



Balne Parish Council

Balne Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes for 2025

Tuesday 6th May 2025 at 7.00pm in the Parish Room

In attendance:

Nigel Andrews	Chairman of the Parish Council
Louise Holliday	Parish Clerk
Hayley Lewis, Ruth Woods, Richard Kealey	Parish Councillors
Sarah Ward	North Yorkshire Police
3 Residents of the parish	

Apologies for absence: Richard Faulkner – Parish Councillor

1. Chairman's Welcome

Nigel Andrews took the Chair, welcomed all those present and thanked residents for taking the time to attend.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th May 2024

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and accepted as a true and correct record.

3. Parish Council Chairman's Report

The Chairman provided the forum with a brief update on Council activity during the year:

Welcome everyone to our Annual Parish Meeting. 2024/25 has been a very interesting year with quite a few developments. Our Parish Clerk, Peggy Chandler, decided to step down after 6 years. I would like to state on behalf of Balne Parish Council how helpful and hard-working Peggy has been, and what a wonderful asset to the village. Thank you, Peggy.

Fortunately, by November we were able to offer the position of clerk / RFO to Mrs Louise Holliday on a paid basis. The transition went well for everyone concerned, and Balne Parish Council are pleased to welcome Mrs Holliday on board as a member of the team.

During the past year we have renewed our land rental agreement at Heck for a further two years.

The D-Day commemorations were very disappointing last year, so this year the VE Day commemorations have been held in conjunction with RAF Snaith Museum, on Monday 5th May 2025. Many thanks to Zoe Bayston and the team.

Heavy vehicle signage has been put in place by the Highways Agency on West End Lane and Gore Lane at our request and is working well.

ANPR cameras in the village are still ongoing, but should benefit from the installation of fibre broadband later this year.

The West End / Balne Moor Road junction visibility problem has been resolved as best we can with the Highways Agency. Road repairs to Toadham Lane have been carried out by Highways this year.

The Parish Council are arranging defibrillator training for the village in July 2025.

Finally, after 31 years on Balne Parish Council, I will be standing down as Chairman and a councillor this evening. It has been a privilege to serve this community for so many years. This creates a vacancy on the Parish Council which we are seeking a volunteer to fill.

Thankyou everyone for your attendance.

North Yorkshire Police – Area Report – Sarah Ward

Balne is a lovely rural village and the crime rates are very low. The main issues within the village are that it is so spread out and rural that offenders go unseen.

In the last year there have been 2 burglaries, one from a substation and one from a farm (this was an attempt burglary) and there has been 3 vehicles stolen.

There have also been a few reports of criminal to land which has been caused by poachers but most of these calls are that the damage has been found the following morning.

The only advice that I can give to your residents is to be vigilant, note down anything suspicious and please do not hesitate to report anything to the police.

New Inspector in June – Martin Wedgewood is retiring, and Lee Pointon will be taking over the role

Lastly, Sarah also suggested that when parishioners call 999 (or 101 for non-urgent calls) they should give their report, then state that Balne is in North Yorkshire. That way, it will be passed straight over to North Yorkshire Police.

4. Parish Council Financial Statement

The clerk read out a summary of Parish Council financial activity over the past 12 months:

Receipts	£5,637 including the precept of £3,500
Expenditure	£5,557 largest expense £900 for insurance, £900 clerk salary
Surplus of	£80

Parish Council funds at year end were £4,849

This is a 1.6% increase on the prior year end balance of £4,769

A sheet showing the Parish Council's unaudited financial records was also available for viewing. The Chairman asked attendees if anyone had any questions relating to the accounts. No questions were raised.

5. Matters arising from previous minutes

- a. Verge mowing on Balne Moor Road – this is the responsibility of the Highways Agency. The Parish Council are responsible only for the areas within the village. Village verge mowing is usually delayed until the end of June/July in order to allow wildflowers to re-seed, however, may be brought forward so the village looks tidy for Tractor Fest in June.
- b. A19 Roundabout – possibility of a roundabout on A19 and Balne Moor Road – no update
- c. ANPR cameras – on hold – fibre broadband is needed within the village

- d. Flooding – Park Lane was particularly bad as the dykes needed clearing. It is the responsibility of the individual landowners to maintain their own dykes. This is still an issue in 2025. Landowners may need reminding to clear out their individual dykes. The situation will be monitored throughout the year, and action taken if deemed necessary.
- e. Damage to roadside caused by HGVs and large agricultural vehicles – Highways Agency must be notified of damage as it is their responsibility to repair the road.

6. Matters raised by residents

The Chairman invited members of the public to discuss and raise matters of interest to the community. The following matters and suggestions were raised:

- a. **Speeding on Balne Moor Road** – complaint raised by a resident. 3 near misses in the past two weeks.
Action: Clerk to contact the Highways Agency to raise this concern.
Action: Clerk to report to NYP website – submit a report and request the speed camera van. Spots are chosen on speed limit, number of accidents, etc.
- b. **The 7.5t weight limit** is regularly broken. It was suggested that the vehicles are using the road 'for access', which is allowed. As Balne is not a shortcut to anywhere, HGV drivers are not likely to take the route unless they have to.
- c. **ANPR** – It was suggested to try one or two cameras initially, rather than four. The village will be raising money to pay for them. After a short discussion, it was agreed that the crossroads would be the best site for the first camera.
- d. **Grass clippings** have been dumped on the grass verge at West End – two large piles.
Action: Clerk to send letter to residents
- e. **Litter** around the village
Action: All organise a litter pick
- f. **Residents thanked Councillor Andrews for his hard work over the past 30+ years**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 20:05 and was immediately followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting.

Signed _____

Date _____

Print name _____