

WADWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16TH APRIL 2026,
AT WADWORTH VILLAGE HALL**

In attendance: Chair plus 3 councillors, 1 parishioners

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Nil

2 CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 2025/26

The Chair presented his report for 2025/26, his first since returning as Chair. A copy of the report is attached.

3 ISSUES RAISED BY RESIDENTS OF THE PARISH. The Chair of the Village Hall Committee (VHC) provided and report and update on VHC activities. He thanked all committee members for their efforts and particular thanks to Pat and Colin Walker for their years of service to the VHC.

Approved as a true record

Chair:

Dated:

WADWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Chair's Report – 16th April 2026

Chair since November, having taken over from Denise Malyan who has now left the village.

All parish councillors had to seek re-election in May 2025 and unfortunately only four people put their name forward, which means we had three vacancies. We have had difficulties filling these vacancies. Kris Brown was co-opted in June, but because of work commitments, was unable to continue. Helen Smyth was co-opted in July, followed by Claire Blow and Natasha Mead in November. When Denise left, this created a further vacancy, which has now been filled by Penny Jones. I am pleased to say that we now have a full complement and what a difference the new councillors have already made.

The Parish Council has a Facebook page, which I think was largely unnoticed, until Natasha Mead took over the social media role. She has generated a number of posts relating to parish council activities and this has resulted in a significant increase in community interest. One example was the community litter pick, which attracted a high number of volunteers. The Parish Council appreciate that not all residents are able or willing to access social media and we are considering either re-introducing the village newspaper or regularly including news in Tickhill Today.

Another initiative organised by the Parish Council is the Community Speed Watch programme which, because of key people leaving the village, it has lost its way. However, Helen Smyth has agreed to lead the re-introduction of this programme and through our Facebook page, she is starting to recruit volunteers to undertake training. If there are any others who may be interested in joining, then please contact Helen.

This year, the Parish Council has paid a great deal of attention to the repairs required to the Village Hall, following a Structural Engineer's report. We have liaised with the Village Hall Committee to identify and prioritise the work and to date, a number of the problems have been identified and solved. We are beginning to build up a strong relationship with the Village Hall Committee, especially with its new Chairman, Nigel Murray. Under the existing lease agreement, the Council is responsible for the structure of the building and the Committee is responsible for the fittings. It is important that the building is properly maintained. Claire Blow has agreed to become the council's representative on the Committee and we look forward to working closely with them in the future.

Amongst the other responsibilities of the Parish Council is the allotments in Daw Lane and the Sports Pavilion and Playing Field. I am pleased to say that the allotment plots are fully subscribed and there is a waiting list. Wadworth Cricket Club continue to play on the field and to their credit, take great care in looking after the Sports Pavilion. This year, we also have a football team playing on a Sunday morning. A special thanks to Pete Oliver for his work in maintaining the cricket square.

As a parish council, we are advised of all planning applications affecting our village. We can make observations on planning grounds, but they are not necessarily taken account of when a decision is made. We also are in regular contact with the City of Doncaster Council and other agencies particularly when there are problems identified by either councillors or by members of the public

over which we have no control. I would like to thank City councillors Martin Greenhalgh and Jackie Dudley, who regularly attend council meetings who sort out problems on our behalf.

During the year, parish councillors helped with the organisation of the VE Day 80th Anniversary celebrations, which was very well attended. Also, we finally obtained title of the Village Hall car park after years of correspondence with the Land Registry. The Christmas tree was again well received by local residents. The raised beds area at the end of High Street are very well maintained, with particular thanks to our bio-diversity lead, Tony Choppin and his team who have been working in all weathers. The Council prepare an annual budget, which is reviewed regularly and from this we set a precept which is collected by Doncaster Council through your council tax. For the coming year we set a precept of £22000, the same as last year. This is equivalent £55.70 per year for a band D property. (Just over £1 per week).

Looking to the future, the Parish Council is attempting to acquire some land, previously part of the village green, to enable additional burial plots to be established. We are currently talking to the Church and Doncaster Council on this matter. A Village Gala is in the planning stage and the date of 19 July 2026 has been agreed. A Gala Committee is currently working out the details. We are also in discussion with the Church regarding the addition of two more names on the War Memorial for soldiers who were killed in action since the second world war. At the Council meeting on the 11 June, Sally Jameson, our local member of parliament has agreed to attend and introduce herself. All members of the public can attend if they so wish.

Following the success of the council Facebook page, we are anxious to extend our involvement with local residents and will welcome any ideas which improve the lives of people in our village.

Finally a big thank you to our clerk, Al Evans and all the councillors for their efforts during the year. I feel that we can look forward with a lot of confidence and enthusiasm.

Thank you.