

# **BARWICK in ELMET and SCHOLES PARISH**

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

held in Scholes Sports Pavilion on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 7pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Stella Walsh (*Chair*) and twelve other electors (including Parish Councillors and the Clerk).

The Chair thanked everyone for coming.

### **1 TO AGREE SOMEONE TO TAKE THE MINUTES.**

It was agreed that the Clerk of the Parish Council (PC) take the minutes.

### **2. NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING**

It was confirmed that, in accordance with statute, the notice convening the meeting has been duly published on the PC's notice board, on the website and on the PC's Facebook page.

### **3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies.

### **4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 be signed as a correct record.

### **5 CHAIR'S REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Chair reported on the sad news of the passing of former Councillor David Young and then gave her annual report as follows;

#### *CHAIR'S REPORT TO BARWICK IN ELMET AND SCHOLES PARISH COUNCIL 12<sup>th</sup> MAY 2025*

*I should like to welcome new councillors Chris Shoesmith and Brian Foxcroft (both Barwick), and Phil Maude rejoined the council (Scholes). Unfortunately, Councillor Gillian Williamson has recently resigned due to personal reasons and we wish her well. Two vacancies remain in Barwick and one in Scholes. Although there is a reduced number of councillors the current team work extremely well together, keeping the Parish Council business on track, and taking on additional duties where necessary. The Clerk also works incredibly hard supporting councillors and residents.*

*The precept for 2025/2026 has been increased, this has been required as costs of maintaining PC assets continue to rise. The Parish Council hopes to secure the purchase of the land and Scholes allotments; negotiations are ongoing.*

*A substantial contribution towards the new Scholes playground was also made and plans are ongoing to upgrade the playground in Barwick and a consultation will be undertaken in the near future. The Christmas Lights in both villages are welcomed, but the high cost is a heavy burden. Alternative lighting and sources are being considered. Thank you to residents who continue to provide an interesting and exciting range of additional Christmas lights at this time of the year.*

*During the year the Planning Committee has responded to planning applications, however, the decisions are made by Leeds City Council. This is becoming a disappointing task as LCC frequently ignore objections and allow planning proposals to proceed which are not viewed as beneficial for the parish.*

*The Peace Flame Group worked with both primary schools and Scholes Scouts to design a Peace Flame Flag which is installed in the Peace Flame Garden, Scholes. Thank you to the schools and Scouts and the children who submitted designs; the project is part of the ongoing educational project linked with peace.*

*Our sports organisations have all had good seasons; two sports meetings a year are held and these are well attended. A new football club is now based at Barwick Scholes MUGA pitch is free to use by all residents and fobs are not required to gain entrance. The MUGA is closed overnight.*

*Phil Maude continues to lead the review of The Neighbourhood Plan, and they are reviewing the policies to decide which to retain or amend and any new policies which may be required. The revised plan will be open to public consultation and will take place in the near future.*

*The Parish Council should also like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard in the community to make the Parish such a lively and pleasant place to live. To name a few: the in-Bloom Groups, the Village Hall Committees; the Maypole Committee, the local British Legion for organising the remembrance parades, Scouts groups, sports groups, all the churches and the many other people who help on a daily basis and give up their time. Thank you.*

*Thanks to all the Parish Councillors and the Clerk for their time and help and support they have given me throughout the year.*

*Cllr Stella Walsh Chair 2024/2025*

## **6 STATEMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS**

The Clerk of the PC circulated a summary of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 with a comparison with expenditure and income for the year ended 31 March 2024. This showed an overall income of £61,218.12 and expenditure of £51,554.24. He went through the report and, where there were noticeable differences between the 2024/25 and the 2023/24 figures, explained why. The end of year bank balances totalled £98,135.38.

## **7 PRECEPT**

The Precept for the year 2024-25 had been set at £48,333 compared to £46,859 in 2024-25. This was an increase of just over 3% on the previous year.

## **8 REPORT on the ANCIENT PARISH OF BARWICK in ELMET TRUST**

The Trust was established in 1996, an amalgamation of seven smaller trusts founded in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The object of the Trust is to relieve financial hardship, which it does by making grants of money, or by providing or paying for services, items or facilities calculated to relieve the hardship. The area the Trust covers includes not only Barwick and Scholes but also parts of Cross Gates, Swarcliffe and Whinmoor, and parts of Fearnville, Oakwood and

Ladywood. This was the Ancient Parish in 1856 and is known as "the area of benefit." The Trustee names can be viewed on the Charity Commission website.

During the 2024/2025 financial year ended, the Trust made fourteen grants totalling £10,900.13. The Trust had helped people in the past with help towards the cost of school trips, carer uniforms. The Trust owed two parcels of land from which it received rent.

## **9 OPEN DISCUSSION of PARISH AFFAIRS**

Two members of the Barwick Beer Festival organising committee discussed ways to support the local community, in particular, Christmas Tree lighting. They had used a well-known internet fundraising site and also money raised at the raffle at the 2024 Beer Festival to fund fifteen Christmas Trees from a supplier near Wetherby (at about £100 each including fixing brackets and lights). They were given the name of a supplier of solar powered Christmas Trees and would contact this supplier. They were seeking grant funding from the PC towards the cost of the Beer Festival, either hall hire or the portaloos (or both). The PC's Finance and General Purposes Committee was meeting the following Monday and there would be an agenda item to consider this. There would be an appropriate article in the PC newsletter.

They also had a query about tickets for the music festival at Bramham Park. The Community Fund had tried to get more day and weekend tickets but the Festival organisers had not increased the allocation.

Another resident spoke about using the changing rooms and football pitch at Barwick in Elmet for junior football for the 2025-26 season. There would be two under eleven's nine-a-side boys teams (one playing home fixtures when the other was away) and there would be an under-fourteen's boys team playing eleven-a-side matches. The under fourteens would play on a Saturday and the under elevens on a Sunday. The season would be from September to April, and they were looking for a two-year agreement. Ten of the boys were from Barwick in Elmet, they were not asking for funding. The girls' team who play at Scholes would be under sixteens for 2025-26 and this would be their final season. They would use a 3G pitch in the winter for training and would use this artificial surface from October. They would play outside of the cricket season.

Chair, May 2026