

Minutes

KELBROOK AND SOUGH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Tuesday 12th May 2025 at 7pm
KELBROOK AND SOUGH VILLAGE HALL
ANNEX**

1. Welcome

The Chair of the Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief overview of the purpose of the Annual Parish Meeting.

2. Minutes

Unfortunately, no minutes were taken at last year's meeting.

3. Chairmans Report.

- Welcomed Heidi Wright and Gary Lancaster as councillors
- Successfully worked through our compliance issues with statutory and legal obligations. The results can be seen from the IA Yorkshire Audit report for 2024/25 and the resulting AGAR certification and it's even more evident from this year's report which will be available to everyone soon.
- By unlocking previous Grant Income, we have been able to resurface Kelbrook Play Park, get the footpath sorted behind the Craven Heifer, employ a gardener to keep the weeds under control, buy liners for the railing planters to make better use of them going forward.
- With the help of volunteers all the village planters in Kelbrook and Sough were planted up and looked after during the summer season. The railing planters didn't happen because we didn't have the liners.
- Conducted an asset appraisal in June, updated the register, identified things that needed doing. Re-sited a picnic bench at the top of Quermore. Bought 2 new benches to replace ones that can't be salvaged. Fixed the dodgy Telephone Box door.
- Awarded £1,159.00 in community grants to Earby Memorial Bowling Club, Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, and the Free-Swimming Scheme.
- Finally got to grips with PBC regarding maintenance costs for our voluntary contribution to Sough Park albeit proved to be controversial.
- Christmas tree in Sough, lights for the one in Kelbrook. Bought more paraphernalia to make Xmas Lanterns for Kelbrook and Sough. The cost for this year will be batteries only as the lanterns are in secure storage.
- Not increasing the precept this year.
- Losing most of the willow tree. The lights were removed now and the tree lives on.
- Having sorted out the asset register and produce a list of things to do, the weather and availability of people has stopped these things from happening, sadly, but we now have a date planned for the end of the month.

Minutes

- Finally, thanks were given to the Parish Council Clerk/RFO for her contribution during the last year and to Debbie Richardson for her continued help with all things Planning.

4. Public Participation

Members of the public raised the following items.

1. Food Caddies
Despite contacting waste services Vicarage Road are without caddies. It is believed that there is a shortage. Advantages and disadvantages of this National Initiative were discussed including people not using them, theft from doorsteps, blowing round streets after emptying, some food waste can go in the Green Bin. It was suggested that a social media post might see people donating to Vicarage Road residents.
2. The Chair was thanked for her report.
3. The Clerk/RFO was thanked for work done to date.
4. Whilst there was an appreciation for the attention to weeding and the planters it was felt that employing a lengthsman might be the better approach to getting things done at the point of need. It was pointed out that it is difficult to find someone who will work on an ad hoc basis, self-employed and insured etc. It was acknowledged that the role has not been advertised so there may be someone out there who would be interested. A neighbouring parish's arrangements were discussed in relation to paying for services like a garden centre to make up the planters and for someone to water them throughout the summer. This highlighted that everything comes at a cost and is reflected in the precept payment. The neighbouring parish has a similar number of residents, but the precept is nearly £9,000 higher than Kelbrook and Sough. It was felt that getting the right balance between the villages looking nice and the precept level was important.
5. It was suggested that signage welcoming people to Kelbrook could be located on the roundabout. Highways would be the point of contact; however, this has been investigated before and is classed as advertising and therefore chargeable.
6. Use of the telephone box was discussed considering no group being able to have exclusive use. NHWS were using it but pulled out once exclusivity was withdrawn because of the issues that could unfold of who puts what, where. It was felt that the only way that multiple groups could use the space was to have a plan to divide the space depending on the interest shown. As an asset it should be used.
7. The Notice Boards have not been used by the Clerk for Agenda's and Minutes now for nearly a year. The Data Transparency Act requires publication of all the associated documentation at the same time rendering the notice boards too small. It was felt that putting the Agenda's and Minutes only in the notice boards would suffice with a note to say that supporting information is available on the website.
8. Christmas 2025 in Sough was deemed magnificent because of the tree. The lack of a tree in Kelbrook and the dark approach to Kelbrook meant the centre of the village looked bleak. The question of Christmas festivities was also raised in the form of entertainment such as a Children's Party, Brass Band, Carol Concert and would it be something that the Parish Council could support. With that in mind, the need to conduct a resident's survey was suggested. There are numerous ways in which events could be supported via the Parish Council Grant Scheme, Community Group, Village Hall etc. It was pointed out that many Parish and Town Councils now make the crossover and have a budget for events using Precept monies.
9. A Parish Council Residents Survey was deemed to be a very good idea. It would be an opportunity for residents to say what they would like to see in return for

Minutes

understanding what implications this could have on the precept. A process already exists for putting a survey together as implemented by the Neighbourhood Plan Team.

10. Concern about the Traffic Lights at Cob Lane and the issue of drivers ignoring them was raised. The licence has expired but confusion reigns between Yorkshire Water and LCC. Hopefully, this will be resolved soon.
11. Was there a Plan B for the Get it Done Day if no volunteers turn up. It was felt that the priorities like the benches, planters would get done. The old benches are not dangerous, just shabby and arrangements have been made for them to be replaced.
12. Who to contact about the beck behind Vicarage Road. There is a tree collapsed in the beck and vegetation affecting the flow of the water. There are similar problems at Sough Park where old stone from the original wall has been thrown back in, old pipes and collapsed trees, also affecting the water flow. It was pointed out that Riparian Ownership may be a consideration. The Environment Agency would be the first point of contact.
13. Have minutes been taken for tonight's meeting YES!!!!