

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF WILBERFOSS

7.00 PM

15th May 2025

1. The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of Wilberfoss Parish Council, Cllr Richard Rains who shared a report of the Parish Council's year. This report becomes Appendix I
2. A Report from the Chair of the Wilberfoss Community Centre was acknowledged and becomes Appendix II
3. A report from the Vice-Chairman of the Wilberfoss Playing Fields Association was acknowledged and becomes Appendix III
4. A verbal report from the Church Wardens of St John the Baptist Church was given and becomes Appendix IV
5. A report from the Chair of Wilberfoss Allotment Association was acknowledged and becomes Appendix V
6. The Open Forum was not utilised.

We have welcomed Gemma Gibbs to the parish council, and it is wonderful to have her contribution. Michelle Wallis has sadly resigned, and we thank her for her contributions during the time she was here and thank her for continuing as the editor of the parish newsletter. Lynda Hoyle has also sadly resigned from the parish council. We thank Lynda for her contribution to the parish council and as her role as vice chair and wish her all the very best for the future. This has however, now left us with three vacant seats on the Parish Council.

The Litter Picker who has been employed by the council for some years resigned and we thank Andy for his years of service. The post has not been filled however, as the role is now carried out by volunteers.

Over the course of the year we have had 11 meetings, December being the only month without a meeting. During these meetings we have reviewed 18 planning applications

The Engie anaerobic digester planning application, although not in Wilberfoss parish has been jointly discussed with Catton PC to try and ensure the best outcomes for both parish councils

There were talks from the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Rural Housing Enabler. Both of which were well received.

Work was undertaken to ensure that all the parish council documents met the latest standards.

The fully accessible.gov.uk website went live and the move to individual.gov.uk email address has now been adopted by all councillors.

Several projects were undertaken in the parish: -

- New bus shelter on Beckside,
- two new benches on Beckside and the amenity field,
- new kissing gate to the amenity field,
- painting of the bridges over the beck and varnishing of the WPC notice boards
- replacement larger waste bins at the church bridge and Fieldhead locations
- pruning of the trees on Beckside

As well as those I have forgotten, it is satisfying to see how busy we have been.

Some other projects funded by WPC were

- A first aid course at the community centre,
- Bloomer's bridge planters
- A plaque to commemorate the contributions a parish resident

The beck drainage works were completed to reduce the risk of flooding and volunteer flood wardens have come forward.

WPC were represented again on Remembrance Sunday with the laying of a wreath.

And finally, after more than two years of intense and at times frustrating work, the project to fit speed indicator signs (SID) in the village is moving forward. The SID has been purchased and will be fitted by East Riding of Yorkshire Council Streetlighting in the coming weeks.

Richard Rains - Parish Councillor (Chair)

This report outlines the activities, achievements, and developments of Wilberfoss Community Centre over the past year. It has been a period of both success and transition, as we have continued to make the Centre a vibrant hub for the community.

Successes and Achievements

The Community Centre has enjoyed a number of successes over the past year, demonstrating its value to the surrounding area. We are pleased to report an increase in community engagement, with both new and returning users, including the utilisation of office spaces, previously underused. This has broadened the range of activities taking place at the Centre and also increased income.

Our regular users continue to excel in their own achievements, including our Table Tennis group achieving notable success by topping one of the winter table tennis leagues. Wilberfoss Amateur Theatre Society (WATS) staged another highly successful pantomime and summer showcase, enjoyed by over 250 audience members. And we were delighted to welcome Mikron Theatre Company for two successful touring performances, offering high-quality, subsidised entertainment to the village. This is just a small glimpse of the many successes from our user groups.

Centre Improvements

Thanks to a successful grant application, we were able to install solar panels here at the centre, enabling us to commit to environmental and financial sustainability, and reduce the centre's long-term carbon footprint. A kind donation by a centre user enabled the installation of automatic lighting in parts of the hall, further enhancing our energy efficiency and reducing our environmental impact. Finally a new locking system was developed using a key safe to enable better management and self-sufficiency of our regular user groups, maintaining smooth running of the centre during a time of change.

Staffing Changes

The past year has seen some significant changes in staffing as we said goodbye to Sarah, Sue, and Alan, who have been dedicated members of the team for over 20 years, offering the centre and its network steadfast support. We extend our sincere gratitude to them for their long and committed service to the Community Centre, their contributions have been invaluable, and they will be greatly missed.

As part of our transition, we are in the process of welcoming a new centre manager. Our committee has worked hard to support this change, assisting Sarah with the cleaning and maintenance of the Centre during the interim period.

Looking to the Future

The committee is committed to increasing community engagement over the coming year. Our efforts begin with a small business fair this Saturday, 17th May, held in conjunction with the Friends of Wilberfoss School (FOWS) group. Additional engagement events are being planned to encourage greater use of the centre by the local community.

Overall Assessment

Overall, this has been a positive year for Wilberfoss Community Centre, marked by notable successes and a proactive approach to change. And whilst we navigate the end of a wonderful era, we are excited about the future opportunities and continue to support the centre as a thriving and sustainable community hub.

Lisa Langton - Chair

The cost-of-living crisis has been the biggest challenge we have faced in keeping the doors open. Operating costs over the last 2 years have more than quadrupled and at this time last year the PFA committee were facing the prospect of not being able to pay the bills over the last winter period. We were lucky enough to obtain grants to assist otherwise closure would have been a reality.

Over the last 12 months we have lost 7 members of our committee including our secretary through personal, health, moving house and other commitments which leaves us with a very small team. We have recently placed an article on our Facebook page and within the village newsletter if anyone would like to join as secretary or volunteer. From a personal point of view the response has been disappointing to say the least which is a polite way of putting it!

Other challenges were having to replace our glass washer and the fan extraction system in our kitchen which had both broken beyond repair!

Now to the positives

Our focus and priority at this moment is to reduce our operating costs. We have recently secured funding to add battery storage to our existing solar panel system which will hopefully result in significant savings on our electricity costs. In addition we have received quotes to replace every non-LED bulb, strip light, lighting column, headlamps and floodlights with LED equivalents to assist in making our facilities as energy efficient as possible and further reduce operating costs. Fundraising has begun towards these projects. We are also looking at replacing our LPG heating with a greener option, possibly air source heat pump, and will be obtaining quotes in the coming months having consulted with suppliers in this field.

We were accepted onto the Football Foundation in conjunction with Howdens kitchen replacement grant program which has completely transformed ours. New integrated microwave, dishwasher, fridge freezer, worktops, double sink and storage units all included and looks great!

A big thank you goes to the community payback team without whose help our dwindling team would have struggled. From painting, hedge trimming, grass cutting, strimming, weeding, fence staining and general tidying duties they have helped us out massively.

We have recently upgraded to Sky Q which allows us to show different events at the same time on the TV screens within the building.

The recent beacon lighting to commemorate VE Day was well attended and we will be looking to do similar on future milestone dates.

Coming soon

We have recently secured a grant to provide 2 new picnic benches for our children's play area and planting of 120 laurel hedge plants along the perimeter of the playing field to further enhance and protect.

Paul Gibney - Vice Chairman

CHURCH WARDENS REPORT on behalf of WILBERFOSS CHURCH

The Church is open each day from approximately 10.00am until 3.00pm providing a safe space for anyone to take some quiet time out from busy days, have a look around, appreciate the heritage guidebooks or just shelter from the rain! The visitors book contains some very complimentary comments about the appearance of the Church and the fact that it is open 7 days a week.

There is now a card payment machine by the entrance into Church thus allowing donations on any day of the week rather than just on a Sunday.

The church engages with the community by continuing to cover the costs of the defibrillator sited on the outside wall of the entrance porch. The church is one of the sponsors of the Mavericks, the village junior football team.

There is a growing congregation and efforts are made to ensure that all feel welcome, particularly families. There is a soft play area and toys available in the Priory Room should young children become too restless. The Priory Room enables social interaction after each service when those present sit around one large table and enjoy tea, coffee, biscuits and conversation. The sound of chatting and laughter is wonderful to hear and people are often reluctant to leave!

The Church Choir continues to grow and now boasts not only vocal talent but drums, flute, violin, guitar and electric piano. Their contribution to Sunday Services is invaluable and their willingness to give up their time for rehearsals, services and singing in the community is deeply appreciated. They have sung at the Oddfellows Arms and the Pavilion during the last year.

The Church is closely involved with the village junior school who have services at church through the year and the Rev Simon Pritchard visits the school every week on Wednesdays. The school choir sang beautifully at the Church Carol Service which was very well attended.

Each Tuesday morning in term time, the Stay and Play sessions are enjoyed by the under 5s and their adults. Play time, stories, crafts, refreshments are just an example of the activities.

Adults are well catered for too with the weekly Thursday afternoon Jigsaw Group where there is a large jigsaw to complete, tea, coffee, cake and lots of general conversation and fun.

The Church continues a close association with the Trussel Trust Food Bank with donations being collected from the local community. Since keeping a record of donations from 1st October 2024, 560.9 kgs of donations and £185 cash have been taken to the food bank warehouse at Clifton Moor.

The Church and community continues to contribute to the Mission to Seafarers by knitting some fabulous woolly hats which are treasured by the recipient sailors. Stephen Percival, Licensed Lay Minister, visits the Humber ports most weeks to distribute the hats and provide pastoral care.

VE Day was commemorated with a special service of remembrance on Sunday 4th May and on VE Day itself, 8th May, Wilberfoss Church bells were rung together with church bells around the country.

Village Duck Race was a huge success and the Church had two stalls, one giving toys in exchange for donations and the other hosting a game of chance – Bottle on a String. The combined result from these stalls was £308.51 but more important than the fund raising, the church was engaged with the Village community.

The Church has an article in each Village Newsletter, detailing the services for the month, activities taking place and contact details should anyone need assistance e.g. advice, pastoral visits, prayers. Notices are also placed on Facebook through the Church page, Wilberfoss Community page and the Wilberfoss, Fangfoss and surrounding area page.

Future events include a performance by the York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir on Saturday 5th July and an historical walk around the village on Wednesday 25th June led by Peter Green and Cecily Spall.

The Church works hard to engage with the community to ensure that it is open to everyone and can be a beautiful venue for weddings, baptisms and funerals.

Rose Riley, Church Warden

Moira Percival, Church Warden

Wilberfoss Allotment Association was formed in 2007. The allotments are behind Field Head. All are welcome, we have retirees, families, mid-lifers and young people. If anyone is interested, there is usually someone to talk to at the allotments at weekends in better weather. It is a place to chat, and take time out of busy lives; digging, planting, weeding and enjoying the produce grown. There are expectations of allotment holders, to keep plots tidy, weeds under control, adhere to health and safety, and rules regarding sheds etc.

There are 21 plots, which are divided up into a mixture of full, half and quarter plots. There are currently 39 tenants. All plots are let and there is currently one person on the waiting list. We are trying to reduce the amount of quarter plots.

Fees

All allotment holders are required to sign a tenancy agreement and pay a deposit of £25 which is refundable if the plot is given back in good order. Allotment holders are provided with a Welcome Pack which provides guidance on insurance, health and safety and how we expect their plot to be maintained.

Annual Fees Full Plot (10m x 30m) £50.00 Half Plot (10m x 15m) £35.00 Quarter Plot (10m x 7.1/2) £27.50

The fees have not been increased for several years, as all costs are currently met, with a small annual surplus. We hope not to increase fees, to make allotments accessible, especially as the 'cost of living' increases.

Committee We have an active Committee of 9 members. An AGM takes place in November and a Committee meeting took place in March. Committee members look after important tasks, such as grass mowing, track and fence repairs, hedge maintenance and vermin control. Inspections of all allotments are carried out twice a year in Spring and Autumn. Any concerns are raised with allotment holders and Committee members offer support if required. The allotments could not be run without the energetic participation of our Committee members.

Benefits

Allotment holders have access to the following:

D.T Brown Seeds. The Association submits one order and receives a 50% discount

There are 3 water tanks, provided on a metered supply

Manure is purchased each year, if available. No manure has been purchased this year as arable farmers do not have any surplus available.

There is a community shed - mower and tools are available

Discounts available at Centre Vertigrow

Future Plans

To continue to provide allotments for the Parish in a friendly and supportive environment.

Nicola and Pelham Glenn - Co-Chairs Wilberfoss Allotments Association

allotments2021@yahoo.com