew and Keith for clearing Goose Park track after storm-felled tree
- d. Horse Box parked opposite bus shelter: owner willing to relocate, even pay rent, needs suitable farm space, will ask locally and would welcome help finding such
- e. Fliers on EasyFunding for Institute distributed – also attached with these minutes

Thanks to all who attended