

Langar cum Barnstone Parish Council
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Saturday 26th April 2025 at Langar cum Barnstone
Community Hall

Present: Cllrs J Crosby, J Fry, L Whatton, S Warner & R Brooks

In attendance: Cllr T Combellack, Cllr N Clarke, , Sharon Ellis and 33 members of the public, including representatives from parish groups and organisations.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Pulford, Simpson and Brown

2. Acceptance of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th May 2024

The minutes were approved as a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.

3. The Clerk gave a financial report update

4. Chairman's Report

Langar Cum Barnstone Annual Parish Meeting
Annual Report for 2024-2025

I am pleased to present the report of Langar cum Barnstone Parish Annual Meeting for 2024/2025

Welcome everyone to our new Community Hall, which was officially opened in February 2024 and has now had just over 1 year's use since the official opening.

My name is Councillor John Crosby and I am the chair of the Langar cum Barnstone Parish Council and as such I am also the chair of the Trustee body charged with the running of our wonderful community hall.

The members of the Parish Council, who also act as trustees for the village community hall charity, are as follows:

Myself

Councillor Nicky Pulford (Vice Chair)

Councillor Jeff Fry

Councillor Trevor Simpson

Councillor James Brown

Councillor Richard Brooks

Councillor Lee Whatton

Councillor Susie Warner

The Parish Council is very ably supported and supplemented by our Parish Clerk,
Sharon Ellis, who also manages the hall bookings and the small number of staff

The Lengthsman Luke Mazers and our litter picker Justina Harper, both of whom I am sure you will see carrying out their duties around the two villages. They also assist in distributing the Parish Magazine.

The Caretaker to the hall David Mathews and Jodie Carter Davies who with the aid of a grant runs our Welcome space every Friday.

As parish councillors we exist to serve the residents and the communities of both parishes and the industrial areas around the parish.

The last twelve months have demanded a lot more time and effort from all the councillors, due to serving as the Trustee body for the community hall and as parish councillors.

Over the past twelve months the councillors have met monthly on the second Thursday of each month firstly as the trustee body to discuss the running of the hall and its finances and then at 7.30pm each month to discuss the various items in relation to the running of the parish business.

The meetings that start at 7.30pm are open to the public, and residents are welcome to attend to ask questions and comment on issues that affect them in the local community.

The meetings are held in this new hall. I'm sure you will all agree that it is now a wonderful building and a great asset to the communities of Langar cum Barnstone and the surrounding areas.

Support

We are regularly supported at our meetings by Rushcliffe Borough Councillor Tina Combellack and County Councillor Neil Clarke who are elected council officials. They feed information to parish councillors on events which are happening across the wider Rushcliffe area. Their presence also enables us to pass on any information to a higher level on matters which are of concern to residents.

Police and support Officers

The local police beat managers and community support officers make regular visits to support the Parish Council by attending the council meetings to give support and reports on problems in the area and they act on issues that are brought to their attention at the meetings.

In addition, wherever possible they hold a surgery at the Vale Market Café or the Welcome Space where any one can discuss with them any issues on a personal basis.

Parish councillors also attend or host the Rushcliffe South Police Priority setting meeting which is held quarterly and attended by councillors, police and others from all of the villages in the area.

Matters considered over past 12 months

Planning

There have been 22 planning applications in the past twelve months, where each councillor reviews the planning applications, taking into account the views of residents and, using their extensive knowledge of the area, passes on the council's thoughts to the Borough Council either accepting outright, suggesting changes they may feel appropriate, or objecting to the application.

These applications vary covering request for new buildings, extensions to existing buildings requests for industrial buildings as well as changes to the area such as vegetation and trees etc.

The Two Villages and surrounding areas

The Parish Council maintains and improves various sites around the area. The adult gym area and children's play area are monitored by the Lengthsman for safety and security and the equipment is regularly checked by professionals to ensure it is all safe to use.

We recently had some vandalism to the children's play area leaving it unsafe for use causing a temporary closure.

This has now been repaired and renewed and is open again.

We ask anyone to report any activities of an unsocial nature to help keep our areas safe.

Multi Use area

The Multi use area with the fenced-off sports area can be used for various activities such as football, basketball, tennis etc. and the skateboard bowl is well used.

The Archers use the field area on a regular basis.

There is a set of tennis equipment available but unfortunately is not currently being used.

The Parish Council would like to see the use of the area extended and have applied for some funding to add equipment to the area especially for use by older children, teenagers and adult groups and we would welcome any suggestions from potential users as to what they would like to see.

The Langar wet area has had a lot of time spent on it to improve the area and make it more accessible to residents to either sit and enjoy, or to help with improvements. We have recently added a herb garden with donations of herbs from local residents.

We have developed a Wildflower area at the Junction between the two villages, assisted by Naturescape wildflower farm.

This year we can see a lovely display of wildflowers in both areas and we hope it improves further over the years.

The Parish council also employs a subcontractor who over the season regularly cuts the grass on the two areas as well as other areas of the two villages.

Local Support

The Parish Council provides local support for the upkeep of Saint Andrew's church yard and runs a taxi voucher scheme which supports residents with travel to local health care facilities and shops,

Parish Magazine

The Signpost magazine is the Parish Council's way of informing the local community of what is going on in the area.

Once a quarter about 450 magazines are printed informing residents of local events, security and local police issues. Periodically there are specific articles about local businesses and various groups such as the Brownies and the Archers who meet in the villages.

Luckily the parish clerk works hard to attract advertisers to the magazine which helps to make the magazine self-sufficient.

Thanks to Sharon and to Councillor Pulford who edits the magazine.

We would be grateful if anyone is able to give some help in publishing the magazine as it is a big task for one person once a quarter.

We would also like to increase the use of an email information system so anyone wishing to keep informed in this way should email their address to the parish clerk.

New Community Hall

The new community hall has now been running for over a year and is used by the regular users for various different events as well as one-off rentals for children's parties, anniversaries, business meetings etc.

The hall receives a lot of praise, and the councillors work hard to ensure the building meets with all of the regulations such as fire certificates, electrical safety and more recently Hygiene standards to ensure safe use of the building.

Thanks to Jodie we have just achieved a 5-star rating for hygiene.

Since opening, the use of the hall has increased with existing groups moving back in such as Brownies, the Art Group, the Archers, The Vale Market Café, Mary Mumford dance group as well as some new additions such as a regular set of Yoga sessions for all and young person's dancing and a new craft club.

Moving Forward

From January we introduced a new contract and new charges to ensure that the hall does not become a burden on the local community, the clerk is continually seeking extra funding from various sources to assist in the running of the hall and has been successful such as the funding for the Welcome Space which has seen an number of people visiting for a chat or to try out new things or even to get help with computing. This has brought in a number of volunteers who help with the space and we are extremely grateful for this help.

We would welcome anyone with ideas as to what they would like to see the hall used for so please contact the clerk to the council.

Once again, I repeat that the parish council exists to serve the community in any way it can. We still have vacancies so anyone wishing to help should initially contact the Parish Clerk Sharon Ellis. Thank you once again for supporting us today.

John Crosby
Chairman
Presented at Annual Parish Meeting, 26th April 2025

5. Any other business, including comments and questions from individuals and local groups

Members of public made the following comments

- Expressed how disappointed they were that no work had taken place on Willow Lane for many years
- Asked if anything was being done to celebrate VE day
- Is the speed limit still being addressed on Cropwell Road
- A request was made for more voluntary members on the speed watch team
- A new mobile mast needs to be installed

6 Light refreshments and opportunity to chat to representatives of local groups

As there were no further questions, the meeting was closed at 11.40

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Light refreshments were then served.

Signed: Chairman

Date: