

Parish Council of East & West Barkwith with Panton

Annual Parish Meeting 2026

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00pm. on May 21st, 2026 in the Village Hall.

Present:- The Chairman, the clerk and assistant clerk and seven councillors were in attendance. The District Councillor, Mrs. R. Yarsley, was also present, as was one member of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** - These were received and accepted from Cllr. D. Platts who would not be back from a working commitment until later this evening.
2. **Minutes** - The minutes of the 2025 Annual Parish Meeting were read by the clerk.
3. **Approval** - They were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman.
4. **Matters arising** - There were no matters to be discussed at this point.
5. **Chairman's Report** - Cllr. A.Platt, chairman of the Parish Council, gave this report, on the course of the past year:-

There were no major events this year although the War Memorial was 'dressed' on 8th May, to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day and again on 15th August for the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day. In each case there was someone in attendance to answer questions about the event and the individuals named on the memorial.

A number of passers-by stopped to view the display, with many appreciative comments.

Remembrance Sunday was again well-attended by approximately 150 residents and visitors at the Service and in the village hall afterwards to view the display on The Fallen.. Included in these were contingents from local Scout and Guide organisations. The customary collection raised £40 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal funds.

With thanks to the active support of the District and County Councillors, efforts to reduce the potholes in the village and improve road drainage and the state of the footpaths have shown some results with, hopefully, more to come.

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Village Hall improvements have been on hold, pending a final solution to the issues around the management arrangements. Difficulties with solicitors and the conflicting and confusing advice from the Charity Commission have caused delays. However, it is hoped to cut through the red tape in the near future and resolve that situation so that the development plans can start to be implemented.

The other sub-committees have been continuing their sterling work in maintaining the Play Area and its equipment, and in keeping the village tidy and attractive to both human residents and visitors, and to the varied wildlife in the area.

We have said farewell to Councillor Tricia Brady who has resigned on health grounds. Her service over many years has been much appreciated. Following the usual procedures we have welcomed Mrs Jane Phillips to the seat.

The Clerk, Mrs. Barbara Theairs, will be retiring at the end of June, to be succeeded by Miss Sophy Warren. She has been assisting since January in order to familiarise herself with the work. The chairman expressed his personal thanks, and that of the council, to Mrs. Theairs for her twenty-two years of service.

All of the work in the parish depends on the leadership of councillors and the active support of numerous volunteers from the community.

In Particular thanks are due to:-

Councillor Chris Wilson, for his leadership and work on outdoor projects and events.

Mr. Eric Brady and Mr. Mike Yates, for the grass-cutting with the big mower and Mr. Kelly Chamberlin for maintaining it.

Mr. Tom Bollan, for technical help with web-site management, speed camera reports, and for hoisting and changing the flags.

and

All those who regularly go litter-picking or pitch in to assist with tasks which help to keep the village and its amenities tidy and in good order.

Sincere thanks to all of them for their hard work - more such volunteers will always be welcomed!

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6. **General Discussion** - There were comments on the on-going problems of the potholes and the state of the footpath on the A157. Occasions had been noted when highways workers marked potholes for attention but no further action was taken. Work on the A157 footpath had been promised at least twice. Some initial clearance of weeds had been undertaken but it had then been left and the growth had returned.

The District Councillor responded with the recommendation to report every fault on 'Fix My Street', as being the most reliable way of delivering the message, and to keep repeating it until action is taken or a satisfactory reply is received. This includes making further reports when repairs are made and subsequently fail a short time afterwards.

As far as the A157 footpath is concerned, there is very little chance of any further treatment. It is considered to be a rural path in an area of low density population and the limited time, effort and finance available has to be directed to the busier areas.

Mention was also made of the blocked roadside drains, particularly those on Torrington Lane. It was noted that this matter is receiving attention and that there would be a report during the council meeting which follows this one.

With no further comments, the meeting closed at 7.30 pm.

Signed by the Chairman