

Balne Parish Council

The Parish Room, Thorntree Lane, Balne, Goole, DN14 0EW

History

The ancient village of Balne is situated on the southernmost edge of the Selby District, lying south of the M62 and the Knottingley and Goole canal, and south west of Snaith. A main railway line runs through the scattered village.

The area of Balne was originally much larger and is thought to have been a sub-kingdom of the post-Roman Kingdom of Elmet. Balne, Balne Moor and Thorpe in Balne are all on the edge of a marshy area north of Doncaster. In latin '*balneum*' means bath. The area likely takes its name from the ancient spa at nearby Askern. Balne has retained the same spelling since at least the 12th century; something very few villages have been able to do.

What is a Parish Council?

A parish council is the lowest tier of local government, representing a small administrative district typically covering a village or small town and its surrounding area. Balne Parish Council traces its roots back to 1894, when civil parish councils were first created in England under the Local Government Act of that year.

Key Features of a Parish Council:

- **Elected body:** Members (called parish councillors) are elected by residents in the parish.
- **Powers and responsibilities:** While limited, parish councils can manage local issues such as:
 - Maintenance of community buildings (like village halls)
 - Management of parks, playgrounds, and cemeteries
 - Street lighting and public seating
 - Local planning comments and community consultation
 - Organising community events and supporting local groups
- **Funding:** Parish councils raise money through a precept, which is added to residents' council tax.

Not Religious

Despite the name, parish councils are not religious institutions. They are entirely separate from ecclesiastical (church) parishes.

Why They Matter

Parish councils provide grassroots-level representation and are often the first point of contact for local concerns. Their decisions can influence how larger councils (district or county councils) allocate resources or handle issues.

Meetings

There are currently 6 meetings a year – May, July, September, November, January, March

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the above months, at 7:30pm in the Parish Room