

KIRKBY OVERBLOW ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Minutes of the 130th Meeting held on Tuesday 26 May 2026
at All Saints Church, Kirkby Overblow

Present:

Parish Councillors: Mr D Yeadon, Mr J Cross, Mrs P Perry, Mrs A Whiteley, Mr S Jacobs, and Mr S Snowden.

One resident attended.

In attendance: Cllr. A Paraskos (NYC) and Mr M Richards (Clerk)

1. **Apologies for Absence** No apologies for absence were received

2. **Minutes of the 129th Annual Parish Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2025 had been agreed as a true record, and duly signed by the Chairman at the July 2025 meeting of the Council.

3. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman, David Yeadon, presented his report, for the period 2025-26. This is the 130th Annual Parish meeting. There have been no changes in personnel on the Council this year. Again, a reasonably quiet year. There have only been ten planning applications submitted which is the lowest I can remember for just one year.

After lying derelict for several years, The Star & Garter was purchased during the year by a village resident. This is excellent news for the village. Renovation work is now well under way to create four bed and breakfast units with the main ground floor area being available for village and community use.

The two village tennis courts have been in place for around thirty years. The external fencing is in very poor condition. Although the site is leased from North Yorkshire Council the Parish Council are responsible for all repairs and maintenance. Quotes to date have been in excess of £20000 to renew all the fencing. This seems excessive. It remains to be seen if any grant or lottery funding might be available. However, concern remains as to just how often the courts are used.

The precept has been increased by £500 up to £11000. We had another village litter pick in April.

On the social front the events team put on a successful pantomime "Cinderella" which was sold out over four nights, and another well attended Christmas Community lunch was held in the Church. Regular coffee mornings on the first Wednesday of each month in the Church continue to be popular.

As usual I would like to thank our North Yorkshire Councillor Andrew Paraskos for his help and advice over the year. Special thanks to our Parish Clerk, Mike Richards, for again carrying out his duties in a professional and efficient manner.

That, ladies and gentlemen, concludes my short report. Questions and suggestions are always welcome at any time.

Financial Report 2025-26

The Parish Council continues to operate within a stable financial position, due to prudent oversight and management by councillors. On reviewing the draft annual

accounts, you will see that the main items of expenditure continue to be grass verge cutting and the clerk's salary. Comparison with last year's figures reflects expected percentage increases for inflation and national pay awards. Three items to mention are 1) the decrease in the cost of grass cutting. This was due to the change in contractor, coupled with weather conditions which allowed a lower number of cuts. 2) the VAT reclaim (covering 2 years) which has significantly boosted available funds, and 3) the c.£700 increase in Miscellaneous, due to the purchase of a defibrillator for Dunkeswick. All other items of expenditure are at normal levels, comparing closely with previous years.

Happy to answer any questions.

4. Questions from residents

a) Further to the Chairman's comments in his annual report above, an additional question was raised about the history of the tennis courts. The Chairman responded that this matter is to be discussed at the Parish Council meeting which follows but as already stated, the currently estimated cost of repairs and refurbishment is in excess of £20,000 which is felt to be excessive and not affordable. The questions over the origins of the courts and whether the former Harrogate Borough Council (now NYC) had any ongoing responsibility could not be answered, but the clerk will check Council records. The actual use of the courts was also queried and the Chairman confirmed that this and all other details will be covered in the following meeting.

b) PC donation to the Village News – there was some doubt as to whether agreed donations had actually been made (although the Final Accounts statement had recorded £200 in "Donations". The clerk will check and take any necessary action.

As there were no other questions, the Chairman thanked all for their attendance and the meeting terminated at 7.40.

**The 131st Annual Parish Meeting is planned for May 2027, at All Saints Church
(Date to be confirmed)**