

Minutes of Borwick Parish Meeting held at 7.30pm On 7th October 2025 in Borwick hall Conference Room

Attending – Richard Mellor (RM) (Chair), Linda Rigby (LR) (Clerk), Joyce Tombs (JT) (Treasurer), Sue Dowdall (SD), Dave Scott (DS), Jeanette Morrell (JM), David Morrell (DM), Maureen Thomas (MT), Steve Thorns (ST), Alison Halhead (AH), Dave Mosedale (DM), Ken Howson (KH), Chris Waine (CW), Mick Rigby (MR),

Graham Dalton- Reform Candidate Lancaster Rural North (GD), Derek Queenan Head of Lancashire Outdoor Education (DQ), Becki-Saint Humphries Deputy Head of Outdoor Education (BSH).

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

25/17 Apologies for absence were received from Zoe Greenwood, Maldwyn Buckland, Guy Pelham, Dave Smith, Liz Mackay. Victoria Wilson.

25/18 Richard welcomed Graham Dalton, Derek Queenan, Becki-Saint Humphries and Ken Dunn to the meeting.

25/19 Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising. Minutes of the meeting held on the 13h May 2025 had been circulated in advance of the meeting. No one disagreed with what was recorded so were accepted and accepted.

25/20 Chairman's Report.

Richard gave his report as follows

1 Road Markings.

Richard explained about his meeting with Eddie Mills and Matthew Holmes of LCC at the beginning of May. He was promised action on Pot Holes, White Line and Slow signs with additional signs on both sides of the hill outside the Greenwoods House. They also promised to cut away the foliage obscuring the speed sign at Mansergh. They had also discussed the possibilities of some signs warning of horse traffic.

After no action Richard wrote again at the end of May, again in June and again in August. Finally on 20 Aug Richard had a reply with a brief apology from Eddie Mills saying he was still chasing funding and would get back to me shortly. Since then nothing.

Speed Limit.

Richard reported no move and no news on this so the original stance still applies in that they can't afford the admin cost of moving the speed sign from Mansergh to Borwick Station bridge. It would seem that admin costs have priority over Borwick Villagers safety.

Richard noticed that Clive Grunshaw, Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner, was having a purge on Road Safety so wrote to him asking for his help. In effect he said through one of his caseworkers that this was a Council concern not the Police in spite of Road Safety being one of his top priorities.

Richard will now have to pursue this through Lancashire Road Safety Partnership portal, however it's interesting that the sat nav speed limits in his car differ from the road signs.

DS suggested moving the 30mph speed sign has legal implications and can't just be simply moved.

2. Tree Survey – Village Green.

Richard reported that this was conducted by Yew Tree Gardens Co at the beginning of August by Antony Wood.

The mature trees inspected were two common lime trees and three sycamore trees. The report gives recommendations for ongoing works but nothing major.

The two immature trees, Horse Chestnut and Rowan need attention to the metal guards which need repositioning.

3. Biodiversity Funds.

A report has been produced by LCC which said that funding for biodiversity projects have been suspended. Richard believes this affects the planting and maintenance of the wildflower projects which was done on the Village Green two years ago. He personally stated that he feels the project has been unsuccessful in its intended outcome as the grass seems to have strangled everything. Perhaps in the Spring '26 a keen village gardener could transplant some of their own plants to make the Green more attractive.

4. Telephone Kiosk adoption.

For those unaware of the saga of the BT Telephone box, BT communicated to Lancaster District Council their intention to remove the payphone from the box on 13 March '25 with a 90-day consultation period to provide the Council ample time to make any objections or representations against its

removal. Nothing was heard so on 11 June the decision was taken to remove the payphone.

BT also placed a sticker inside the box informing users of the box's demise.

When Richard and Linda became aware of what was happening, they only had a matter of days before BT intended to lock the Box permanently and leave it in the condition you now see it.

Linda sent out an email to the villagers asking if it was their wish to adopt the Box for £1 but only the parish could adopt it not any individual. The greater majority of the replies were to adopt the Box as it was part of the Village Green and a reference point when giving guidance to drivers.

Borwick parish now owns the box and BT have sent Linda a comprehensive box of paints etc. to refurbish the box and hopefully restore it to near pristine condition.

Richard hopes that when we plan to clean and refurbish the box that some volunteers will step forward. Obviously, we don't need many at any one time as there is not much room to move.

When it is finished the plan is to make it again a borrowing/swop library. However, we would appreciate it not being used as somewhere to get rid of surplus books from homes.

5. Parish Merger with Priest Hutton

Richard clarified nothing further had been done regarding any discussion about a potential parish merger which was originated by the Priest Hutton Chairman. This had been neither proposed nor formally consulted on by the Borwick Parish meeting. Richard explained the Priest Hutton Chairman and Committee are proceeding with this future 'Village Plan' and Richard said he has agreed to look at the possible report / outline guide at draft stage in January to see if it has any relevance for Borwick. The feeling from the meeting was the difference in the precepts make it an unviable proposition.

Richard asked all present at the meeting if this was acceptable.

Concerns were raised again about the difference in village precepts. The Borwick precept was confirmed by Joyce that it was set at £1750.00 and the Priest Hutton precept set close to £3000.00.

Regarding the phone box book share Linda asked that boxes of old books are not left in the phone box which then need sorting and taking to the recycle center. They also take up all the floor space and it is used by school children waiting for the school bus as a shelter from the rain. This was accepted by all present.

25/21 Clerks report

Linda gave her report as follows

1.Grass cutting

Linda advised that the council grass cutting team would be doing a final cut and clearance of all surrounding areas hopefully within the next 2 weeks. Linda stated since she asked Mike Sharples to cut the road side edge it has looked better and is safer for walkers to be able to get off the road approaching the junction.

2.Netherbeck Lorries

Linda reported that Sue Tyldesley apologised for not being able to be at the meeting but has reported that the evidence against Thomson animal haulage is being prepared for prosecution. She apologised that this is taking so long but the enforcement team want to ensure they have a well evidenced case before going to court. They are under a lot of pressure with some very high-profile cases. Planning enforcement is painfully slow but does eventually bring results.

3.Planning applications

There have been no planning applications for Borwick other than the ongoing works at Pheasant field farm at Borwick Station

4.Bulk Heating Oil Scheme

Linda asked if anyone who doesn't use or has new neighbours who could benefit from the scheme for cheaper heating oil, to contact Diane Adams in Priest Hutton on the email address chairph@priesthuton.co.uk. There are approximately 3 orders a year.

5.LPG orders

Linda advised of a broker called Robert Flaxman of 'LPG Save' which is worth looking into for cheaper LPG contact email address, team@lpg-save.co.uk

25/22 Treasurer's Report

Joyce gave her report as follows:

1 Joyce confirmed that all the statutory procedures regarding the accounts and governance return for the year ended 31 March 2025 have been completed and all relevant documents can be found on the village website. Dave Smith will kindly tell us more later. Once again no-one exercised their rights to come and inspect the books!

2 Joyce made available copies of the receipts and payments account for the first six months of the year. These showed that income for the first six months was £1,950 with expenditure of £826 leaving a surplus of £1,124. Income was £200 higher than expected due to the receipt of compensation from NatWest bank. This followed complaints made by Dave Scott about the considerable difficulties experienced in trying to add new signatories to the bank mandate (ie when Richard and Linda became officers of the Parish Meeting at the beginning of this calendar year).

Expenditure so far is in line with budget except for the insurance cost which has been held at last year's level by Zurich Insurance and so was lower than forecast. Ken Dunn will no doubt tell us about the £500 which the Parish Meeting has donated towards the Contributing Third-Party Payment for the Hall's green energy project.

3 Poors Land Charity

As most of you probably know the (Borwick) Poors Land Charity exists to provide for the relief of poverty in the "Township of Borwick". The charity and its income and expenditure are administered by a number of Trustees. The Chair and Clerk of the Borwick Parish Meeting are ex officio Trustees. Although the charity's finances have for some time been separated from those of the Parish Meeting, matters relating to the Charity are still reported at Borwick Parish meetings for information and to enable input from residents.

So, at this meeting, copies of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 are available, if anyone would like to see them. They show income of £300 being the rent charged on the field, plus building society interest of £79. The only expenditure was a £500 grant to St Mary's Church for

the provision of Winter Warmer lunches in the 2024/25 winter. At 31 March 2025 the charity's funds were £2,422. The rent charge was increased following the last meeting and £325 has been duly received from the tenant in the current financial year.

Joyce explained that she has a potential conflict of interest as she is the Treasurer of St Mary's Church, Borwick as well as providing voluntary assistance to the Trustees of the Charity with its accounting. She said that once again the District Church Council of St Mary's Church would like to ask the Trustees for a further grant to help continue the provision of Winter Warmer lunches during this coming winter. She asked if anyone would have any objection to such a request and gave a formal written request to the Chair.

It was noted and agreed that the new Trustees, ie Richard Mellor and Linda Rigby, be added to the authorised signatories on the Poors Land Charity's building society account with the Skipton Building Society. The relevant forms and identification documents are to be submitted to the Skipton in due course. David Scott and David Smith are to remain as Trustees and authorised signatories.

4 Treasurer from January 2026 – As mentioned at the previous meeting Joyce is going to stand down as Treasurer of the Borwick Parish Meeting at the end of the next meeting ie the AGM. Elections for officers will be held at that meeting but Joyce is delighted that Alison Halhead has kindly volunteered for the position.

5 Finally, as mentioned earlier, we have given the Memorial Hall £500 out of this year's agreed budget. We have received a request from Ken Dunn for a further £500 which he understands will need to come out of our 2026/27 budget, but I shall let him explain how this works and why it is needed. Clearly, we can't agree that budget until the budget meeting in January but I am sure we can give him an indication of our likely response

Following Joyce's report, it was agreed that the grant to St Marys from the Poors Land Charity would help to fund the winter warmers lunches twice a month.

KD confirmed that the village hall is provided rent free for this.

25/23 Chairman of Borwick & Priest Hutton Village Hall

Ken Dunn explained to the meeting why there had been a necessity to replace the old LPG boiler, which heats the main hall. The boiler has been in situ since the late 80's. It was approaching 40 years old and is now almost unserviceable and spare parts are no longer available. To add to this the LPG supplier condemned the LPG storage tank last year. To overcome that we would have needed to put the tank underground.

It was decided by the hall committee to upgrade the system to a green system. The new Aircon system utilises a traditional air to air heat pump with 3 internal units blowing conditioned air. The system is now up and running. Heat-up is very quick, relatively quiet and the units maintain a steady temperature in the hall. Dave Scott asked if it is reversible in the summer to cool air. This is, of course, possible.

The radiators in the kitchen and toilets have been removed and will be replaced by infra-red panels.

Our electricity consumption will now increase, so we will install PV panels (solar) on the west facing side of the hall. We expect to be self-sufficient in terms of energy for at least 9 months of the year and will be exporting significant amounts over the summer months.

Funding was provided by

Lancashire Environmental fund (£30,000)

The Garfield Western Foundation (£10,000)

The Harold & Alice Bridges Fund (£3000)

£1300.00 from Village Lottery

£1000.00 each from Borwick & Priest Hutton parishes.

Ken explained that the £1000 donations from each of the parishes was to be paid in two instalments of £500 in the financial years 2025 -26 and 2026-27. He requested that Borwick Parish meeting approve the second of these instalments from their 2026-27 precept. It was agreed that this will be included in the draft 2026/27 budget for formal consideration at the January 2026 meeting.

25/24 Web site.

Dave Smith sent apologies as could not make the meeting. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

25/25 Derek Queenan overseeing Borwick Hall

Both Derek, Head of outdoor Education and Becki Deputy Head oversee Borwick Hall asked if the villagers had any issues.

ST explained issues with the carpark and stated when it rains heavily the water washes soil down onto the road which pools on the corner by the canal bridge causing the drain to block. This then runs down his driveway. It also causes traffic to drive onto the other side of the road to avoid it.

He asked if the carpark could be tarmacked but Derek explained that it would make the run off worse and there isn't the funding available. JM asked if other surfaces could be potentially looked at and used instead.

The open day at Borwick Hall had been a big success and plan for the same next year.

25/26 A.O.B

Graham Dalton asked Richard to forward him the information regarding the visit from Eddie Mills & Matthew Holmes under chairman report 1. He would give them a polite nudge to address these issues.

Richard said they had fixed a few potholes and then nothing since. Graham explained that pot hole repairs are now being fixed by a company who guarantees the repairs. Re' speeding' he will get heads together and see if anything can be done.

25/27 Next meeting 13th January 2026 7.30pm. Conference room to be confirmed.