



WIGGINTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Old School, Mill Lane, Wigginton, York YO32 2PU

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Draft minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING for the Parish of Wigginton held on Wednesday 15 April 2026 starting at 18:15 in the Old School.

Present

Cllrs John Gates (Chairman), Crispin-Bailey, Denton, Lakey, Pepper and Roberts.

Ward Councillors: Cllr Watson

Mr Graham Elphee (Chair of Wigginton Sports & Playing Field Association), Jane Grant (Cemetery Clerk), Maryrose Macaulay (Citizen's Advice York), Ms Alysha Smith-Bednall (Haxby & Wigginton Youth and Community Association), two members of the public and the clerk, Marie Harrison.

2601 Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman of Wigginton Parish Council welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

2602 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Ward Councillor, Cllr Cuthbertson, and Wigginton Parish Councillors, Cllrs Dunlop, Laister, Leaf and Runciman.

2603 To confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th April 2025 as a true and accurate record

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, held on 16 April 2025 as a true and correct record.

26 04 To receive the annual report of the Chairman of Wigginton Parish Council for 2025/26

Chairman Cllr Gates presented the annual report for Wigginton Parish Council for 2025/26

Welcome to our Annual Parish Meeting. I am happy to present my annual report as Chair of Wigginton Parish Council. The Parish Council has remained committed to serving the best interests of the community throughout the year. We have been active in the maintenance of our village with a high standard of hedge cutting, grass cutting and tree maintenance and we continue to provide valuable community amenities such as the allotments on Mill Lane and the provision of Citizen's Advice sessions for Wigginton residents at the Old School.

The major renovations at Wigginton Pond have been completed this year with new supporting walls all around. The surrounding bank was collapsing and needed urgent replacement. It was necessary to drain the pond to complete this work and we always knew it would be a major project. Landscaping has also begun to enhance the surrounding area and promote biodiversity of the pond habitat. All residents seem to agree that this vital work on an important village asset has been completed to an excellent standard.

Following severe weather last summer, the willow tree next to the pond sustained damage that made it unstable. To keep residents safe, the tree was pollarded, removing damaged limbs and promoting stable growth for the future. We have already seen promising signs of new growth and look forward to seeing it with a full canopy within a few short years.

Wigginton Parish Council takes a pride in supporting worthwhile local causes and we have this year allocated grants totalling £11,885 to the following recipients:

Haxby and Wigginton Youth and Community Association

Wigginton Sports and Playing Fields Association to add funds for WiggyFest

The Wednesday Club

Churchfield Open Space Committee

Haxby and Wigginton United Charities

A community litter pick was organised in March and our 'Wigginton Wombles Project' was a great success. We plan to arrange other litter picking events and have arranged the assistance from community payback service through the North Yorkshire probation service. Thanks to all who pitched in to help.

The Old School is now managed under the umbrella of the Parish Council, helping to ensure it is well maintained and continues to serve the community. The building is available for hire, and residents are welcome to make bookings by

contacting the Clerk. This arrangement aims to make access straightforward while supporting the long-term use of this valued local facility.

Thanks also all residents who have attended Parish Council meetings over the past year and for their input. Residents are always welcome to attend meetings and give views on relevant issues.

WiggyFest and Carols by the Tree were again very popular events and a great success. We look forward to their successful continuation for many years to come.

Finally, a big thank you to all Wigginton Parish Councillors for their work and commitment throughout the year and thanks also to our excellent Parish Clerk for all her work and dedication throughout the year.

26 05 To receive the annual reports from Wigginton Parish Council's representatives to charities and other organisations working for the benefit of Wigginton Parish to include:-

a) Haxby and Wigginton Youth & Community Association

Alysha Smith-Bednall provided the 2025/26 report for HWYCA:

HWYCA Youth Report

HWYCA thanked Wigginton Parish Council for the ongoing support for their youth support services. Our Tuesday Creative Crafting Club for ages 8-11 at the Wigginton Old School is still popular with 32% of the attendees living in Wigginton, and attending Wigginton Primary School. 140 young people were seen last year, already 107 this year. Pleased with youth workers and the work they are providing with the young people for support with behaviour, communication and youth development.

Last year, we saw 140 young people in our core groups, which has exceeded our numbers reached the previous year, and have already seen 107 young people this current year. We are very happy with our engagement levels and numbers of young people we are reaching. We are extremely proud of the work we do and the commitment from our youth workers. They make a difference with the young people, helping with matters such as behaviour, communication needs and youth development. We are aware of how important Youth Work is in our community and are committed to carrying on the vital work we're doing with the young people in Haxby and Wigginton.

b) Churchfield Open Space Management Committee

Cllr Richard Denton presented the Churchfield Open Space Management Committee report for 2025/26:

The committee have continued to manage and improve Churchfield Open Space throughout the past 12 months. We are proud to say that for the ninth year running we have successfully gained a Green Flag Community Award for our open space in 2025. The judge commented that the committee are a really impressive group of people with a vision to make an area as attractive and usable as possible. Another application has been submitted to be judged. The judging will take place on April 21st, 2026.

The Dog Field

This continues to be a very popular place for residents to exercise their pets. Regular inspections take place and holes are filled by committee members and volunteers. In January, we had the gravel paths rolled. The copse again looked magnificent with a wonderful display of wildflowers.

Willow Garth

The wildflower seeds sown in previous years, together with the many bulbs continue to enhance this area. I am pleased to report that many of the bird boxes we put up over the past few years were occupied in 2025, and already our feathered friends are occupying them this year. The Bird seed feeder and the nut feeder are refilled regularly.

In the Play Area, maintenance work such as new swing seats and replacing damaged sections of wood has been carried out by committee members and volunteers but it must be noted that at least 4 pieces of equipment together with the wetpour surface will need replacing, quotations are being sought and fundraising will take place.

Very little ASB was reported and the equipment remained undamaged, litter picking is carried out on a regular basis by volunteers. It was intended as in previous years to lock the gate around the Halloween/bonfire night period but due to illness this did not happen, however no ASB was reported.

The Outdoor Gym

This continues to be well used. People of all ages take advantage of the equipment throughout the year.

Our Kick About Pitch

This continues to be extremely popular with all genders and all ages.

We are as always very grateful to Wigginton Parish Council for our annual grant and for the grass cutting, hedge and tree work. Fundraising continued throughout the year with a charity box at Wigginton stores raising £188 and we thank them

for their continuing support. Plant and produce sales raised over £1000, Easyfundraising.com raised £30.90, a car boot made £60 and gift aided contributions were made through Local Giving.com
The committee's determination is to keep Churchfield Open Space a high-quality, award-winning facility for our all in our local community to use and enjoy.

c) Citizen Advice York

Maryrose Macaulay (Citizen Advice York) provided the following report for 2025/26:

Citizens Advice – Annual Report for the Wigginton Parish Meeting 2026

Wigginton is a very lovely area to work in, with a great location and a building that is genuinely impressive. During my time as an adviser at The Old School, I have had the pleasure of meeting a wide range of residents seeking support, reassurance, and guidance. The atmosphere has always been welcoming, and Marie, the Parish Secretary, regularly stops by to say hello, which creates a very friendly and communicative environment.

Overview of Activity (2025–2026)

Although the drop-in service is not the busiest, it has proved to be highly effective. Many people attend appointments for more in-depth support, while others drop in simply to ask a quick question. A common phrase I hear is, "I remembered you were here, so I thought I'd ask," which shows how valuable a consistent presence is for the community.

Over the past year, I have supported residents with a wide range of issues, including:

- **Benefits advice**, which continues to be the most in-demand area, especially given the current economic climate.
- **Legal matters**, including disputes, rights, and access to further support.
- **Neighbourhood and community issues**, where people often need guidance on how to resolve concerns constructively.
- **Signposting to other organisations**, ensuring people can access specialist help when needed.
- **Quick-query support**, where residents simply need reassurance or clarification.

It is also common for people to seek advice on behalf of a family member who may be reluctant to engage with support services. Being able to offer clarity and comfort in these situations has been an important part of the role.

Range of Advice Provided

Citizens Advice covers a broad spectrum of topics, and during my time at Wigginton I have supported residents with:

- Benefits and welfare rights
- Foodbank vouchers and charitable food or fuel support
- Guidance on grants and financial assistance
- Immigration queries
- Employment law
- Marital and relationship issues
- Childcare and family matters

d) Haxby & Wigginton Joint Cemetery Committee

Jane Grant, the cemetery clerk, presented the following 2025/26 report on behalf of the Haxby & Wigginton Joint Cemetery Committee:

Here's what has happened over the past year:

- *After a period of putting the pre-purchase of graves on hold whilst draining issues were investigated, residents were allowed to reserve graves again for a period between Jan 2026 and Mar 2026. 10 full burial graves and 3 cremated remains graves were reserved during this time.*
- *The ability to reserve graves is now back on hold but this will be reviewed quarterly, depending on demand.*
- *Draining issues in the new part of the cemetery have been investigated and resolved. A main drain was located and flushed out for the first time in several years, and this has rectified the flooding which was seen last year in the newer section of the cemetery grounds.*
- *Tree works have been undertaken, following up on the tree report conducted at the end of 2024 by the City of York Council and any future works will be monitored and scheduled in where necessary.*
- *Cemetery fees and charges were reviewed and changes implemented with effect from 1st April 2026.*
- *The age limit for children's graves was changed from 12 years to 18 years.*
- *Further interest has been shown from residents to volunteer and help maintain the cemetery grounds and we hope to get this going soon now that the weather is on the turn.*
- *Maintenance has been undertaken on more sunken graves, this time in the newer section of the cemetery grounds.*
- *2 new memorial seats were donated by families*
- *To date we have had over 50 burials/interments*
- *The moles have been quite active this year but are now under control*
- *We have completed the back log of Grants/Exclusive Rights of Burial Certificates dating back to pre-April 2024*

- The cemetery grounds have been prepared for Spring and the start of the grass cutting season. All the paths have been cleared of moss and the edges done which has been a great improvement.
- The cemetery rules and regulations have been reviewed as well as the rules around the Garden of Remembrance.
- The cemetery clerk attended a training course on Gardens of Remembrance.
- Cemetery information and notices have been updated on the HTC website

Here's some plans:

- The 'friends of the cemetery' volunteer group will be set up
- New signage to be installed at both entrances
- Further tree works
- Further maintenance to sunken graves
- A tender will be advertised for a new main path from the Moor Ln entrance.
- Cemetery rules & regulations to be finalised and agreed including rules for the G.O.R.
- Headstone safety testing with staff from HTC enrolling on the training course once suitable dates and locations become available
- A review of all the memorial seats to be undertaken and any necessary maintenance prioritised.
- Car park marking with quotes being sought
- The 2x memorial seats donated by both HTC and WPC in 1998 are to be refurbished with the WPC seat relocated away from the tree.

e) Wigginton Sports & Playing Field Association

The report for 2025/26 was presented by Graham Elphee, Chairman of the Wigginton Sports & Playing Field Association.

During this year there have been changes to the officers of the Committee, namely, Mary Elphee has stepped down from her role as Treasurer being replaced by Sammy McIlroy, a trainee Accountant, and the longstanding Secretary, Janet Denton, resigned her role and Colin Ellis has taken this on. Our thanks go to the two ladies for their sterling endeavours during their term in office.

Following discussions with our committee, changes were made to the constitution to allow for changes in policy when appointing a new Vice Chair. It was decided that this role be chosen on a 2-year rotation basis with a Vice chair selected from one of the Affiliated Clubs. This year's appointee was Phil Langley, Chair of Tennis.

During the year, proposals were made for improvements and future planning by the Associated members which is set out below:-

1. *Petanque has a settled membership and is looking to increase playing time by erecting a weather protective canopy over one of their playing terrains for which planning permission will be sought in due course.*
2. *Tennis has enjoyed a good and successful year and are actively raising funds to upgrade two of the remaining courts.*
3. *Bowls remain short of playing members but remain quite actively recruiting. They will be displaying a scarecrow at the upcoming festival in the hope of attracting new members. Unfortunately, the Water rebate issue with the water suppliers remains unresolved. However, negotiations are continuing to hopefully reach a satisfactory conclusion.*
4. *Pavilion: The bookings remain at a good level and the floodlights which will illuminate their car park are currently being installed thus making it safer for users during darker evenings.*
5. *Football: Grasshoppers remain ever popular with no shortage of new recruits of both sexes which is great to see. Planning permission is being sought to install a water borehole on site to allow the pitches to be irrigated during times of drought which was suffered greatly last year. The annual Football Galas will be held on the weekend of 2nd & 3rd May and 11th & 12th July.*
6. *We have safely dismantled and cleared away the old Triathlete building thereby creating space on which it is proposed to introduce two padel courts. If planning is successful, the installation shall be overseen under the jurisdiction of the Squash Club who are also proposing alterations to the Club House building.*
7. *WiggyFest: our annual family fun Music Festival will be held on Saturday 1st August this year. Extra available funds this year have enable us to book more popular local bands who should attract a larger crowd due to their popularity. We have included many more activities for the children the cost of which will be included in the entrance fees. Hopefully these improvements will ensure a good time enjoyed by all.*

Finally, we would like to thank our Landlords, Wigginton Parish Council, for all the site maintenance arrangements and for their continued support throughout the year.

f) Wigginton Poor and Towns Land Trust

The following report was shared:

Following a period of higher expenditure in 2024/25, there has been relatively limited activity for the charity during the 2025/26 financial year, and so the charity's reserves have begun to build once again.

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The trustees met in July 2025, at which time a Chairman was elected and the financial statements for the previous year were reviewed and approved.

There has been a continued receipt of income from allotment rents and Wigginton Sports and Playing Fields Association (WSPFA) rents, which have been transferred into the charity's account over the course of the year. The charity has also received administrative support from the clerk of the Parish Council.

To raise awareness of the charity's purpose and the support it can offer, an article will again be included in the June edition of the Outlook newsletter to inform residents of its aims and how to apply for assistance.

Overall, the charity remains in a stable financial position and continues to be available to support those in need within the village.

2606 To receive resolutions from Parishioners.

At this point in the meeting any registered elector of Wigginton parish may raise any matter relevant to the business of the parish.

A resident who attended the meeting enquired whether sides are to be installed on the new bus shelter outside the Black Horse.

Cllr Watson responded by saying that the installation of these bus shelters was changed to a different contractor and this led to a delay in the installation. He stated that he would make enquiries related to the reasons for the different design and report back to the Wigginton Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 20th May 2026.

2607 To confirm the date of the next Annual Parish Meeting.

The next Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Wednesday 21 April 2027 at 18:15.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 18:51.