

Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting, 4th June 2025 at St Mary's Church Huggate

In attendance

Clive Owen (Chair), Claire Myers, Vicky Knocker, Jane Thorpe, Diana Evans, Penny Hudson (clerk), Cllr Paul West plus 16 Parishioners. Apologies from Kevin Ashurst, Linda Davies and Jenny Zarak.

1. Last year's minutes from 16th September 2024 were approved and signed by Clive Owen.
2. Ruth Braithwaite from St Mary's Church provided a progress report about the church. The amazing transformation of the church, into a community space, is finally completed and available to use. The installation of heating, accessible toilet and kitchen has been completed. The projects in progress including a book about the history of the village, which is now published and available to buy, digital mapping of the churchyard and the stone marking identification will be available to view in the church. Several groups are now using the community space and others are interested. There were several walking events planned including the Muslim Walk and Geocaching.
3. Clive reported the following

Who are we?

Since our last meeting in September 2024, Stewart Middleton and Sophia Hobson have resigned from their roles as Councillors due to leaving the village, we thank them for their service to the Parish Council. I have been Chair since January 2021 and was nominated again so will continue in this role. Fortunately we have two new councillors Linda Davies and Diana Evans.

The councillors are myself, Claire Myers, Jane Thorpe, Kevin Ashurst, Vicky Knocker, Linda Davies and Diana Evans. Penny Hudson is our clerk. We now normally meet on the third Monday of the month in the church and have 10 meetings each year.

What's been done since our last meeting in September 2024:

The car park continues to be well used and has had two sleeper benches installed near the accessible picnic bench. We are working with East Riding of Yorkshire Council to protect and manage this area which has lots of wildflowers including orchids. A volunteer controls the weeds in the parking area. The cutting back of the brambles has been completed and the removal of hogweed is ongoing. We have received voluntary donations of £187 during the year.

Following a Village tree survey and the stormy weather, trees have been cut back to ensure safety.. Due to ash die back the large trees near the pond are being removed. Ultra Trails will be funding one or two replacement trees to be planted in the autumn. Thanks to Sarah Davies for planting some new trees.

Further attempts have been made to reduce **speeding** in the village: We were very disappointed when ERYC refused to give us permission to install solar powered cameras which are being used in other counties. We have worked very hard liaising with the local police and Road Safety Officer. A further suggestion of large signs displaying the speed of approaching cars would need to be moved regularly by ERYC. After investigation these would have been too costly for us to install and fund. So we have a Cardboard speed cop (as you can see) and have requested further road painting. The speedwatch team are doing a brilliant job and need more volunteers.

We continue to work with East Riding Council regarding **maintenance requests and issues** (mainly potholes which we've had varying levels of success with!). A village walkabout took place

over the summer where someone from the Council visits the village with us and we highlight areas that need attention – if anyone has any issues please do let us know.

Other Activities

Jane has been collecting and sorting poems left at the poetry seat outside the village and it is available to look at here in the church. The Artwork project, tiles painted by village children, has been photographed and uploaded on the village website by Vicki, who continues to maintain the site. She also checks the defibrillator is ready to use.

Linda is in the process of updating the village information sheet and will be giving it to all new villagers.

A dog waste bag dispenser has been organised by Claire and installed near the car park.

Once again the **solar lights** that were used on the Green at Christmas are still working well, thank you to the villager who charged the lights for us and to Kevin who put the lights up on the trees – hopefully you'll agree that these looked lovely over the festive period.

There are **2 marquees and table and chairs** available for villagers to borrow – if anyone would like to use these please do get in touch.

Thank you to Helen Bowman for the hire of her meeting room that we used each month before moving to the church. The minutes from all our meetings are always published on the noticeboard in the bus shelter and minutes are also on the village website where you can see what has been discussed and agreed at the monthly Parish Council Meetings.

Communication

The 2 village WhatsApp groups are continuing to prove useful and popular with about 100 people on each group, if anyone still isn't on the groups who wants to be please get in touch with Penny who will add you. We've started including a link to planning applications onto the WhatsApp information group just to make you aware of any applications that are received.

Thank you to Jenny Zarek and Teresa Purdy who produce the monthly Huggate News which we input to each month. This is delivered or emailed to every household and is also published on the village website.

Hopefully communication within the village is still working well but if anyone has any other ideas please do let us know.

Finance reported by the clerk

Financial Year ending March 2025

Opening Balance **£ 903**

Receipts in year £ 7501 which included

- precept of £600
- donations £417 (2 events and car park)
- £203 VAT that we claimed back
- £ 881 refund of business rates (incorrectly charged)

Payments in year £5513 Closing balance **£2891**

Costs incurred include a matting for under the swing, ROPSA annual inspection ,filling salt bins and mowing the grass for which we pay East Riding Council, Tree inspection and follow up work, car park maintenance, the clerk's salary and tax, insurance, auditors fees, the village website domain, costs of printing the Huggate news. The accounts have been audited and will be published on the website and displayed on the notice board during July.

5. There is still one vacancy for a Councillor so if you would like to be part of the Parish Council please have a chat with one of us.

6. There was an open discussion regarding Huggate Quarry. Clive explained the planning issues which are being considered by ERYC and the renewal of the planning permission which is due on June 2025 but has not yet been received.

All the comments made will be considered by the councillors.

Thanks were given to all attendees and to Ruth and the refreshment providers. Wild Flower seeds donated by UltraTrails were available to take away.

To be agreed and signed at the 2026 Village Meeting

_____ Chairperson

_____ Date