

PARISH OF CLIFFE

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2025

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 12th May 2025 commencing at 7.00pm at Cliffe Village Institute

Present

Councillor G Wilson (Chairman)
Councillor H Cross
Councillor S Gummerson
Councillor J Jewitt
Councillor A Marshall
Councillor J Wallinger
Councillor R Woodall
Councillor E Yates

North Yorkshire Councillor K Arthur

1) Apologies

Councillor A Holman

2) Welcome to members of the Public and Public Session

No members of the public were present

3) Residents feedback regarding future use of the Parish Paddock

It was noted that a fence has been erected by the neighbouring property and it was agreed to check that the fence has been installed to the correct boundary; Councillor J Jewitt to take photographs and compare to the Parish Council documentation.

4) Chairman's Report

The Chairman read out a comprehensive report detailing the Parish Councils activities over the last year (report attached).

5) Confirmation of Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 13th May 2024

Members **resolved** to accept the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 13th May 2024 as an accurate record of the meeting.

6) South Duffield Charity Report:-

Councillor H Cross read out the following report:-

There has been no charitable activity in the year.

The Charity has a Treasurer's account with Lloyds Bank. Cash held by the previous trustees, and the balance of the old HSBC account, have been paid into the account in addition to land rental receipts.

There is a requirement to fully understand the operational aspects of the Charity so that distributions can be made in accordance with any governing document.

7) Mary Waud Charity Report (Cliffe School Charity):-

Councillor H Cross read out the following report: -

Discretionary Grants

Grants of £200 were awarded to four applicants who had been successful in being accepted to a Higher Education course at a University or equivalent.

Payments to Cliffe VC School

A payment of £1168 was made towards the cost of whole school music lessons.

Conversion of Cliffe VC School to academy status

The Academy Order, relating to section 4 of the Academies Act 2010 was made on the 19th March 2024, and the conversion took place on 1st August 2024. On the conversion date North Yorkshire County Council ceased to maintain Cliffe Voluntary Controlled Primary School.

All costs directly relating to conversion were paid out of the academy conversion grant.

Following the successful conversion of the school to academy status, Mr K Arthur and Mr H Cross now represent the Foundation as co-opted governors on the Local Governing Body of Cliffe VC School.

The land at Cliffe, including the land transferred from NYCC, is now registered in the names of the current individual trustees of Mary Waud's Foundation.

Land at Knedlington Lane

A review of the rent receivable for the land in accordance with the tenancy agreement was undertaken. Our tenant has agreed to a rental payment of £150 per acre until the next review.

The correction to the title register has yet to be made.

Cliffe Pre School

The Foundation have been contacted by Cliffe Preschool with concerns about the on-going suitability of the current site due to flooding and contamination with raw sewage after periods of heavy rain, and which is deemed to be no longer fit for purpose.

It was confirmed to Cliffe Preschool that the land upon which the academy is situated is owned by the Foundation, and a relocation to the school might be a possible solution whilst noting that the agreement for the use of the land was a legally binding arrangement between the Secretary of State for Education and Mary Waud's Foundation. The agreement effectively provides a site for an academy and which leads onto the provision of a funding package thereby making SET a party to the agreement. SET were thus more than entitled to have a view on any relocation of the preschool, and after obtaining an agreement in principle from SET it would be necessary to get agreement to include the preschool on the site from the Secretary of State.

Trustees

All trustees were re-appointed to their existing roles.

The Foundation are hopeful that a Trustee will shortly be appointed who has current experience of the education system.

Secretarial Support

A secretarial appointment has been made and will commence at the June meeting.

8) Cliffe Charity Trust Report:-

Councillor H Cross read out the following report:-

Distribution

The list of beneficiaries of the Cliffe Relief in Need charity was reviewed and agreed at 33 recipients.

It was agreed that £25 per person be distributed to the 33 persons on the current list of recipients.

It was agreed that £150 be donated to the Cliffe Village Institute and the Cliffe Playing Fields.

A discussion took place regarding the rental income received, and it was agreed that both tenants would be approached with a view to securing an increase in rent.

9) Any Other Business - No issues raised.

Cliffe Parish Council: Chairman's Report 2025

Good evening and welcome everyone, including Parish and North Yorkshire Councillors, and especially any members of the public present.

This Chairman's report covers the last year since the Annual meeting in May 2024.

The Parish Council undertakes a number of services within the Parish and I would like to look back at what has been achieved over the last year through the efforts of all our councillors and members of the public, as well as looking forward to the future with planned projects and objectives.

I have compiled the list of brief highlights below to give an overview of the projects, challenges and achievements the Parish Council has made over the last year:

- Continued utilisation of the village speed sign (with survey facility), including four installation locations (A63 eastbound, A63 westbound, York Road northbound & York Road southbound). This has been used to good effect, highlighting areas of concern for speeding vehicles, and providing data to the authorities for consideration in future speed monitoring efforts. The speed sign has been on York Road for the majority of the year, and will be moved to one of the other locations soon.
- Village website, which continues to be an essential source of informative information.
- Maintenance of the parish street lighting network, including upgrading to the new LED type whenever an old type fails.
- Grass Maintenance, ensuring the grassed areas within the Parish are maintained in a healthy condition, are free from litter and competition from weed growth.
- Monitoring of public footpaths throughout the parish, ensuring landowners are reminded of their responsibilities to keep them clear.
- Liaison with Highways on issues such as road surfaces, signage and pathways.
- We have provided funding to a number of organisations within the Parish in recent years, including:
 - o Cliffe VC Primary School
 - o Cliffe Pre-School
 - o Cliffe Playing Fields Association
 - o Cliffe Village Institute
 - o Cliffe Community Fundraising Group
- Monitoring of issues regarding water drainage in the village, collating comments from residents and approaching authorities/utility providers with the aim of resolving issues.
- Monitoring of HGV traffic along York Road, contacting local businesses and haulage contractors, reminding them of the 7.5t weight limit through the village and offering alternative routes to be taken.
- Maintenance of the footpath through Broad Lane Wood.
- Maintenance of the village green, including walkways, seating, notice boards, little library, fencing, gates, plants and ornamental structures etc.
- Spraying to prevent future overgrowth of pathways alongside roads.
- Removal of ineffective speed bumps along a short stretch of York Road at the request of adjacent residents and replaced them with 'ghost' type.
- Ongoing work to improve the surface of Oxen Lane, with drainage channels being dug and materials bought to fill in pot holes etc.
- Begun a working relationship with Askham Bryan College, who have agreed to get involved in the project at the parish paddock to hopefully turn it into a nature reserve for the village.

As evidenced from this list of highlights, a significant amount has been achieved over the last 12 months. There are also a number of additional activities which are 'ongoing', and which are mentioned later in this report.

The Police Community officer reports rarely mention Cliffe due to there being no crimes reported. Whilst not claiming credit for this, it is important to note that the Parish Council plays a big part in helping to tackle local crime by facilitating information sharing, making sure the police reports are accurate and representative and in supporting members of the public who are experiencing local issues such as antisocial behaviour.

Thank you to Cllr Howard Cross for his ongoing commitments to the Mary Waud Trust and Cliffe Combined Charities, together with collation of documentation regarding the land owned by the Parish Council.

Thank you to Cllr John Jewitt, who has provided manpower and equipment/vehicles to aid in a number of projects this year, planting/watering of new/replacement trees.

Thank you to Cllr Andrew Holman for his continued work on the Drax steering group and for supporting me in his role of Vice

Thank you to Cllr Jon Wallinger for maintaining the excellent village website (www.cliffevillage.com) which provides the Parish with news, updates, links, parish council minutes, councillor details etc. This is a fantastic resource and a huge amount of personal effort has gone in to keep this updated to Jon's high standards. Jon has also done many pieces of research for a number of ongoing issues, including recently liaising with Yorkshire Water regarding drainage issues in the village.

Thanks to Councillor Ralph Woodall for his work with the village flag pole on the village green, still ahead of the game when it comes to having the right flag for the right occasion flying in the correct manner.

Cllr Emma Yates has contributed greatly to council decisions and has taken on the role of public rights of way representative with enthusiasm. Thankyou.

Thanks to Cllr Simon Gummerson for joining the council within the last year and agreeing to be the representative on the Playing Field association. Simon takes an active role in many parish council debates and is a great asset.

We welcome Cllr Andy Marshall, who has already shown a pro-active approach & willingness to get involved, producing signage and information leaflets regarding parish issues. Andy brings knowledge and skills from his professional career to benefit the community. Welcome Andy.

It was a very sad year this year as we lost Cllr Paul Maw, who was a highly respected councillor for many years who additionally served the village on many committees, including Cliffe Village Institute and Cliffe Playing Field Association. He always voiced the opinions of residents honestly and will be missed as both a councillor and as a friend.

I'd like to thank North Yorkshire Councillor Karl Arthur for his hard work and support for our Parish, including providing funding from his locality budget for Parish Council projects.

Thank you to our clerk Julie Leighton-Eshelby for all her hard work and dedication to this Parish Council, I appreciate your knowledge, guidance and help. On behalf of the Parish Council and the Parish, thank you Julie.

I must also thank our 'handyman', Alan Parker, who helps us with his practical craftsman skills repairing and maintaining fences, bridges, notice boards & seats etc.

After a poor start to the grass cutting last year, an early decision was made to change the grass cutting contractor, which has reaped dividends, with the village looking lovely for the rest of the year. Thanks go to Matt at Meticulous Gardens for the good work.

On a negative note, it is very disappointing that North Yorkshire Highways seem to be very unsupportive of the parish, with very little response to any queries raised, especially regarding traffic-calming gateway installation, including large signage, speed camera signage, road markings, 3-2-1 countdown strips etc on York Road, where a firm order was placed 18 months ago, with an assurance that the work was eventually planned for July 2024. As of writing in May 2025 this has still not been installed.

The next year promises to be as challenging as ever, with the following new and existing projects/objectives on the list, including (but not limited to):

- Continue to request North Yorkshire Highways install the ordered gateway at the North of the village.

- Continue maintenance and improvement work on the surface of Oxen Lane to prevent future flooding.
- Continue developing the relationship with Askham Bryan college and advance the nature reserve project at the parish paddock.
- Reviewing & resolving water / waste / flooding issues throughout the village, especially around the village Institute / PreSchool area.
- Ensuring Highways issues such as road surfaces, signage and pathways are maintained.
- Ensuring public footpaths are clear and available to all whilst ensuring they are used properly and responsibly by raising awareness of where the public can and cannot walk, whilst respecting the land, land owners and wildlife (follow the country code).
- Continue to support groups, organisations and charities in the Parish and those representing the parish.

That concludes the Chairman's report for this year. If I have missed anything or anyone then please accept my apologies. I look forward to working with you all going forwards in the future for the benefit of the Parish and its Parishioners.

Gary Wilson (Chairman, Cliffe Parish
Council)
12th May 2025