

BARWICK in ELMET and SCHOLES PARISH COUNCIL (PC)

MINUTES of the PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE meeting

held on Monday 27 October 2025 at 7:30pm in Barwick Miner's Institute.

PRESENT: Councillor Stella Walsh (Chair) together with representatives Steve Collett (Allotments), Dave and Sue Wilkinson (Barwick Indoor Bowling Club), Pete Elliott (Barwick Outdoor Bowling Club), Jayne Dickinson, Karen Lewis and Steve Proberts (Scholes Bowling Club), Chris Swales and John Swift (Barwick Cricket Club), Richard Jowitt (Scholes Cricket Club), Jeremy Lucas (Garforth Villa Blues Boy's Football Clubs), Liam Swift and Sammy Kinlough (Barwick and Scholes Football Club), Craig Barker (Scholes 1st Scouts), Jill Druce and Sue Sidebottom (Tennis Club), Linda Turp and Lynda Wright (Barwick Village Hall) and the Clerk.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Dales and Maude and representatives Jim Ballance (Garforth Villa Blues Girl's Under Sixteen's Football Club) and Phil Bagley (Tennis Club),

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Playing Fields Committee meeting held on the 14 April 2025, having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record and that the Chair sign the minutes.

4. UPDATES ON ITEMS DISCUSSED

Updates on items discussed at the April 2025 meeting were considered under the individual club headings below.

5 CLUB REPORTS

5.1 Tennis Club.

The Tennis Club representatives reported an increase in popularity of their sport and the fact that they were more central to the Village. They reported an increase in membership, many of whom had been recruited on Maypole day, The Tennis Club having had a stall at this event. The replacement of the fencing had now been carried out and was looking good, People felt that the Tennis Club was more appealing as a result. A large banner had been put up on one side of the fencing advertising the Tennis Club. The next big project would be resurfacing the courts with an estimated cost of £32,000 to £35,000. These had recently been cleaned using a power wash which had exposed cracks in the tarmac, including those near the white lines. The cleaning had made the courts more playable. The local primary school had been approached, and they had expressed an interest in using the courts but nothing had been heard further since. Professional coaching had been started. A lady in Thorner had taken this on and it was proving popular with juniors, the largest attendance being children aged between five and nine. The open day had been very well attended. The club were doing lots of advertising. There was a particular need for more adults as it always seemed to be the same faces every Sunday morning. The Club had more members but many of these were not actively involved. Tennis Club stressed that the sport is played all year round. They no longer have floodlights due to health and safety concerns and relocate to Thorner for nighttime activities. A storage shed had been put on the courts (the previous shed had been knocked down). This was made of uPVC and had a lit-up lid and was about waist high but in spite of its unobtrusive appearance, there had been complaints from a resident of one of the neighbouring properties (who was also a member) that it spoilt his visual amenity. To date, all communications with this person had been by email, a face-to-face meeting was being arranged.

The rubble left from the fencing work had now been cleared. The Club competes in the Barkston Ash League. There had been no progress regarding a concern about a handrail (see item 5.2 of the minutes of the April 2025 meeting, page 43). The PC were looking to extend the playground on Jack Heaps field and the impact of this on the Tennis Club was noted (i.e. the playground to have a distinct boundary and not rely on the fencing the Tennis Club had put up). The Club had also made enquires about signage at the entrance to Jack Heaps field, the PC needed the measurements of what was proposed. The Club advised that this idea had been put on the back burner for now.

5.2 Pavilion.

The Chair reported that replacement heating had been done in both changing rooms. The Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) was well used but there were problems with the amount of litter being left around. A groundsman/cleaner was now employed for a couple of hours every fortnight. The tennis nets had been taken down for winter storage. The representative of Scholes 1st Scouts offered bins as they had had half a dozen which was more than enough for their needs.

5.3 Garforth Villa Blues Girl's Under Fifteen's Football Club.

The team had struggled in Division Two of the West Riding Girls Football League in the 2024/25 season but avoided relegation and were unbeaten so far in the 2025/26 season (played three, won one, drawn two). There was a concern about one of the stanchions on the set of goals nearest to the Pavilion.

5.4 Garforth Villa Boy's Football Club.

Three boys' teams were now playing in Barwick, the Under 14's blue team (alternate Saturdays) and the Under 11's navy team and the Under 11's yellow team (both alternate Sundays). The Under 14s were in division two of the Selby & District Junior Football League. The Under 11's were in Divisions 1 (blue) and 2 (grey) of the Garforth Junior Football League. The team coach for the Under 11's navy team was Jeremy Lucas and Stuart Daly was the coach of the yellow team. Annie Runcie was the team coach of the Under 14s team. The teams have so far played one game each in the 2025/26 season. Five of the boys in each team attend Barwick Church of England Primary School. The under-eleven's teams play nine-a-side football although there are twelve signed up to play. The wheeled goal posts for the nine-a-side matches were funded by a grant from the Community Fund. There were two sets of pitch markings for nine-a-side and eleven-a-side football. The sign saying "Home of Mount Saint Mary's Football Club" would be taken down mid-November and the broken benches would be repaired. The three coaches had full accreditation which includes relevant Safeguarding checks renewed every couple of years. The Club had received a request from the Primary School for use of the pitch, due process would have to be followed in order to agree to this request.

5.5 Barwick in Elmet and Scholes football Club.

A couple of months prior to the meeting, Danny Gallagher and Zoe Rainbow had stepped down from the day to day running of the Club and Liam and Sammy had taken over this role and would be the primary points of contact for the PC. The players came from Aberford, Barwick in Elmet and Scholes (Sammy being a Scholes resident and team manager). They play in the Leeds Combination Association Football League Division 2 having won promotion from Division 3 in the 2024-25 season. They now have a squad of twenty players. The team had played eight league games in the 2025/26 season at the time of the meeting (and one in the cup) and enjoyed a good team spirit. The previous day, they had beaten the team who were second in the league 3-2. They would be having a race night to raise funds and were advertising this on Instagram. It was suggested that they could apply to the Community Fund for grant funding. They asked permission to put up advertising around the perimeter of the pitch, this would be an agenda item for PC consideration. They also asked for an update on whether any rent monies were owed.

5.6 Scholes Cricket Club.

The previous club representative, Dan Whitaker, had stepped down as secretary and Richard Jowitt had taken over (the email address for contact remained the same). They had had a good season with both clubs staying in the same divisions as before (the first team finished ninth in the York League Ebor Division 2 and the second team finished ninth in Ebor Division 4). Once again, juniors had been loaned from Barwick Cricket Club. This suited both clubs as it helped Scholes Cricket Club fulfil their fixtures whilst also giving the Barwick Juniors game time. Pitch maintenance had been a challenge due to the lack of rain in the summer, however the groundsmen, Gary and Tony, had done a good job in spite of the exceptionally dry season. The square had been scarified and fertilised. One member of the public had been using the outfield for golf practice and there had been problems with cyclists doing doughnuts on the square, there would be an article in the Parish Council newsletter asking residents to be respectful of the square.

5.7 Barwick Cricket Club.

Barwick Cricket Club reported that they had had a good summer with the first team finishing fourth in York League Ebor Division 1 and the second team finished second in Ebor Division 4 (winning them promotion). They had six junior teams playing at four different age levels plus the All Stars team. As reported above, they were lending players to Scholes Cricket Club. A Sunday side was being considered for the juniors. Having so many teams and only one pitch meant that they had a capacity issue. The groundsmen were doing a good job keeping the pitch playable. Six of the current adult team came through the juniors and four of those had made appearances for the first team. In addition, one of the girls made her debut for the first team (6th September). The club had a training ladies' side (who use a softball). Last year, one of the big fundraising events was a beer festival and the Club hopes to do this again. On 10th September, the ground hosted the final of the Joe Root under thirteens trophy between Holmfirth School and Harrogate Grammar. The winners (Holmfirth School) were presented by former Yorkshire and England Test cricketer Sir Geoffrey Boycott. He was complimentary about the facilities. Two Bridge Clubs were using the Pavilion. Priorities for the immediate future were having a new patio and upgrading the cameras at the back. The latter had become necessary due to children climbing on the back, the new camera equipment would cost about £3,000. The pitch was also being used by inner city schools in Leeds. The Club were also considering having solar panels on the roof and would be looking at grant funding opportunities to fund this.

5.8 Scholes Bowling Club

The Scholes Bowling Club representatives reported that they had had a good season. Every team peaked. There were three ladies in the top ten in the averages of the Elmete Ladies League (3rd, 5th and 6th). Scholes were champions of the Elmete Ladies League (matches played on a Tuesday under the name of Scholes Skylarks). They were also champions of Division 2 in the Tadcaster Area Veterans league – winning promotion to Division 1 (matches played on a Wednesday afternoon). They had finished sixth in the Crossgates League (matches also played on a Wednesday) but had beaten Colton in the final of the Turpssoft Shield knockout trophy (played at Whitkirk on 10th September). Scholes A had won the Tadcaster League Division 1 and Scholes B just missed out on promotion as they finished third in Division 2 (matches played on a Thursday evening). They had finished third in Division 2 of the Barkston Ash League (matches played on a Saturday). Once again, they had beaten Barwick to win the Sleights Trophy. The Club was trying to get new members. Their concerns about PC plans to plant trees along their boundary hedge were addressed (these would be used to fill gaps in the hedge). The new secretary was Steve Proberts. They had concerns about the condition of their club house and felt that they would need a new one at some stage.

5.9 Barwick Outdoor Bowling Club

Barwick Bowling Club B team had beaten Garforth CC B team in the final of the Jack Cook Supplementary Cup (played at Fearnville on 20th September). It had been a good season overall with no promotion or relegation from any of the leagues in which the Club competes. These being the Barskton Ash Division 2 (Barwick A), Tadcaster Evening League Division 2 (Barwick Badgers), Crossgates League Division 2 (Barwick A), Elmete Ladies League (two teams, Barwick Acers and Barwick Oaks) and Tadcaster Area Veterans League (the A team in Division 1 and the B team in Division 2). Membership was largely unchanged. The Club had had an evening with the 3rd Garforth Girl Guides, about forty of whom had played (and earned points towards their Social Interaction Badge). The focus of the Club was on cutting costs.

5.10 Barwick Indoor Bowling Club

The representative of Barwick Indoor Bowling Club, Mike Cooper, had passed away and Dave and Sue Wilkinson had taken over. They were now into the fourth week of the new season. Players came from both Barwick in Elmet and Scholes. They didn't have a committee. They were considering advertising in the magazine, they want to have a lot of younger ones. The Club had around thirty-five members, some of the whom come from Garforth. The Club plays twice a week (Monday's 10.00am - 12.30pm and Wednesday's 1.00pm - 4.00pm). Membership is £6 (October to March) plus £2 each time a member plays (the fee covers a full three and a half session). They don't play any competitive matches, the Club is purely social.

5.11 Allotments

Most plots are now taken apart from one full plot and one half plot. There had been concerns about the hedge between the Verity Strip and the Primary School. The School had been getting quotations and gone with someone who gave a better price than the established contractor. Although the price was better, the new contractor never turned up to do the work and the School had had to revert back to their established hedge cutter. There was a desire to form a group of three or four plot holders to go round the plots in July and August to deal with any plot holders who had let their plots become untidy or overgrown. The representative was advised that the Clerk be advised in the event of such plots being identified so that he could deal appropriately, this would avoid any potential confrontation between plot holders. Relationships between neighbouring plot holders was generally good with just one incident of two people having words. The water supply had now been turned off for the winter. Proposals for the PC to purchase the privately owned allotments in Scholes were close to completion. A formal exchange of contracts was imminent.

5.12 Barwick Village Hall

Following the break, all the regular bookings had returned. The event to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) day held on 10th May 2025 was a big success. On 26th September, there had been a fundraising event (tea and coffee) for the Macmillan Cancer Support charity which had raised £235. The Hall had closed for three weeks whilst a new floor was laid, it looked beautiful. All who contributed were thanked, a wall of honour was planned and there would be an open morning to invite those who donated and give them a tour. The Christmas Fair would be on 30th November from 11am to 3pm. On 21st March 2026, a Simon and Garfunkel tribute band would be coming.

5.13 Scholes 1st Scouts.

The Scouts representative reported that Scouts currently had more than fifty young members (eighteen Beavers, twelve Cub Scouts and twenty-three Scouts). Volunteers were needed who would be Safeguarding and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checked. The number of

volunteers had increased since last year, the Cub Scouts in particular need more. Financially, Scouts were in a good place. The biggest event of the year, both financially and socially being Bonfire Night. Last year, about a thousand people came. This year, the event would be held on 8th November from 6pm to 9pm with a small fireworks display starting at 7pm for children and a large display at 8pm for adults. The money raised from this event would enable the Scouts to keep subscription fees at existing levels. Scouts received funding from the Community Fund for a new fire pit and received £1,500 from a bequest from Alan and Eveyln Senior (Alan being a former Parish Councillor). This money had funded three new gazebos. Scouts had got plenty of paint (magnolia and forest green colours) which they received free of charge. There was new signage at the front of the hut and a flagpole. Jon Bliss had stepped down as Group Scout Leader in January 2025 and oversight of Scouts was now in the hands of a board of trustees with representation from each section facilitating cross communication between the various sections. Scouts were considering a lean-to wooden shed in which wood for the fire pit would be stored. This would be considered by the PC if this was outside the terms of the Lease. Members of Scholes 1st Scouts had helped with the making of paper cranes for the Peace Flame project.

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Those present were encouraged submit any news and information for their organisations for the PC newsletter, the next one would be in November.
- Barwick Outdoor Bowling Club asked about their rent increase. The Chair explained the background to the increase. The Clerk commented that the treasurers of the organisations present who had long term lease agreements would have received a hand-delivered letter advising them of the increase being levied effective from 1st April 2026.

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 20 April 2026 at 7:30pm in the Miner's Institute.
The meeting closed at 9pm.

Chair
Monday 20 April 2026