

**FISHLAKE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON Tuesday 13th
May 2025 AT 7.20PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL, FISHLAKE**

1. Open Public Forum (OPF) 13th May 2025

1.1. Members of the public present at the meeting had no comments, or questions to raise with the Parish Council.

1.2. The Chair closed the public forum.

**MINUTES OF THE FISHLAKE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON 13th May 2025 AT 7.20 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL, FISHLAKE**

1. **PRESENT:** The Chair Cllr D Chaffer

Councillors: J Waite (Vice) Chair, P Trimingham, D White, R Furr.

2. **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** All councillors were present at the meeting.

3. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTEREST:** Cllr Trimingham and Cllr Waite are active members of the Fishlake Monday Club and the Fishlake Flood Wardens.

The Outgoing Chair, Cllr Peter Trimingham, formally recorded his appreciation for the contributions of former Cllr O’Connell. He acknowledged the dedication shown by Cllr O’Connell in balancing Parish Council duties with full-time employment and family life and expressed gratitude for his service during his term.

The Clerk expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to Cllr Trimingham for his commitment and leadership over his years of service as Chair and Vice Chair. His efforts were recognised as having brought meaningful improvements and tangible benefits to the community, along with consistent guidance in the management of Parish Council business. The Clerk added his personal appreciation for the positive working relationship shared with Cllr Trimingham over the years.

4. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE FOLLOWING MEETING:** It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th April 2025 be accepted as a true record.

5. **TO CONSIDER ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS:** The Clerk presented details of the receipts and payments account of the Council for the period to 31st May 2025.

The Clerk presented a summary of the receipts and payments for the financial year just completed to May 2025. Total receipts during the year were £10,683.93 compared to expenditure of £1,544.16. Total reserves carried forward into the new financial year were £88,326.69.

Total receipts to date include the first tranche of precept for 2025/26 of £10,000 together with interest on the deposit savings account of £683.93.

Signed*D. Waite*..... Chair, 10th June 2025

Cllr Chaffer requested approval for the reimbursement of £45.00, being the cost incurred for flags to be used in recent and ongoing village displays

Date	Payee	Amount
13/05/2025	J R Hunter – Clerk salary month 2 2025/26	199.82
13/05/2025	HMRC – PAYE month 2 2025/26	49.80
11/05/2025	3 mobile – Data Sims	62.64
13/05/2025	Smiths of Derby – Service of St Cuthbert’s Clock	452.40
11/05/2025	BT – internet services	54.36
11/05/2025	IONOS – website hosting	7.20
13/05/2025	Cllr D Chaffer – reimbursement for purchase of flags	45.00

6. TO CONSIDER ALL ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE:

6.1 The Clerk reported on correspondence appertaining to the business of the Parish Council received since the last meeting.

- The Chair reported that a resident had raised a query regarding the timings, frequency, and route of road sweeping in the village. A written enquiry had been submitted to the City of Doncaster Council (CDC) Street Scene department, but no response had yet been received.

The Chair noted the ongoing difficulty in establishing consistent lines of communication with CDC, due to frequent departmental staff changes. He stressed the importance of maintaining an up-to-date contact list of key departments to ensure effective engagement. The clerk suggested that this contact list could be made publicly accessible via the Fishlake Parish Council website to assist both councillors and residents.

Councillors agreed to continue the approach of assigning oversight responsibilities for ongoing projects and areas of interest to individual councillors. The following nominations were confirmed:


- Highways: Cllr White and Cllr Chaffer
- Play Area: Cllr Furr
- Policing and Neighbourhood Watch: Cllr Trimingham and Cllr Waite
- Flood Defence: Cllr Trimingham and Cllr Waite

Actions Arising: Clerk to follow up with CDC’s Street Scene department regarding the unanswered enquiry. Clerk to begin compiling an updated contact list for CDC departments, to be posted on the Parish Council website.

7. TO CONSIDER ALL PLANNING MATTERS:

The Clerk reported that the CDC planning website was currently inaccessible. As a result, no update could be provided regarding recent planning applications.

Actions: Clerk to check the planning website regularly and provide an update to councillors once access is restored.

Signed  Chair, 10th June 2025

8. TO CONSIDER HIGHWAYS MATTERS

The Clerk reported ongoing communication with Doncaster Council’s Highways Department regarding longstanding issues at Pinfold Gardens. Ashley Stuart-Borthwick, Routine Maintenance Engineer for Highway Asset Maintenance, has indicated willingness to attend a site meeting to inspect and discuss specific problem areas. A date and time for this visit are to be confirmed.

Cllr Chaffer updated the Council on his enquiries regarding central government funding allocated for road surface repairs, including potholes. At present, no information has been received regarding the amount of funding available or the criteria for its distribution.

Action: Clerk to arrange a suitable date and time for an on-site meeting with Stuart-Borthwick. Cllr Chaffer to continue monitoring and follow up on government funding information for road maintenance.

9. TO CONSIDER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES: Councillors had nothing to report under this item.

10. TO CONSIDER FISHLAKE PLAYING FIELD MATTERS: Cllr Furr reported on progress made by the Playing Field Group regarding park improvements.

Contact had been made with John Edwards, Operational Playgrounds Inspector at CDC, to explore support for removing condemned play equipment. CDC confirmed it is the Parish’s responsibility and cannot assist.

A local contractor, Mr Graham Waite, has been engaged to dismantle and scrap the condemned equipment, with a quotation of £1,450. The Council resolved to accept the quotation and proceed with the removal.

A grant of £5,000 has been secured for the purchase of bedding plants. Plans are in place to engage local schools and the wider community in the planting effort.

It was noted that the grass in the playing field currently requires cutting. Once cut, the area will be rolled to improve conditions for ongoing maintenance.

Further grant opportunities are being identified. Discussions are ongoing with playground equipment suppliers, who have been invited to submit quotations for the supply and installation of new facilities.

11. TO CONSIDER FLOOD PLAN / PREVENTION:

The Clerk advised that Lyn Peart, Area Director for the Environment Agency (Yorkshire), had responded positively to an invitation to visit Fishlake. Two dates were offered, and it was confirmed by Cllr Trimingham that the site meeting has been scheduled for **19th June**, after 14:00.

Cllr Trimingham reported continued activity and strong engagement from City of Doncaster Council (CDC) engineers, with support from the Chief Executive, in enhancing Fishlake’s flood resilience. He also welcomed the interest shown by the new EA Area Director in local flood prevention efforts.

Signed  Chair, 10th June 2025

Councillors discussed the condition of fencing near Camels Hump following the installation of the Sour Lane Flood Gate. The absence of secure fencing is allowing livestock (cows) to stray from the riverbank into adjacent fields.

Concerns were also raised about the deteriorated state of the concrete fence posts along the dyke in this area, which have aged beyond effective use.

Actions: Clerk to coordinate final arrangements for the site meeting with Lyn Peart on 19th June.

12. **TO CONSIDER POLICE MATTERS / NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:**

Cllr Trimingham expressed frustration with the ongoing strategy by City of Doncaster Council (CDC), whereby policing for Fishlake is coordinated through officers based in Askern, rather than the more locally appropriate Thorne.

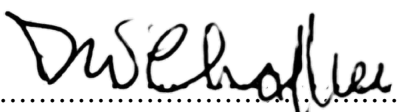
He noted, however, that support continues to be provided by the Police Community Officer (PCO) from Thorne.

Questions were raised regarding the identity of newly elected Reform Party councillors and their roles in relation to Fishlake

Action: The Clerk to identify and report the names of newly elected Reform Party councillors recently elected to the City of Doncaster Council relevant to Fishlake Parish.

13. **A.O.B:** There were no matters of AOB to discuss.

14. **TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:** as Tuesday 10th June 2025 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall, Fishlake

Signed  Chair, 10th June 2025