

DRAFT

Minutes Of The Annual Meeting Of The Parish held on
Monday 25th May 2026 at 7:30pm in the Earswick Village Hall

There were 2 members of the public present.

1. Apologies received from Cllrs Offler and Leveson.
2. It was agreed that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish held on 26th May 2025 be adopted as a true & accurate record and were duly signed.
3. Cllr Jones gave a report on Community Affairs – see appendix 1
4. Cllr Jones gave the Neighbourhood Watch Report on behalf of Linda & Tony Murphy – see appendix 2

The meeting closed at 07:40pm

Appendix 1

Community Report 2025-2026

Whilst this is not a designated parish council meeting I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the members of the Parish Council and the Clerk for their commitment and dedication to the task of overseeing the various official requirements and issues that have arisen in the village over the past year.

My thanks also go to Jim McTurk, for continuing to act as the Parish Council's Internal Auditor.

The Parish Council is currently up to its full complement of 7 councillors.

The Parish Council continues to review its expenditure and wherever possible reduce costs through the use of good financial management and prudent budgeting and as a result the Parish Council has this year been able to limit the increase in the parish precept to 2%. The majority of the precept money is spent on maintaining the 30 acres of public open space as well as the general upkeep and repair of parish council assets such as the village hall, scented garden and the tennis courts.

For instance the car park at the end of Lock House Lane has recently been completely resurfaced with tarmac and a new bench has been placed on the footpath between the Lockhouse Lane car park and the Haxby bridge, replacing the old wooden bench.

The public open space continues to be well used by residents and visitors alike.. Thanks must go to those residents who help keep the area tidy by picking up rubbish on their daily walks. With the help of volunteers from St Nicks the area around the pond has been cut back and given a general tidy up.

Bookings for the village hall continue to grow with a wide range of classes/activities taking place on most days. Residents are able to participate in all of the classes though in most, if not all, a fee would be payable.

Wi-fi is available in the hall.

Current activities include:

Monday evenings- Pilates class

Tuesday mornings (alternate weeks)- Sewing/upholstery club

Tuesday evenings- Flower Arranging (monthly)

Wednesday mornings- Pilates class

Wednesday evenings- Puppy/Dog Training

Thursday evenings- Puppy/Dog Training

Friday mornings: Art Class (monthly)

Saturday mornings- Drama Kids; drama classes for 3 ranges of year groups

Recently approval was given to replace the existing wooden front doors with new composite doors and to re-render the frontage of the hall. New air hand dryers will also be installed in all the rest rooms.

The Scented Garden in Earswick is a wonderful asset to our community where residents can enjoy a little peace, relax and picnic. It is a haven for local wildlife too where birds nest and many other creatures thrive. You may be lucky enough to spot a hummingbird hawkmoth or take a poke around in the compost bins to see what mini beasts lurk there!

A small group of volunteers meet for a couple of hours on the first Sunday of the month to help maintain the plants and flowers. The Parish Council does a great job in arranging for all the heavier work such as the grass mowing and hedge cutting to be done by contractors. The Parish Council also pays for the upkeep of the garden furniture and provide for the purchase of new plants every year.

There have been a couple of incidents this year where some of the tools were stolen and some damage to the plants, but thankfully these incidents have been few and far between and you can always rely on the plants to recover. We don't let things like this spoil this wonderful place and hope everyone enjoys what the garden has to offer in their own special way.

The tennis courts have recently had their annual spring clean and continue to be used by a keen core of residents. All residents in Earswick can use the courts for a very small annual fee of £35. This allows EVERY member of the household entry to the tennis courts and each member can be accompanied by guest players within the same fee. Details can found on the parish website earswick.org.

The Earswick Coffee mornings that are held on the first Monday of the month in the Village Hall from 10.30-12.00 continue to be well supported throughout the year. Around 25-30 residents attend regularly and once a year a post Christmas lunch is held instead of the normal coffee morning. Thanks go to Pat Leveson and Gill Offler for continuing to organise the coffee mornings, Di Ridley, Geraldine Covell for helping out in the kitchen and to Vanessa Gill and Dave Scobie for their delicious cakes. The next coffee morning will take place on Monday 1 June.

I would urge everyone, where they are able, to play an active part in village life from helping at the coffee mornings and in the Scented Garden to supporting events in the village hall or by just simply helping to keep the village looking clean and tidy.

There is two issues that residents have brought to the attention of the Parish Council this past year: Fly Tipping and Dogs Out Of Control.

Unauthorised fly tipping is illegal and a criminal offence. Unfortunately a small number of residents feel that the parish council owned land is ideal for tipping their garden waste and building materials. In one instance a resident was reported to City of York Council for dumping waste on the open space resulting in a fine of £900! So please don't fly tip on council land but take any surplus waste to the Towthorpe tip which is only a few miles away.

It is worthwhile reminding residents that the open space within Earswick is not designated public open space, as it is privately owned by the Parish Council and is simply "open access by permission". The Parish Council can impose reasonable conditions on the use of the land.

The Parish Council welcomes responsible dog walking on its land while ensuring council land remains safe, clean and enjoyable for ALL users.

In general dogs must remain under proper control at all times, dog fouling must be cleared immediately and dogs must not cause nuisance, alarm or damage. There is also a maximum number of 3 dogs that can be walked per walker.

Commercial or group dog walking requires written permission from the Parish Council.

Unfortunately the Parish Council is receiving an increasing number of complaints regarding dog owners who are not observing these rules and in one recent incident a resident was attacked by a bully type dog whilst walking within the village.

Dog owners are reminded to keep their dogs on leads whilst on the public footpaths and in the car parks.

In light of these complaints the parish Council will shortly be consulting residents regarding proposed dog control measures on Parish Council owned land.

Possible measures could include:

Dogs on leads in specified areas, dog exclusion zones, extended controls and enforcement on commercial dog walking, additional signage and a request from City of York Council and North Yorkshire Police for Public Space Protection Order enforcement powers.

The Parish Council will, following this consultation, resolve to adopt a Dog Control Policy and associated procedures for all Parish Council owned land.

Appendix 2

Earswick Neighbourhood Watch Report

Staying Safe and Sound

Earswick continues to be a safe place to live and enjoys a low level of crime, this is helped by the diligent work of individuals in the village who continue to be vigilant, active and getting in touch with us.

There have been some instances of low level Anti-Social Behaviour around the village, doors being kicked, a Pilates session in the village hall disrupted by youths banging on the door & shouting, E bikes being ridden inconsiderately and churning up grass. All these incidents were soon resolved with the support of NY Police.

A broken services cover, which was a clear trip hazard to pedestrians using Strensall Road footpath was reported to City of York Council, and it has now been replaced.

Thanks, must also go to everyone who reported these incidents promptly to the Police – your calls help us get a timely response and resolution for each incident.

Staying Ahead of Scams and Fraud

We continue to circulate out “Scam” awareness messages as the range of Cybercrime fraud activities increases, be it computer based, phone messages or calls, the crime are constantly evolving, becoming more sophisticated and battling them is a major problem. Dedicated Police teams now cover this area, and we have circulated their contact details.

Remember, if something feels strange, it probably is! Always be cautious about unsolicited calls, emails, or messages asking for personal information or money. If in doubt, terminate the call or close the web site. Always take your time; fraudsters often work using the surprise or by trying to bring a sense of urgency into conversations.

Recent Local Incident of Concern.

A serious dog attack took place as two residents were walking towards Lockhouse Lane, a lady was bitten on her arm and pulled to the ground by a large dog, fortunately the lady involved was wearing a padded jacket, which saved her from having a potentially serious wound to her arm. This was a vicious and frightening attack for the people involved and when we were informed, we passed details on to NY Police.

We would like to state that whilst incidents like this are rare, they must be reported immediately to the Police. An incident where someone is bitten and pulled to the ground is assault and if allowed to happen again, the consequences could be far worse especially if a child was involved.

Please report such dog related incidents immediately to the Police or for any concerns about dog related behaviour you can email neo@york.gov.uk or call 01904 551555.

We're always here to offer advice, support, and help whenever we can. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have concerns or need assistance. Let's continue to work together to maintain our safe and friendly community in Earswick.

Tony & Linda Murphy

Earswick Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators