

**MINUTES of a MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7pm in Barwick in Elmet Miner's Institute.

**PRESENT:**

Councillor	Stella Walsh (Chair)		
Councillors	Pamela Beresford	Brian Foxcroft	Paul Remmer
	Karen Dales	Phil Maude	Chris Shoosmith
	Catherine Flynn	Kinga Ragg	Paul Walsh

**In attendance:** The Clerk.

Cllr. S. Walsh thanked everyone for coming.

**1 APOLOGIES.**

There were no apologies.

**2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

There were five members of the public in attendance. One was a candidate in the forthcoming local elections who wanted to speak to the Parish Council (PC) in support of his candidacy and to leave flyers. He was advised by the Chair that the PC is non-political and therefore he could not address the PC nor leave the flyers.

There were two members of Barwick Bowling Club who wanted to speak about their grant application during agenda item 6.1 and two other members of the public who did not wish to raise any matters during the period of public participation.

**3 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST.**

Cllr. Dales regarding item 6.16.

**4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.**

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the PC, 10/2025-26, held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 (884-888) having been circulated, be approved and that the Chair be authorised to sign. There was a retrospective correction to the minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026 (879-883), the meeting venue should have read "Barwick in Elmet Miner's Institute".

**5 ACTION TRACKER.**

The Action Tracker had been circulated to all and progress on the items listed was noted, three of the items were agenda items in their own right (see items 6.6, 6.10 and 6.11). Actions completed since the previous meeting had been reported on the agenda support document which had been circulated ahead of the meeting.

**6 OTHER ITEMS**

In accordance with Standing Order 10a(vi), the Chair changed the order in which items were taken and moved items 6.3, 6.7, 6.8, 6.9 and 6.10 so that they were taken after item 6.16.

**6.1 Grant application from Barwick Bowling Club.**

A grant application for £2,500 had been received from Barwick in Elmet Bowling Club for a new pump for their irrigation system (based on a verbal quotation). The existing pump could not be repaired as it was obsolete. The two representatives answered questions about their application explaining the reasons why they had not applied to the Community Fund (i.e. there was an urgent need for the pump) and whether they could contribute any of the own funds towards the cost. They also confirmed the membership (of between fifty-five and sixty people) included Scholes and further afield in spite of the wording in paragraphs 4c and 4d of their Constitution which

suggested restrictions to Barwick residents. It was noted that the PC budget for grants to community groups (£2,000) was less than the amount they were asking for and there was a reluctance to spend the entire budget within the first two weeks of the new financial year and it was therefore **resolved** to award a grant of £500 as a contribution towards the cost.

## **6.2 Mayors Safer Communities Fund.**

Two windows of opportunity were coming up where grant applications to the Mayors Safer Communities Fund for projects to help reduce crime could be applied for (1<sup>st</sup> June to 3<sup>rd</sup> July and 9<sup>th</sup> November to 11<sup>th</sup> December). It was felt that the PC could apply for grant funding for either speed cameras or vehicle activated signage with the locations to be agreed. It was therefore **resolved** to set up a working party to move this forward led by Cllr. Beresford to include Cllrs. Dales, Flynn, Foxcroft and Remmer.

## **6.4 Report on Barwick and Scholes allotments.**

Cllr. Maude had produced a report on the allotments asking the PC to consider issues such as revising the agreements (to include clauses omitted from the existing agreements but used by other associations), aligning the renewal date of plot holders so that the rent for both sites became due at the same time, charging extra for water at Barwick in Elmet (the annual cost to the PC worked out at £9.69 per plot per year). At £38 a year for a full plot, the rent was good value compared to other sites researched by Cllr. Maude. The report also considered three models for running the allotments, i.e. direct liaison between the Clerk and each plot holder (the current arrangement at Barwick), having one person act as liaison between the plot holders and the PC (i.e. the arrangement between Scholes plot holders and the previous owners) or for each site to set up its own allotment association. He proposed setting up meetings with the plot holders to discuss these items and went through a list of twelve questions in his report with Councillors indicating their views on each one (and agreement that there could be bespoke rules for each site). He recommended that advice be sought from the National Allotment Society (NAS), it was therefore **resolved** to rejoin the NAS for one year.

## **6.5 Ban on bicycles on Hall Tower Field.**

As per item 7.5 of the minutes of the meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025 (page 867), the six-month ban on bicycles on Hall Tower Field was reviewed. After discussion, it was **resolved** to continue the ban and review it again after a further period of six months.

## **6.6 Poppies on lampposts.**

This agenda item had been deferred from the meetings of 2<sup>nd</sup> February (item 7.6, page 880) and 2<sup>nd</sup> March (item 6.4, page 885). It was **resolved** not to pursue this on the grounds of cost and the need for volunteers to put up and take down the poppies.

## **6.11 Quotations for emptying the cess pool at Barwick.**

The cess pool had previously been emptied on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and was again full in spite of the minimal usage by the junior football club. The Clerk had obtained three quotations for emptying the cess pool and carrying out an inspection using closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras to look for signs of water entering the tank externally. Cllr. Remmer advised that the use of CCTV cameras was unnecessary and explained why this had happened. It was **resolved** that the Clerk accept the quotation from the contractor who gave the best price to exclude the CCTV camera inspection.

**6.12 Barwick Beer Festival 2026.**

A request had been made by organisers of the Barwick Beer Festival to use the Village Hall car park and a part of the football pitch. The 2026 Beer Festival would be held on 12<sup>th</sup> September, a week earlier than 2025 and as such, would coincide with the last day of the cricket season. They had spoken to Barwick Cricket Club about this. The wording of the agenda item implied that they were looking to park vehicles on the football pitch. It was therefore agreed to defer this to the May meeting and in the meantime, seek clarification from the event organisers regarding what the football pitch and Village Hall car park would be used for and to ensure that the junior football club had no concerns.

**6.13 Stone stile on Scholes Lodge Field.**

It was **resolved** to agree a fee of £285 for scale drawings, site plans and location plans for the proposed move of the stone stile on Scholes Lodge Field to allow inclusive access and that the cost of this be taken from the Neighbourhood Plan Revision Group budget.

**6.14 Barwick playground improvements.**

Cllr. Ragg reported that potential grant funders required evidence that planning permission had been granted before considering any applications. The drawings supplied to date were sufficient to make a formal planning application. It was therefore **resolved** to give permission for the Barwick Playground Improvement Working Party to make a formal application to the local planning authority.

**6.15 Pavilion hire charges for 2026/27.**

It was **resolved** that Pavilion hire charges remain unchanged and to review them again in six months.

**6.16 Damage to the whips in Scholes Lodge Field.**

It was noted that several of the newly planted whips in Scholes Lodge Field had been accidentally cut during the grass cutting process. This was due to a breakdown in communication between the grass cutting contractor and the PC about which areas to avoid. One of the residents in attendance had put poles in the field and Cllr. P. Walsh had removed them. This resident offered to replace the damaged whips with more substantial trees. The use of plastic tubes was discounted. It was felt that steps needed to be taken to avoid any future occurrences of this, Cllr. Shoesmith agreed to take the lead on this, and the Clerk would forward him the specifications for review. It was **resolved** to accept the offer of trees from the resident.

**6.3 Electric bicycles in public places.**

Concern was expressed about electric bicycles being ridden in public places, in particular by young people on Scholes Lodge Field. The Clerk would write to Leeds City Council (LCC) to see if there were any byelaws which could be used to control areas where electric bicycles could be ridden. The newly purchased grassland adjacent to Scholes allotments could be used for electric bicycles, this would be an agenda item at the appropriate time.

**6.7 The unsuitability of the footway on the opposite side of the road to the houses on Leeds Road.**

Agenda items 6.7 and 6.8 were taken together. The concern was regarding verge creep and the lack of a kerb to control this and the encroachment onto the areas near bus stops. The Clerk would write to LCC and lobby Ward Councillors to try to address these concerns. One resident was willing to do some crowd funding to pay for any necessary work to be done. Cllr. Maude suggested that of the Neighbourhood Plan

Review Group, in conversations with any developers, could make appropriate representations.

**6.8 Concerns about foot path clearing in Scholes and Barwick along Leeds Road.**

See item 6.7 above.

**6.9 Bench to be situated at Morgan Cross.**

Item 7.9 of November 2025 meeting, page 872 recorded that the PC had approved the wording of the sponsored bench to go at Morgan Cross. Since then, the resident has tweaked the wording, it was **resolved** to approve the revised wording.

**6.10 Car Parking on Jack Heaps field.**

It was noted that the Clerk had used his delegated authority to agree to Jack Heaps Field being used for car parking for funerals on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026 and 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

**6.17 Reports of meetings/training attended.**

It was noted that Cllr. Maude would attend the Outer Northeast Town and Parish Council Forum on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

**6.18 Safeguarding report.**

Nothing to report this time.

**6.19 Risk assessments.**

- a. Inspections of equipment on Scholes and the playground in Barwick were ongoing.
- b. Concern was expressed about a hole in Hall Tower Field. This was there for the maypole for the triannual festival. The hole had been covered by a piece of wood, but this had now been replaced by a stone to reduce the risk.
- c. Cllr. Foxcroft was thanked for filling in the potholes in the Village Hall car park.
- d. A window in Scholes Sports Pavilion had been broken by a football. The child had been very honest in admitting to this accident and his father had agreed to pay for the repairs.

**7 PLANNING MATTERS**

Two applications had been received after publication of the agenda. The deadline for comments for the plot adjacent to 118 Leeds Road was 26<sup>th</sup> May allowing this to be fully considered at the May meeting.

The other application was a change of use for the former surgery on 96 Main Street to a small children's home with three bedrooms (reference 26/01775/FU). It was **resolved** to raise **No Objections** to the proposal.

**8 FINANCES**

**8.1 Approval of invoices and payments made or to be made for April and May 2026.**

- The RFO had circulated a bank reconciliation and a list of anticipated payments showing anticipated manual payments for April 2026 and anticipated automated payments for May 2026. The report included payments made on the PC credit card. There were two additions to the figures circulated; the hire charges for the Miner's Institute (two hirings at £17 each) and a repair to one of the standpipes at Barwick allotments (£90 + VAT).
- Cllr. Foxcroft had met with the leader of Scholes 1<sup>st</sup> Scouts regarding the manhole cover. The PC had agreed to pay for this in the belief that the cost would be in the region of £40. Following the meeting, Cllr. Foxcroft reported

that a more substantial manhole cover was required which would be in the region of £400, having agreed to stand the cost, the PC would have to honour what it had agreed.

- It was **resolved** to approve these payments.
- Automated payments due in April had been approved at the March meeting, (it was noted at the time that these can be variable amounts and the actual amount taken sometimes differed from the anticipated amount reported at the time)
- Contractual payments such as the Clerk’s salary were not included in the list of anticipated payments.

## 8.2 Adding an extra signatory to the Lloyds Bank account.

It was noted that there were four signatories on the Lloyds Bank account and that two of these were needed to authorise any payments. Some payments had been delayed due to unavailability of sufficient authorised Councillors, and it was therefore **resolved** that Cllr. Beresford have her access changed from read-only to that of a full power signatory.

## 9 CRIME REPORT

Cllr. Beresford had attended the Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting held at Wetherby Police Station on 12<sup>th</sup> March. She gave a comprehensive report. She reported on SNAP, a safer roads media submissions portal for reporting traffic issues and that video evidence could be uploaded (it can be found by a search on any Internet search engine). Streets in Scholes would be patrolled for any illegal parking and tickets would be issued, this project would go on indefinitely. Police working out of Stainbeck Police station would come out in response to deal with any instances of people parking on other people’s drives (this was especially bad in Scholes at the start and end of the school day). Rumble strips can be requested which record both speed and quantity of vehicles. She shared information about Community Speed Watch which allows people to use a speed gun to measure traffic speeds. Concern was expressed that social media was being used to warn offenders when cameras were about. Burglary figures had not changed (with a pattern about the value of stolen items). She encouraged anyone with concerns to be proactive and if necessary, to shout louder. Much of the above could be communicated to residents using the newsletter and Cllr. Beresford or Cllr. S. Walsh would produce an appropriate piece for a forthcoming newsletter.

## 10 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Date	Time	Meeting	Venue
11 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	7pm	<b>ANNUAL Parish meeting</b>	Scholes Sports Pavilion
11 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	8pm	<b>ANNUAL Parish Council meeting</b>	Scholes Sports Pavilion
20 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	7:30pm	<b>Playing Fields Committee</b>	Barwick in Elmet Miner’s Institute
27 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	7pm	<b>Finance and General Purposes Committee</b>	Scholes Sports Pavilion

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:18pm.

Signed

11 May 2026