

Hutton Cranswick Parish Council
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held in the W.I Hall, Main Street, Cranswick
on Wednesday, 20th May, 2026 commencing at 7.00 pm.

There is a duty under the Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 Paragraph 14 for residents to hold an Annual Parish Council Meeting (annual assembly) of local government electors. It is not a parish council meeting, but if the chairman of the parish council is present, they must chair the meeting.

Present: One Parishioner. Ten Parish Councillors: Bucknall, Ingham, Kelly, Kemp, Poolford, Sibley-Calder, Mrs Simpson, Swan, Teare and Thompson (Chairman of the Parish Council). The Clerk recorded the minutes.

All were welcomed by Cllr Thompson who chaired the meeting.

AP26/001 The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 21st May, 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

AP26/002 Parish Council's Chairman's Report

The last 12 months have been a productive time for the parish council.

As a council, it has been a priority to ensure that measurable differences are made and that we are focused on the right things. There are of course, some things within our community that never change and always need to be provided, but we have spent time this year exploring how we can adapt to serve the community, as volunteers in as effective way as possible.

Good support from our local ward councillors and our MP has always been available and we thank them for this, a particular mention to Cllr Jonathan Bibb. He has attended most of our meetings and whenever there has been an issue that needs the assistance of ERYC, he has helped by actively chasing up and supporting our enquiries.

I am pleased to say that we have been able to have a full complement of 13 councillors, with Mike Kemp joining in October 2025, already participating in various aspects of village life.

We have continued to manage the villages assets and review how these are being used;

• The Village Green

- Temporary fencing has been put up through the winter months to protect the edges of the green from damage. We know it's not a long term solution and are working to come up with something better in the way of bollards etc., but all feedback/input is welcome, and it is not a quick process to install something due to services running under the green and permission required for common land.
- The trees have been maintained to ensure they cope with the winter winds!
- The village show was once again held on the green and was a fantastic event, it's great to see it being used like this.
- Churches together have used the Green to hold joint services.
- The Act of Remembrance was held at 11am at the War Memorial and I think the best attended I have seen in 10 years. The uniformed groups do the village proud each year and it was great to have representatives from both churches in attendance.
- We are extremely fortunate to have an active Village in Bloom group keeping all parts of the green looking immaculate and colourful.

- The village pond is actively maintained, it is hard to strike the right balance between a natural looking pond and too much growth and is very weather dependant, but I think we have generally struck the right balance.
- The playpark continues to be inspected and maintained, and we are currently looking at additional items to provide further opportunities for active play in the way of climbing and balancing.

- The SRA

- The SRA is run by an effective committee who have worked hard to improve the facilities available on site.
- It has become a great community hub with events like SummerFest, Firework Fiesta, the Christmas Fayre, Race night and monthly quizzes.
- The major announcement this year is that we again have village football teams. The newly formed FC Hutton Cranswick has set up with Under 6's, Under 8's and Under 10's. The people organising this have worked extremely hard to get it up and running and I wish them every success for the future.
- Other sports which are active at the SRA are Archery, Booty Camp, Cricket, Netball, Seniors 'Youth Club', Table tennis, Tennis and Yoga so we are lucky to continue to have this facility, but we must use it!

- GateHouse Lake

- Gatehouse Lake continues to be well managed by the Angling Club. Considering when I first started on the council in 2016 how poor the state of the lake was, compared to how well it is looked after now, is a credit to the club and the village. People are welcome to walk around the site, as many already do and can see the efforts of hard work for themselves.

- Farming and Garden Allotments

- The 88 acres of farming allotments have continued to be well managed with help from Dee, Atkinson and Harrison. All rents have been collected and have helped to provide funding for activities in the village such as supporting the SRA maintenance program and improvements to the playpark
- The Garden allotments have continued to be well supported and are currently full with some excellent looking plots. We are looking at how the parish council can better support the parish in provision of allotments & facilities and are communicating with allotment holders on how we can do this going forward.
- Eastern Green Link 2 is now making its mark through the farming allotments, but care has been taken with our agents to ensure this is done as sympathetically as possible and will be put back properly once completed so that we will hardly know it has been there. It will take around 3 years for this to complete though.

- Centenary Wood & Queens Canopy at the SRA

- Both areas have been actively maintained with dead trees removed and replacement trees planted where needed. We have had outside volunteer help with the Queens Canopy, also which is well on the way to being a well-established area of woodland.
- Centenary Wood has been used well by many people in the village including young cyclists! We recognise the importance of play in these areas and are looking at ways to develop the area to balance the needs of all people within the village.

With all this in mind, we have some fantastic facilities as a community and as a result the council conducted a survey and setup a stand at the Village Show. We received 145 responses in total to ask questions about what priorities the people in the village would like us to work on.

7 priorities were initially identified, and these were voted upon and the main areas of focus for a newly established Priorities Working Group has been;

- 1) A Doctors Surgery
- 2) Additional Parking within the village
- 3) An improved path to connect Cranswick to Hutton
- 4) More activities for young People

The Working Group has met a number of times and needs extra members from the community; we really want to achieve some of these things and need all the help we can get. There has been good progress made so far on various, but plenty still to do.

• In Bloom

- Congratulations must go to our In Bloom team, I don't know how they do it every year and a huge thank you to all the local businesses that support them.
- Another successful year resulted in;

Entry	Category	Award
Hutton Cranswick in Bloom	Large Village	GOLD
Hutton Cranswick Railway Station	Railway Stations and Transport Hubs	GOLD
James White Family Butcher	Small Business	SILVER GILT
Hutton Cranswick Fisheries	Small Business	SILVER GILT
SPAR Store	Small Business	SILVER GILT
Livingstones Motor Group	Medium Business	SILVER GILT
Paul Harrison Car Sales Ltd	Medium Business	SILVER
The Farmshop at Cranswick Ltd	Medium Business	SILVER
The White Horse Public House	Medium Business	SILVER GILT
Hutton Cranswick CP School	Harrogate Flower Show - Young Peoples Award	SILVER GILT

• Challenges!

- Tackling the flooding issues within the village, we still need to address serious problems down Southgate. Some progress has been made to identify where we may be able to relieve some of the problem, but we are trying to work with local landowners, Yorkshire Water and ERYC to get to the root of the problem. Inevitably it involves money and who pays, but we are confident that in time we will find a solution as there are a couple of options to explore.
- Parking and congestion continue to be an issue. Again, we are looking at ways to relieve this, but it isn't easy. Again, volunteers would be welcome to help us explore ways of dealing with this and develop the ideas we already have. We will hopefully have a proposal for the Green between the shop and school shortly, but are just waiting for ERYC approval. Again, significant cost and planning implications so these things do take time but are most definitely being seriously explored.
- Community engagement – we have a stand at the village show again this year and we're really keen to get more people involved. There will be parish council elections next year in May and it would be good if

we could actually have an election. We haven't had one since the early 90's and it is for 13 councillors. There are over 2000 people living in our village, so it would be good to talk to people and show what we do and how only a small amount of time can be of huge benefit to your local community.

- Getting ERYC to fix our potholes and footpaths and keep our general street furniture in good order!

Plans for 2026/2027

In the coming year, the councils focus is going to be on;

- Continuing to develop a village plan which grows with us.
- Progressing, tackling the flooding issues we have in certain areas of the village
- Concentrating on delivering everything we usually do along with developing how we deliver the highlighted priorities.
- Ways in which we can protect the Green such as low-level barriers and improved parking/access.
- Break ground on the creation of the improved route between Cranswick and Hutton – we are almost there!

I'd once again like to thank the clerk, Steve Sanderson for his continued dedication to the parish council. He has ensured we are always presented with the facts and that we continue to be financially very stable. He has also ensured, through rigorous preparation, that we comply with a new auditor which is always a stressful proposition, but one which has been met. It is my sad duty to report that Steve has given his notice to the council to resign after 10 years of outstanding service, and we will shortly be advertising for a new clerk. It is no overstatement to say; how lucky we have been and that he does deserve a well-earned retirement!

Finally, I'd like to thank all councillors for their contributions this last year, I think we have become more active as a council and involved in what matters to the community, and I look forward to the visible progress we can make over the next 12 months.

Some highlights of the past year have included.

- Another successful year for in Bloom. 5 local businesses gained awards with the Farm shop achieving Gold whilst also achieving Gold in the large village category.
- Our village Green has continued to host some excellent events including the Village show (again another brilliant success), Churches together services, the Act of Remembrance (which moved to its new time, was well received) and the Christmas Tree light switch on.
- The SRA Summerfest was wet but still a good turnout and well organised with new activities also being added to ongoing things to do such as Techy Tea, Bingo and successful quiz nights.
- Gatehouse Lake completed its peg replacement programme and continues to thrive under its current group of anglers.
- The old BT phone boxes in the village have both been given a new lease of life over the last couple of years, but it was this year that they have both become, once again a useful asset to the village in a book exchange – the facility has been a great success and well used.
- The craft and produce markets continue to be held at Foremens garage and have proved increasingly popular with many people attending.
- The playpark has had a new Giant Swing installed which has been well received and we have continued to maintain the park to a high standard.
- Our farming allotments continue to look well thanks to the efforts of our local farmers, and our individual allotments are well subscribed and managed with a minimal number of vacancies through the year.
- Our school celebrated it's 150-year anniversary.
- We completed a new perimeter fence at Centenary Wood and continue to invest in maintaining this excellent natural facility for everyone to enjoy.
- The 80th Anniversary of VE Day celebrations in the village.

In terms of community engagement, the parish council has spent more time trying to highlight the work we do by focussing on 'hot topics'. We have also created a Working Group that consists of councillors, village residents and local group leaders to look at what priorities the parish council should focus on over the next 3 to 5 years, with a view to creating a plan to meet the challenges our community faces and how we can best support it going forward.

Financially, we have had another successful year and maintained a strong position, thanks in no small part to the diligence of our clerk. With a minimal increase to the precept, we have still been able to support many groups in the village, meet our usual expenses and plan for projects for the future. Our reserves have remained strong and with good planning our budget continues to support this.

In the coming year, the councils' focus is on: -

- Developing a village plan which grows with us.
- Tackling the flooding issues we have in certain areas of the village
- Assessing the impact of proposed new housing developments and how we can influence this to support our villages growth for the future.
- Continuing to improve community engagement – we still have one vacancy on the council, for example.
- Ways in which we can protect the Green such as low-level barriers.
- Take some action to reduce congestion within the village at peak times.
- Address and lobby ERYC to improve our roads and footpaths.
- Move forward plans for the creation of the improved route between Cranswick and Hutton.

This year, I would like to make a few special mentions as follows -

To Gina Simpson for her continued co-ordination of the Village in Bloom group, it's easy to take it for granted that year on year we receive awards, but this wouldn't happen without the dedication of the In Bloom team and makes our village such a nice place to be, especially given the challenging year you have had Gina.

To Ian Sibley Calder for the work on the Book Exchanges, it's been taken up as a well-used facility and the time and effort gone in has been very much appreciated by the community.

To Melvyn Teare for his involvement in many groups within the village. Melvyn's previous experience and influence is being brought to bear in such groups as the Craft and Produce market, the Village Show, the Act of Remembrance, the Christmas Tree light switch on, the Bulletin, the VE Day celebrations and a few more, I'm sure. It makes a huge difference in the community for the enjoyment of many.

To Janet Foreman for the continued fundraising and use of the garage showroom for various activities and events, again another pillar of the community who has helped so many others. The village is lucky to have had use of such a facility for the many events Melvyn keeps organising!

To Fiona Bone at the SRA for organising the huge efforts clearly being made in improving the facilities available to all the village, as well as ongoing annual events and fundraising. Such an active SRA has only helped to improve the access of many different groups and facilities.

To the Churches & uniform groups, it was nice to see how well the revised Remembrance Sunday ceremony went with the parish council, St Peters Church, the Methodist and the uniform groups all working together to bring the occasion in the village in line with many other parts of the country.

To Steve Sanderson, as clerk, for ensuring our continued adherence to the right and proper way of doing things. We are very fortunate to have someone as diligent as Steve looking after the council's business in the way he does, with the contacts he has made or maintained within ERYC. On a personal note, I count myself lucky to have had the support and knowledge of Steve to help me navigate the role of Chairman.

Finally, I'd like to thank all councillors for their contributions this last year, we have a great community which goes from strength to strength, and I look forward to working with you over the next 12 months.

AP26/003 Councillors' Reports: -

(a) Councillor Mrs Simpson, Chair of Hutton Cranswick in Bloom

For Yorkshire in Bloom, in addition to our Large Village and Railway Station Entries in 2025, our Business Entries in 2 categories (Small & Medium Businesses) increased from 5 to 7 (to include Hutton Cranswick Fisheries & Livingstone Motor Group) and our Primary School also entered for the Young People's Award.

Highly successful results from a day and a half of Judging in July 2025 (2 Judges on each occasion) gained good Awards at the YIB Ceremony in Tadcaster in September (Gold for the Village & Station, Silver Gilt for the School and 3 Businesses and Silver for 4 Businesses).

Excellent publicity was achieved with a full page spread (with photos) in Driffeld & Wolds Weekly.

This is useful for attracting volunteers and generates additional support from residents, and generated interest in entering for the Community Rail Awards 2026 in the category "It's Your Station". This resulted in being shortlisted for a National Rail Awards Event in March 2026, where Yorkshire Coast Community Rail Partnership was recognised as providing the national outstanding contribution to National Community Rail Awards.

A report was publicised in edition 1059 of Rail Magazine. Our close contact via our local Rail Officer/YCCRP/Northern Rail ensures that any general Station problems are monitored. We benefit from 4 annual free Rail Passes for our members.

Financial and practical contributions from both Northern Railway and the Parish Council Precept were greatly appreciated.

Agreement reached in Spring 2026 that we should once more enter Yorkshire in Bloom (Village/Station/7 Businesses) and this overall entry plus our school entry was submitted by the closing date at the end of April. When the YIB Summer Judging date is known, this will be publicised.

Last VIB Meeting held on 14th April, 2026 – some changes in maintenance scheduled for certain areas (specifically Hutton Green) because of personal circumstances. Refreshment of area under Meggison Turnpike sign under way. Howl Lane sign (demolished by ERYC vehicle in Winter awaiting replacement, after which the surrounding planting will be refurbished).

Two new half barrels permanently planted installed behind Platform 1. Agreed with Northern Rail that new leaflet holders (for Village Bulletins) may be installed in both shelters.

VIB Meetings are held every quarter – in addition to scheduled work groups for major projects. Next meeting 16th June 2026.

(b) Councillor Ingham – Parish Council Representative for the SRA

It has been another successful year for the SRA. The committee have worked hard to improve the facilities both inside the clubhouse and outside the grounds at the SRA.

Major fund-raising successes during the past year have included a well-attended SummerFest, Firework Fiesta, Christmas Fayre, Race Night and the monthly quizzes. The SRA need to continue to raise money to cover the increasing monthly costs of maintaining the building and excellent pitches.

On the sporting front, the SRA is delighted to host the newly formed FC Hutton Cranswick football teams.

Other sports available at the SRA include:

- Archery
- Booty camp
- Cricket
- Netball
- Seniors “Youth Club”
- Table tennis
- Tennis
- Yoga

The SRA Committee is grateful for the support it receives from the Parish Council and, of course, a big thank you to all those who give of their time to support the SRA.

AP26/004 Open Forum and Questions – There were no questions.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.15 pm.