

MINUTES of a MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held on Monday 7th September 2026 at 7pm in Barwick Miner's Institute.

PRESENT:

Councillor	Stella Walsh (Chair)		
Councillors	Pam Beresford	Catherine Flynn	Phil Maude
	Karen Dales	Brian Foxcroft	Paul Walsh

In attendance: Three residents and the Clerk.

1 APOLOGIES.

There were apologies from Cllrs. Ragg, Remmer and Shoesmith.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

There were three issues raised.

- a. Speed restrictions and signage. One resident had queries regarding the 30mph speed limit on the stretch of Leeds Road between the East Leeds Orbital Road (ELOR) and the Coronation Tree junction. He suggested that the speed restriction signs should be larger and should be placed closer to the start of the properties. He suggested that the stretch of the road between Garforth and Barwick should be reduced from 60mph to 40mph. The Police would be asked to monitor this stretch. Cllr. Maude read from an email from a resident with expertise in this matter. The resident at the meeting was informed he could attend the next Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting (see item 9 below), the Clerk would send him the details. The Parish Council (PC) would write to Leeds City Council (LCC) regarding these matters for consideration as part of its Vision Zero strategy by 2040. Cllr. Maude would draft a reply for Highways.
- b. Two other residents attended regarding proposals for Christmas Lights, both were involved with the Beer Festival. They had produced detailed costings (not seen by the PC to be shared) with proposals covering both villages. These were in addition to the arrangements made with Barwick shop proprietors for real Christmas Trees. The proposals included the use of solar powered lights on trees attached to lampposts; the cost included putting up and taking down the trees and were within the current PC Christmas Lights budget. This would allow the PC to go back to strings in trees if the decorations they proposed proved to be inappropriate after further discussions. It was suggested that the two women would be part of the Christmas Lights Working Party (see item 6.1 below). No decisions were made and this would be an item for further consideration at October meeting.
- c. A section of the boundary wall between the closed graveyard and the track leading to Hall Tower Field had collapsed leaving stones hanging dangerously. One of LCC's Building Control's surveyors toppled the wall to make it safe. Although LCC had repaired a different section of the wall when it collapsed in 2022, they were disputing ownership of the wall. Evidence supplied in 2022 had been resubmitted. The Clerk had written to the Chief Legal Officer of LCC. It was likely that a faculty would be required. It was suggested that other parts of the wall were showing signs of collapse in the future and that this should be addressed by LCC.

3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST.

Cllr. S. Walsh declared a gift of hospitality being two tickets to the Beer Festival the coming Saturday. Cllr. Dales declared a personal (but not pecuniary) interest in item 6.7 (Royal British Legion grant application, the applicant was related to Cllr. Dales).

4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the PC, 3/2026-27, held on 6th July 2026 (904-907) having been circulated, be approved and that the Chair be authorised to sign. A suggested amendment to item 6.6 made by Cllr. Flynn was agreed.

5 ACTION TRACKER.

An Action Tracker listing all outstanding actions and recording progress (or otherwise) on each action had been circulated to all and the contents were noted. It was noted that in accordance with paragraph 8 of the Grants Policy that Barwick Bowling Club had evidenced expenditure following the award of grant funding as recorded in section 6.1 of the minutes of the April 2026 meeting. The Clerk would chase Scholes 1st Scouts for a response to the letter regarding their request for a storage container.

6 OTHER ITEMS

6.1 Christmas Lights working party.

Quotations from LCC for Christmas Lights in each village had been received along with a Service Level Agreement (SLA). The SLA would need to be looked at if the PC agreed to go ahead with lights from LCC (Cllr. Shoesmith's expertise in this area would be drawn upon). It was **resolved** to set up a Christmas Lights working party made up of Cllr. Dales and the two residents who had spoken during the public participation. They would meet and report back to the PC at the October meeting.

6.2 Parish Council response to the Community Governance Review for a proposal for Garforth to be parished.

Cllr. Maude spoke about this matter in order to make Councillors aware. Unlike the previous proposal for Garforth to be parished, this time the boundaries of Barwick and Scholes PC would be respected. The land near Nanny Goat Lane had been put forward as a site for possible development in the LCC "Call for Sites" in 2025. Any development would bring in precept money and Community Infrastructure Levy money for the Parish but would impact those residents of the Parish living on Nanny Goat Lane.

6.3 Proposals for a railway station at Thorpe Park.

Cllr. Maude made the meeting aware that the proposal for a railway station at Thorpe Park would create a transport hub which increased the likelihood of land within a twenty-minute walk of the station being put forward for development including the area to the east of the ELOR around Barnbow Wood part of which was within the Parish boundary. Comments would be sent to Ian McKay (LCC Neighbourhood Planning Manager).

6.4 Inclusive access into Hall Tower Field.

Removal of the kissing gate onto Hall Tower Field to give inclusive access was considered and Cllr. Foxcroft had obtained a quotation to remove the swinging central gate. He was asked to get a quotation for removal of entire kissing gate (the gate and its enclosure).

6.5 Clerk's salary.

It was noted that there had been a nationally agreed 3.3% cost of living increase in Clerks salaries backdated to 1st April 2026 and that under the terms of the Clerk's contract of employment, this would apply to him.

6.6 Rent charged to Scholes organisations.

It was **resolved** to increase the annual rent paid by Scholes Bowling Club, Scholes Cricket Club and Scholes 1st Scouts to £130 with effect from 1st April 2027.

6.7 Grant application from the Royal British Legion.

It was **resolved** to award a grant of £210 to the Royal British Legion. This was the full amount being applied for, this grant was solely for the cost of poppy wreathes for Remembrance Sunday 2026 and did not include anything towards the cost of the bugler.

6.8 Rent charged to Barwick Allotment plot holders.

It was **resolved** to increase the rent charged to Barwick Allotment plot holders to £45 per full plot (£22.50 for each half plot) with effect from 1st October 2027. This included provision of water.

6.9 National Association of Local Councils (NALC) survey on neighbourhood plans

It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group had responded on behalf of the PC to the NALC survey on neighbourhood plans.

6.10 Jack Heaps field.

It was noted that the Fair was coming to Barwick, moving in on 19th October, opening 22nd to 26th (excluding Sunday) and vacating on 28th. It was also noted that the Clerk had used his delegated authority to agree to Jack Heaps field to be used for car parking for a funeral on Monday 24th August 2026. It was **resolved** to increase the fees charged to the Fair to £550 for 2026 and to £600 for 2027 (there were two abstentions).

6.11 Meetings/training attended.

The Clerk had attended “Handover to a Clerk” training held on 29th July 2026 using remote access technology.

6.12 Safeguarding report.

There was nothing new to report since the previous meeting.

6.13 Risk Assessments.

It was noted that risk assessments of the Scholes outdoor gym equipment and multi-use games area and of Barwick playground had been carried out.

7 PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning matters which had been referred to the Clerk as agenda items, but an application received earlier that day would be on the October agenda.

8 FINANCES

8.1 Approval of invoices and payments made or to be made for September 2026.

- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) had circulated a bank reconciliation and a list of anticipated payments showing anticipated manual payments for September 2026 and anticipated automated payments for October 2026. The report included payments made on the PC credit card. Since the report had been circulated, two more invoices had been received, being moles control on Scholes Lodge Field (DM Pest Control) £150 and the repair of Scholes Goal Posts (Flowers for the People) £180. The RFO had spoken to the telephone/broadband supplier as they were charging the incorrect amount in spite of instructions given when the contract was due for renewal.
- It was **resolved** to approve these payments.

8.2 External Auditor's report.

The External Auditor's report was awaited but an email exchange between the External Auditor and the RFO indicated that the question "*Do the figures in the accounting statements above exclude any trust transactions?*" had been answered incorrectly. The PC are the sole trustees of Barwick in Elmet Children's Playground (charity number 523485). The answer should have been "yes" notwithstanding the fact that there were no transactions in or out of the Charity nor does it own and/or lease land or property.

9 CRIME REPORT

Cllr. Beresford had not been able to attend the Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting on 16th July but crime figures for the Harewood Ward had been circulated showing the top five crime locations in the ward. An appropriate article would be put in the September newsletter. The meeting of 27th August had been cancelled, and the next meeting would be at 6:30pm on 8th October at Wetherby Police Station.

10 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Date	Time	Meeting	Venue
5 th October 2026	7pm	Parish Council meeting	Scholes Sports Pavilion
12 th October 2026	7pm	Finance and General Purposes Committee	Scholes Sports Pavilion
26 th October 2026	7:30pm	Playing Fields Committee	Barwick Miner's Institute

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:50pm.

Signed

5 October 2026