

MINUTES OF FAIRBURN ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
Wednesday 21st May 2025, 6.30pm at Fairburn Community Centre,
North Road, Fairburn, North Yorkshire, WF11 9LA

The meeting opened at 6.30pm

Present: Cllr Edwards (Chairman), the Clerk and eight members of the public.

MINUTES

APM25/01 Welcome

Cllr Edwards welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Assembly

APM25/02 Minutes

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th May 2024 as a true and accurate record.

Resolution: To approve the minutes as a true and accurate record.

APM25/03 Chairmans Report

Fairburn Parish Council
Chairman's Report 2024/2025

Parish Councillors at the start of the municipal year (May 2024)

Councillor Jill Edwards, Chairman
Councillor Tim Baker
Councillor Aron Gravill
Councillor John Kos
Councillor Derrick Robinson
Councillor Jonathan Wigglesworth

Employee: Jessica Bedford, Clerk, Responsible Finance Officer and Proper Officer

Changes to the Parish Council during the municipal year

Angela Harvey joined in February 2025, all seats are now filled.

Councillor Jill Edwards was re-elected as Chairman at the Annual Parish Council Meeting. The Personnel Committee has continued with Councillor Jill Edwards as Chair, other members being Councillors Tim Baker and John Kos, although no meetings have taken place this year.

10 meetings have taken place during the year, one each month, except August and December. The agendas are published on the notice boards, website and Facebook page at least 3 clear days before the meetings. The draft minutes of the previous meeting are also posted, the same time as the agenda, at the latest.

Councillors continue have the following key responsibilities:

Councillor Baker - Christmas lights and visual inspections of green gym

Councillor Edwards – Chairman duties, monthly defibrillator checks, putting notices in the noticeboards and VAS signs, moving, downloading and analysing the data

Councillor Kos - putting notices in notice boards, sourcing signs and Forest School

Councillor Robinson - inspection of the Skate Park, refurbishment of the historical signs

Councillor Wigglesworth – reporting defibrillator to The Circuit

Councillor Gravill – general maintenance, repairs and transporting materials or anything when a van is needed

Planning Applications

There have been 3 new planning applications in the parish during this municipal year, 4 applications have been granted, 1 appeal has been applied for and 1 enforcement has been put in place.

Environmental Achievements

More daffodil bulbs were purchased to extend the wave that was started last year on the A1246 verge, the children from Fairburn school and volunteers planted on the grass verge late 2024, these produced a very colourful display earlier this year, thanks go to everyone who participated in this project.

Held a village help out day in early June and went over the areas that were done last time to keep on top of these areas.

The grass cutting contractor has trimmed the Laurel Hedge on Lunnsfield Lane, removed a tree in Ash Lea that was unsightly once it had been trimmed back, trimmed back the ivy and taken out 2 elderberry trees along North Road as they were making the footpath very narrow. The hedge along Lunnsfield Lane as also been cut back as it was growing over the footpath.

We have had the flags cleaned around the war memorial as these were very slippery.

Councillors cleaned both roundabouts as they had vegetation on the sides and looked rather unsightly, they also swept the footpath on Lunnsfield Lane as this was covered in a thick layer of leaves and was very slippery.

Dog fouling is an ongoing issue in the village, we've sourced stickers that have been put on lamp posts and bought a dog stencil and paint for the installation of temporary paint designs on the footpaths around the village.

We have had lots of positive feedback on the grass cutting within the village, so in line with the option on the original contract that was awarded, the contract was extended for a further year to the end of 2025.

All the historical signs in the village that had faded have now all been replaced, Councillor Kos sourced the signs and Councillor Robinson painted the surrounds and fitted the new signs.

Councillor Gravill repaired the fence that had fallen down near the Wagon and Horses.

Community Involvement

We arranged a Remembrance Day Service at the war memorial and laid a wreath on behalf of the residents of the village, we asked military veterans from the village to lead the service, this was very well attended.

Produced a newsletter in January to keep residents up to date with Parish Council achievements, developments and included further data from the Vehicle Activated Signs, including comparison data from the same period for 2 years.

The forest school project was a huge success with children from Fairburn School using during the summer term. Everyone involved with the project was very happy with how this had gone, including the forest school provider, teachers, volunteers, but mainly the children who had a great time. Being so close to the school and no travel time meant they could enjoy more time learning than they had in the past, at less cost to the school.

A new recycling bin schedule has been produced for 2025-26, a copy is in the noticeboards and on the website and Facebook page.

Health and Safety

We have replaced consumables in the defibrillator.

Topped the Grit bins up before any bad weather.

Purchased some hi-vis vests and gloves to be used during village Help Out Days.

Following extensive campaigning by the Parish Council and involvement from the County Councillor and MP, the speed limit on the A1246 was reduced to 30mph through the village on 30 September, although the project to amend the signage wasn't completed until February. One of the Vehicle Activated signs has been moved onto this road to monitor speeds and provide data to enable us to request additional monitoring. The Police are also monitoring using mobile speed detectors. The MP, Keir Mather recommended Fairburn for an interview with Look North, which Councillors Kos and Robinson took part in on the road issues we face in the village. The speed on this road is gradually reducing but this is very slow, the sign has now been turned to face the opposite direction. However, there is still work to be done in relation to the number of HGV's that are still ignoring the weight limit signs and using all roads in the village as a cut through. We did hope to get the Lorry Watch scheme back up and running, but unfortunately there were no volunteers to run this and the Councillors don't have time to do this.

The double yellow lines on the bend near the Church that we requested from Highways have now been completed.

Repairs have been done to the skate park and a handle on the green gym that was missing has been replaced.

The bench overlooking the lngs has been repaired as some of the slats were rotting and unsafe.

We have now had the walls repaired that the lorry knocked over along North Road and the one near the Wagon and Horses, this is a great achievement as several people who were asked to undertake this work either didn't turn up or didn't send a quote.

Financial

A donation of £100 was given to Citizens Advice as they have supported some people in the village.

Agreed to support the clerk's membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) on a pro rata basis with her other Parish Council employer. They provide support to the Clerk to help them support their Councils and the community.

Finances

At the start of the financial year (1 April 2024), the Council held £22,881.26 on account. In the November meeting the Council resolved to set the 2025/26 precept amount for 2025/26 at £14,235.00, an increase of 3.07%. The average for a Band D property in Fairburn is now £41.76. Funds remain buoyant with £24,225.94 held on account at the end of the financial year, 31 March 2025. Further information in relation to the financial position can be found on the Parish Council website.

We have changed our bank account provider and are now using online banking with authorisation, making payments far quicker and cheaper as we have no postage costs or charges for cheques like we had with the previous one.

Going forward

We are still awaiting an update from NYC in relation to the report on the Public Rights of Way (PROW) in the parish, we are in regular contact in relation to these.

The water flowing out of the drain on Caudle Hill that we discussed with Highways is still outstanding. We were advised that this would be resolved this financial year, however this has now been put back, we are therefore monitoring and will provide updates at future meetings when we have them.

We are currently having a new website built, we've had training on the new site and are in the process of checking information that has been transferred from the old one. Once all checks have been done then it will go live, we don't have a date for this as yet, further updates will be given in the monthly meetings. As part of this project we will move to .gov.uk email addresses in line with best practice.

The Christmas tree has been monitored over the last year as it went very brown in parts, although initially we thought it would survive, this isn't the case, so we are looking at options to replace this year.

Building relationships

We are continuing to build relationships with organisations and residents in the village. A number of us have made visits to the school, we've been involved in events they have held and have supported the Forrest School project. Councillors regularly attend the Pop-In café to give updates and answer any questions. We have a regular group of residents who attend the monthly meetings. Suggestions and opinions from all these sources have been really valuable and we thank you for your input. This is something that we think is really important as the Parish Council may have 7 representatives making decisions, but to get a broad view from residents of all ages is really beneficial when making decisions on behalf of all residents. We have held meetings with the Community Centre Committee and the Cricket Club in relation to a tenancy agreement and to build relationships.

Thanks yous

I would particularly like to thank the residents who regularly attend the monthly meetings, your input is really valuable and also helps us maintain links with residents and other organisations.

To Jessica Bedford, you have made a massive impact again this year and we'd like to thank you for your contribution and expertise over this time.

To Paul Purcell, assisted by Councillor Baker for checking and putting the Christmas lights up and for donating new ones when the old ones failed.

To the military veterans who led the Remembrance Service.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Councillors for their contributions this year, this is a voluntary unpaid role, where we have to follow policies and procedures and adhere to a Code of Conduct and we all spend numerous hours a week on undertaking the role. In addition to lots of praise for the work we are doing in the village, we have had numerous negative comments through various channels. However, despite these we have continued to make progress and improvements and continue to do so. This is very much a team effort and without each and every one of you the progress we have made would not have been possible, everyone has their strengths and areas of expertise which contribute to a very effective team.

We've had another excellent year and this is something that we should all be proud of.

Jill Edwards
Chairman to Fairburn Parish Council
Wednesday 21 May 2025

APM25/04 Resident comments about the report

A discussion took place about the daffodil planting on the A1246. Residents felt that it wasn't clear that other village organisations were part of the effort and that it should simply have stated that the Parish Council donated £145.64 towards bulbs.

APM25/05 Public Forum

Residents asked or commented on the following:

- **What do the Parish Council think is their biggest achievement**
 - Sorting the grass cutting when the Councillors first started on the Council.
 - The 30mph speed limit on the A1246.
 - The forest school.
- **15 speeding vehicles have been stopped by North Yorkshire police on the A1246.**
- **Speeding and traffic levels across the village along with additional VAS information.**

APM25/06 Closure of Annual Parish Assembly

The meeting closed at 6.58pm

Signed,

Chair: Cllr J Edwards

Date: 2026

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