

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 21st May 2026 at 6.30pm in Flaxton Village Hall

Chair Present: Ian Craven (IC)

In Attendance: Anna Jackson (AJ) – Parish Clerk

Public Present: 8

1. IC welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained its purpose.
2. IC gave a brief overview, and the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15th May 2025 were approved.
3. IC gave his report (see full report on the website).
4. Community and group reports

Environment group update (see website)

Nigel provided an update on the village Environment Group, which was established in 2023 as part of the Flaxton Village Plan.

Key activities and initiatives included:

- A 2024 village questionnaire to gather community views and priorities.
- Development of a fungi identification WhatsApp group to support local learning and engagement.
- Participation in the Big Garden Birdwatch over the past three years, with records collected and analysed.
- Two pond surveys (2024 and 2026), covering 17 ponds in total, including comparisons with a 1990 baseline survey. Findings included the presence of newts and other ecological observations; a full report is available on the FPC website.
- Other activities have included:
 - Pond dipping events organised for children.
 - Occasional educational talks and events.
 - Early morning bird walks.
 - A young persons' nature quiz.
 - A June tree tour of the village common.
 - Ongoing collaboration with Green Gait.
 - Planned fungi talk scheduled for October.

All events are promoted via WhatsApp, online channels, and village notice boards. The group welcomed new ideas and feedback from residents.

Village hall trustees update

Chris provided an update on the village hall redevelopment project:

- Progress has been made with early planning discussions.
- North Yorkshire Council planners have reviewed the proposal and are broadly supportive in principle.
- However, statutory consultation highlighted limited support from external bodies unless certain aspects are amended.

Two key issues were identified:

Chair's Signature

Date

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1. Ash Tree on Site

- The tree is designated as a valuable protected specimen.
- The Tree Officer has advised it must be retained.
- This requires amendments to the design, including a potential reduction in building size.
- Reports have been produced by arborists.

2. Drainage Concerns

- Existing drainage infrastructure is not fully documented.
- Further investigation is required.
- A specialist drainage survey and full report will be commissioned.

A project website will be launched shortly, highlighting donations totalling approximately £40,000 to date. The current build cost fund stands at approximately £160,000, with a fundraising target of £400,000 required before construction can proceed.

Flaxton social group (see website)

Flaxton Social provided an update:

- The group originated from the village plan.
- It continues to seek ideas from residents to support community activities.
- The group has contributed approximately £1,750 towards village hall fundraising.
- A proposed fundraising event was discussed, including:
 - Plant sale
 - Coffee and cake
 - Raffle
 - Gardening tools sale
- The group remains open to further suggestions and volunteers.

5. Discussions

The following matters were discussed informally:

A member of the public raised a query regarding volunteers for grass maintenance.

It was confirmed that:

- Visibility splay cutting at road junctions will be undertaken by Parish Council members.
- Work will be carried out using hand tools and equipment.
- Volunteers are welcome to do additional grass cutting beyond areas covered by the North Yorkshire Council verge cutting map.

Other matters:

- Neighbourhood planning activity is currently paused/stalled.
- Positive comments were made regarding the reopening of the village pub.
- Concerns and discussion regarding utility works along Oak Busk Lane.
- Recycling arrangements at Malton and Norton Recycling Centre:
 - Residents are required to register for a permit system.
 - Households are limited to approximately 12 visits per year for larger vehicles or trailers.

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- It was suggested that FPC publish a news update to help residents understand the registration process and encourage recycling and landfill reduction.
- The meeting closed at 7:39 pm

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