

Beckingham Parish Council
Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
Wednesday 14th May 2025

Present: Cllrs Lawrence Tatton (as Chair), Robert Tatton, Scott Toomer, Philip Wells, Andrew Brewer
Borough Cllr Lucille Hagues
Members of the public – none
Terry Brown - Clerk

1 Apologies for absence.

None

2 To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 15th May 2024

These were accepted by the meeting and signed by the Chair

3 Chairman's report:

Lawrence Tatton reported:

The year has followed the same format as previous years with the Parish Council holding 7 formal meetings and I have to make no apology for repeating the following, almost verbatim from last year's report as it is even more valid than previously:

My personal thanks to the Vice Chair, Andy Brewer as well as Councillors Angela Smith, Philip Wells, Robert Tatton and Scott Toomer. Not to be forgotten, ours is a team, and I mean that sincerely, we are a team that always pulls together in the right direction to ensure that we deliver what we consider to be best for the Parish in a manner that meets all the needs and follows all the correct procedures that a Parish Council must follow. This is where our team "Manager", Terry Brown, the Parish Clerk makes his important contributions. Not only is he responsible for the minutes, the book keeping, the preparation and printing of the Bugle, the web site as well as a lot of behind the scenes work, but also for ensuring that the aforementioned procedures are followed to the letter, our collective thanks go to him, we would not be as successful as we are without him. Also included in our thank you section is our District Councillor Lucille Hagues and our County Councillor Marianne Overton both of whom have always there supporting us. It is through their help that we are able, that we as humble Parish Councillors are sometimes able to make our voice heard in the higher echelons of the relevant authorities.

So a brief summary of events of relevance throughout the year:

Following a period of service that lasted a successful 5 years Angela Smith stepped down from being a Parish Councillor. All councillors have individual skills, experience and solutions and help make our Council the success that we feel that it is. Our grateful thanks go to Angela. She in turn has been succeeded by Robert Tatton who has stepped forward to fill the subsequent vacancy.

The control of grassed areas in the village resumed at the beginning of April. Additional duties have been included with regard to the control of Ragwort that grows in the Playing Field, its growth is monitored, and as necessary removed and disposed of in accordance with the relevant Act, the Ragwort Control Act 2003. All of this work is recorded to maintain a record of monitoring and removal in order to avoid any unnecessary misunderstandings from anyone that could be impacted by a lack of perceived control measures. For the next year a different approach has been adopted. Instead of the physical removal of individual plants which can and does leave portions of root to regrow, controlled spraying is being implemented.

As an ongoing long term program another drone flight was agreed to monitor and display the growth of the woodland area in the playing field.

A proposal from a Parishioner for another public bench to be provided adjacent on the grass verge adjacent to the entrance to the graveyard was made. This was approved and has been installed.

It was reported to the council that the public footpath around the horses' paddock at the end of Rectory Street was in need of urgent action to improve the poor state of the path at this point. The Chair whist sympathetic to the case, could not commit to the Parish Council to take action both because of the precedent it might set and that such an action was outside its powers. However the problem was raised with LCC Footpath Officer for attention and subsequent rectification.

Another suggestion from a Parishioner was for a supply of sandbags be made available in case of a water based emergency. This followed a period of intense rain that raised the level of the water table inside old properties. A pallet of bags has been located in the Churchyard immediately inside the gate adjacent to the new bench available for anyone to take and use in case of a repeat event.

An out of control vehicle made it's way down Hillside and impacted the riverside fencing and other infrastructure. The Police were involved. This event created an issue as the ownership of the fencing could not be determined, in fact it appeared officially not to exist. It was assumed that it was installed when the Environment Agency installed the Gauging Station. Due to the good working relations that we have with NKDC and LCC councillors and staff at both of the organisations the Parish Council was able to avoid any expenditure in repairing the damage to the fencing and to the lighting equipment.

Village Hall repairs have been carried out, the usual minor day to day maintenance along with a redecoration to the interior walls. A section of the suspended ceiling in the main hall however was a different matter. Sections of wall plastering above the ceiling had become life expired and due to the less than perfect humidity level above the ceiling, collapsed. The areas were repaired and a subsequent Specialist from NKDC has been to the Hall to inspect and advise us on future works that may be required. Also requiring attention was the original porch roof. A temporary repair has ceased to allow water ingress and the roof will be refelted during a period of warmer and drier weather.

Kerbside weeding. A detailed and well written proposal was put forward to carry out our own weed control in the Village instead of relying on LCC's version of a suitable level of control. A scheme was drawn up and a site visit was promised by LCC to ensure that we were able to fulfil all of their requirements alongside our own. However the authorities eventually after a lot of chasing, decided that it was not pertinent for a Parish Council to carry out such works. And so the kerbside floral display continues.

The Council was made aware, in confidence of the use of Beckingham Camp to be part of the ARAP, the Afghan Relocations And Assistance Policy, well before the news became public. A public meeting was held in the Village Hall for the organisers to inform the Parish of what would be occurring and the duration of such events. Such was the significance of the meeting that BBC Look North reported on the event with cameras present. Detailed regular contact was promised from the organisers, this and any thanks for the large amount of donations for the Afghan families from Villagers, have both been sadly lacking.

An issue arose concerning a problem tree at the corner of Hillside and Chapel Street. Dead branches were causing a danger and the ownership of the tree and the land upon which it grew were unable to be verified. The Land Registry stated that the land may well be owned by someone, but that it was not at present recorded on their data base. The tree was however "pruned" sufficiently to avoid any further risks by persons unknown to the Parish Council.

District and County Councillor Time: Cllr Overton gave a detailed report on the recent successful "Lost Villages" event and in particular the steps that had been taken to control any complaints on excessive noise. Significant funds had been raised by the event which are now in the process of being distributed to local organisations and Councils. Parish Councillors proposed two needs of the Parish that could benefit from such grants. Cllr Overton gave details of the imminent arrival of some displaced Afghan families of ex British Forces staff to be housed temporarily at Beckingham Camp by the MOD.

To discuss the appointment of a cleaner for Village Hall (Cllr Brewer). The meeting agreed that Cllr Brewer should make enquiries to employ a self-employed cleaner on variously 3 hours a week for cleaning duties at the Village Hall. Cllr Brewer In addition: to purchase a Village sign. The meeting noted the successful raising of funds from the recent Fete to put towards such purchase.

Correspondence: Emails: 17/10/2024 NKDC re Bin charges The Clerk was asked to contact NKDC to confirm how the charges might affect the Parish Council.

Following the receipt of an application for grant for All Saints grass cutting in 2025/26 Councillors agreed a grant of £525 to be carried into the 2025/26 budget.

Cllr L Tatton reported the imminent change at the Village Hall for a smart meter for electricity metering and also an impending Licensing Inspection.

The Village Green, that area of land at the junction of School Lane and Sleaford Road that is owned by NKDC, welcomed the visit of a very energetic mole or rather a wholes family of moles. The resulting mole hills were spread all over the grass when NK's grass cutters "maintained" the grassed area. The result was a call to our District Councillor that resulted in an investigation and a subsequent extremely green action that has encouraged the Mole family to seek residence elsewhere by natural means without any detriment to the wellbeing of the said moles.

Planning:

24/1045/HOUS Proposal: Erection of first floor rear extension, Location: Beckingham House, Sleaford Road, Beckingham

24/1217/LDEXI Proposal: Application for a lawful development certificate for an existing use - Use of annexe as a separate residential dwelling unit Location: The Old Barn Chapel Street Beckingham

24/1084/LBC Proposal: Replacement of ground floor front window with like for like window and frame Location: 4 Chapel Street Beckingham

25/0211/PNAGR Lodge Farm Sleaford Road Beckingham

Town and Country Planning General Permitted Development Order 1995, Schedule 2, parts 6 and 7 - Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development.

Proposal: Addition of an internal access road to improve accessibility around the farm which is operated as a free range egg unit and also to improve biosecurity.

25/0270/TCA Hillside Cottage, Hillside, Beckingham

Notification of Intended Works to Trees in a Conservation Area

T1 - Ornamental Plum - Fell due to excessive shading.

T3, T5, T6, T7, T8, T13, T14 - Hazel Trees - Fell as they have been planted too close to each other and too close to the boundaries.

T16 - Victorian Plum Tree - Fell as has been overshadowed by neighbouring trees, causing retardation and irregular growth.

T2 - Hawthorn & Hazel intertwined - Remove approx. 2-4 ft to reduce height and spread overall.

T12 - Red Hawthorn - Remove approx. 2-4 ft to reduce height and spread over.

Tree works application 24/1029/TPO The Rectory , Rectory Street, Beckingham T1

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That concludes the Annual Parish Report for the period 2024/2025, describing some of the most relevant events that have occurred in the period.

4 Reports from Community Groups

No reports

5 Open Forum

No statements

The meeting closed at 7.45pm
