BARWICK in ELMET and SCHOLES PARISH COUNCIL (PC)

MINUTES of the **PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE meeting**
held on Monday 20 April 2026 at 7:30pm in Barwick Miner's Institute.

PRESENT: Councillors Stella Walsh (Chair) and Phil Maude together with representatives Steve Collett (Barwick Allotments), Philip and Jenny Elliott (Barwick Indoor Bowling Club), Ian Wallbank (Barwick Outdoor Bowling Club), Raymond Budd (Barwick Cricket Club), Richard Jowitt (Scholes Cricket Club), Annie Runcie (Garforth Villa Junior Football Clubs), Damian Butterworth (Scholes 1st Scouts), Phil Bagley (Tennis Club), Linda Turp and Lynda Wright (Barwick Village Hall) and the Clerk.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Beresford and P. Walsh and representatives Jim Ballance (Garforth Villa Blues Girl's Under Sixteen's Football Club) and Donna Sirrell (Scholes Allotments).

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 27 October 2025, having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record and that the Chair sign the minutes subject to the removal of the words "The father of Peter Cave was the new treasurer" from section 5.10 (Barwick Indoor Bowling Club), page 55.

4. UPDATES ON ITEMS DISCUSSED

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

5 CLUB REPORTS

5.1 Scholes Sports Pavilion.

The Chair reported that the Pavilion had suffered from water damage due to a burst pipe in the loft space. This could have been a lot worse had it not been for the caretaker who discovered the leak and took steps to turn off the water supply and mop up. He even took wet football kit home with him and washed and dried it. The affected area still had not fully dried out. The open age football team had not responded to any communications about their plans for the 2026-27 season and the Pavilion was looking for new hirers for the main room. The area at the front of the Pavilion was well used, evidenced by the amount of litter being left. The tennis net was back having been taken down for the winter. There was access to the area outside the Pavilion during the day and with entrance gate being locked at night, the system of access via key fobs having been dispensed with as children without fobs were putting themselves in danger by climbing over the boundary fence.

5.2 Garforth Villa Blues Girl's Under Sixteen's Football Club.

Garforth Villa Blue's Girl's Under Sixteens were mid-table following a good start to the season and hoped to have a strong finish to the season. They had reached the semifinals in the cup competition where they were beaten by a team from a higher division. The girl's being a year older would be competing in an under seventeens/under eighteens combined team the following season in the West Riding Girls Football League (but would still play their home games at Scholes). They thanked the PC for their support and the Clerk in particular who attended some of their matches.

5.3 Garforth Villa Boy's Football Club.

The under fourteens had dropped down into division two of the Selby & District Junior Football League and were fourth in the division. There were a few new teams in this league. There was one home game to play, they were struggling to find a venue to fulfil this fixture as the cricket season had now started. The representatives of both Barwick and Scholes Cricket Clubs present at the meeting indicated a willingness to be flexible about this, especially as this would be just the one fixture (which would be the coming Saturday). An email would be sent to the Barwick Cricket Club representative.

5.4 Barwick in Elmet and Scholes football Club.

This club was not represented and as indicated in item 5.1 above, had not responded to any communications nor returned the 2026-27 agreement.

5.5 Scholes Cricket Club.

The representative of Scholes Cricket Club reported that the pre-season preparation had gone well and there was a party on Saturday. The new season was due to start that coming Saturday. There were ongoing issues with irresponsible dog walkers not picking up dog excrement. A new footpath had been created by dog walkers repeatedly walking across the same area rather than sticking to the public right of way. Scholes 1st Scouts were having similar issues and had produced some signage which they were prepared to share with Scholes Cricket. The next PC newsletter would contain an appeal to dog owners to respect other people's right to enjoy recreational facilities.

5.6 Barwick Cricket Club.

The representative of Barwick Cricket Club reported as follows;

Playing Squads. There were thirty senior players (playing fixtures on Saturdays) and over ninety juniors. A third Junior Development XI would play on Sundays. Several players had been loaned to Scholes 2nd XI to support them. There was also a Women's XI – playing in West Yorkshire Women & Girls League (Wednesdays) which had a squad of sixteen (eight players being needed per match). The season would be starting soon (some friendly fixtures had already been played) and would run until about 15th September.

Winter Projects. Net repairs costing £2,000 had been done thanks to funding from Sport England. A second bowling machine and a second mobile batting cage had been bought. Solar panels costing £13,000 were being bought using funding from the National Lottery Community Fund (previously known as Awards For All). This would save the Club £2,000 a year on energy costs. The Pavilion had been redecorated. The PC had set aside funding in its 2026-27 budget to cover repairs to the Verity Strip. The Cricket Club had registered with the blue tokens scheme operated by Tesco supermarkets (a link to their website would be sent to the Clerk to share with other clubs). This would be going live locally on 29th April.

5.7 Scholes Bowling Club

Scholes Bowling Club were not represented and had not sent a report. Information about their performances could be found on https://bowlsnet.uk/, they played in the Elmete Ladies League, Tadcaster Area Veterans league, Tadcaster Evening league, Barkston Ash League and Crossgates league.

5.8 Barwick Indoor Bowling Club

The representatives of Barwick Indoor Bowling Club reported that they lost three of their most senior members last year and unfortunately, two of them were signatories on the bank account and it had taken considerable time (three months) and effort in order to get this resolved. Income during this period had been healthy. The club is purely for social bowling (i.e. it does not participate in any official leagues or cups). The age profile of its members varies from sixty to ninety (or more). They have two competitions each year and when they met, they had a buffet, and tea or coffee with biscuits. The meetings give opportunities to talk, with conversations about health being one of the major conversation pieces. The Club has been running for about twenty years and had been using the same mats since they started. They would therefore be buying three new mats this year and asked if anyone knew of anyone who would be interested in the old mats, there were three of these which were forty-five feet long and six feet wide. They had fifty-four members.

5.9 Barwick Outdoor Bowling Club

Barwick Outdoor Bowling Club had approached the PC for a grant towards the estimated cost of £2,500 for a new pump for their irrigation system. The PC had agreed to contribute £500 towards this. The Club representative reported that since then, it had been found that the old pump was repairable after all although this would cost £500-£700 (the control panel had not been working). The shed was in a state of disrepair, but the son of one of the members had volunteered to repair this free of charge (they would only charge for the cost of materials). The Club relied heavily on volunteers and (like many other organisations), it tended to be the same people who volunteered every time. Some members were struggling with the steep step and this would be replaced by two shallower steps and a rail. Work had been done on the green itself and bushes such as blackthorn had been dug out. Membership renewals included a small additional voluntary payment which would raise funds to buy bedding plants. The Club were planning on entering the Barwick in Bloom competition. In terms of league performances, the club had won the Second Division title and been promoted and they had finished second (behind Scholes) in the Evening League. They had won 9-1 in a recent match in the Crossgates Evening League. The Club are members of the Crown Green Bowling Association.

5.10 Barwick Allotments

The representative of Barwick Allotments reported that the hedge had been cut at the end of February by a local contractor who had done a good job. There were a couple of gaps in the hedge at the top. The water had been turned on but had had to be turned off again straight away due water spraying out of a valve damaged by frost. This had been repaired and the water was back on again. There were several new faces. There was one vacant plot at the time of the meeting but there was also evidence that some other plots were not being cultivated by those renting them. The Clerk confirmed that he had written to plot holders on occasions regarding uncultivated plots and replies indicated temporary personal circumstances and an indication that the plot holder would resume when their circumstances allowed. Cllr. Maude reported that the PC (having acquired the allotments in Scholes) was carrying out a full review looking at revising the allotment agreements and looking at management (with a suggestion that plot holders set up their own committee/management group) and ways to publicise the allotments. The PC would renew its affiliation to the National Allotment Society. The PC wanted to set up a meeting with plot holders to discuss a way forward which was supported by those renting plots.

5.11 Scholes Allotments

There was no representative of Scholes Allotments but a report had been sent. They had had a good year overall on the allotments. Their oldest standing plot holder retired and they had had a few plots change hands in April and once again in October. They currently had no vacant plots although had a few that could do with better care and attention. Existing plot holders had recently had a shuffle of plots and some downsized whilst others had taken on extra to keep them maintained. The growing season had been good overall last year although the very dry early summer caused some concerns for water as the seasons change, many had to bring water from home and would have benefited from a better supply or storage of water collected over winter. Since the removal of the muck heaps they had secured a regular delivery of manure direct on to the site which it was hoped would help improve soil and therefore reduce overall watering requirements. Their biggest concern going forward was attracting new plot holders, it seemed that even the quarter plots were too much for those starting out and they had been overwhelmed by the work involved. This had led to a high turnaround of new plot holders. In the future they would like to look into the possibility of large beds, perhaps a eighth of a plot, that would be more suitable for those starting out or indeed those ready to retire but still wanting to be part of the allotment. Scholes allotments only had one shed which was use communally.

5.12 Barwick Village Hall

The classes and parties were doing well. The laying of the new floor had been completed, and local Olympic gold medallist Katie had cut the ribbon at the official opening ceremony which was held on 10th January 2026 and those who had made donations were commemorated with their names on a wall of honour and attendees enjoyed a glass of Prosecco. On 21st March, there had been a concert by a Simon and Garfunkel tribute act. There were plans for a Christmas market on Sunday 29th November 2026 and maybe a dinner dance before then. Fees had been increased for the first time in several years (the costs of gas and electricity were going up). The Committee was doing well in terms of membership.

5.13 Scholes 1st Scouts.

The representative of Scholes 1st Scouts reported as follows;

Membership. There were eighteen Beavers, fourteen Cubs and twenty-seven Scouts supported by twenty leaders and active helpers across the Group. They were looking to start a Squirrel section (five-to six-year-olds) and needed leaders, and they were in active discussions with Barwick Scout Group to form a 2nd Scout group and an Explorer group (fourteen-to eighteen-year-olds) across the two groups and pool resources in terms of buildings and leaders teams. There was no Scout group in Barwick. They were exploring the use of the Village Hall on a Thursday night. They had been open to girls for forty years

Finance. Since the last report there had been no other fund-raising events, there was a programme to spend on improvements to the facilities, namely they had invested in sound proofing (£3,500) and Internet connection at some cost, but this had made a huge difference to the usability of the Hall. Their third project for the year was to increase some storage options as they had an old garage which would remain but needed to be re-purposed, they hoped to purchase a forty-foot green container to go in the grounds so that they could store some vital Village wide equipment, namely from Scholes Village Hall and their Gala team. Also, to reorganise some of the equipment.

Buildings & Maintenance. Fire and electrical risk assessments had taken place and the removal of old heating system conducted. The new contract arrangement for the grass cutting was well received by all the members. They had bought signage relating to dog fouling (see item 5.5 above). Thet had got rid of an old heater.

Community Events. The group was organising the revival of the Village Gala in conjunction with the summer barbeque on Sunday the 14th of June. An open invitation to ALL other community groups was being made if they wished to get involved and run a stall or just run and event to promote their club etc. No charge would be made to any group but groups wanting to be involved would be asked for a £10 refundable deposit. The Scouts could offer tables, chairs and tents free of charge, the more the merrier. There would be a bar, food, and a tuck shop. They had marquees in Scholes Village Hall. The group also intended to run the bonfire again in November following the success of the event in 2025.
Management and Support. The group had a twelve strong Trustee group led by Craig Barker and a New Group Lead Volunteer (Damian Butterworth) to lead and support the Leader and programme development.

5.14 Tennis Club.

The new season was due to start. Matches were being played on a Sunday morning. Membership renewals (due on 1st May) had gone out, it was £60 for a family membership and £40 for an individual. The Club had rejoined the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) in November. The Club played in three leagues, the Barkston Ash league, the Leeds Mens's League and an over fifties league. Sunday mornings were mainly social, running from 10:30am to 12:30pm. An LTA accredited coach (Nicola Tweedy) was linked to the Club. Coaching was being offered as follows; Wednesdays 3:45pm-4:30pm for five-to seven-year-olds, Wednesdays 4:30pm-5:30pm for ages eight to eleven and Mondays 8pm to 9pm for adult beginners. This coaching would be available regardless of whether the person attending was a member of the Club or not. New fencing had been fitted last year. There was a long-term aspiration to resurface the courts with either carpet or tarmac. The floodlights were no longer there having been taken down a couple of years previously. The Club were made aware of the PC proposals to extend the children's playground on Jack Heaps Field.

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Those present were encouraged submit any news and information for their organisations for the PC newsletter, the deadline for the May newsletter would be 3rd May 2026 and the next one would be in September.
- Attention was drawn to the need to update the PC website regarding the points of contact for the various organisations.
- Those organisations with long lease agreements were reminded to update the PC regarding officers in charge of their club/group.

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 26 October 2026 at 7:30pm in the Miner's Institute.
The meeting closed at 8:57pm.

Chair
Monday 26 October 2026