

LINTON ON OUSE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING MAY 2026 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Council Members

Another year has passed by and once again I would like to extend my personal thanks and gratitude to all Council members for their work and dedication throughout 2025/2026 to present. As always, I feel it is very appropriate to point out that Council members offer their time freely to carry out their duties as a Cllr within the community, much of their hard work often goes unnoticed, but I aim to highlight some of their achievements and efforts within this report. I must also mention Megan our Clerk, although the only paid member of the Parish Council her work and efforts very often go above and beyond what is expected of a clerk and her dedication to our Parish is noteworthy, thank you Megan. As of May 2026, the Parish Council had no vacancies. Thank you to Cllr Taylor, North Yorkshire County Council for his continued support to the Parish Council and the wider community. Malcolm makes every effort to attend our monthly Parish Council meetings and is always available to the PC and the wider Parish, this is very much appreciated. Within our community we have members of the public that contribute and help the PC and me. I will do my best to thank those individuals in this report, but as always, I must firstly mention Helen Kirby, who continues to support the PC and ensures the faultless Remembrance and VE day services take place each year. Without the tireless help of individuals like Helen, my role as Chair would certainly be much more challenging.

Council Staff

At the time of writing, the council employs 1 member of staff, this is a part time position: this being Clerk to the Council.

Megan Remmer has now been clerk to the Parish Council for almost 9 years. At the time of writing the PC has no staff vacancies.

Planning

2025 was a very quiet year respect of planning applications that came before the Parish Council. 2 applications for tree work with preservation orders on them came before the PC in 2025, with no objections put forward. No major planning applications came before the PC. The PC continues to monitor the development ongoing behind the Manor House B&B and is in constant dialogue with the developers.

Highways

The Parish Council still operates a vehicle activated sign (VAS) and this was installed in July 2020. The VAS continues to operate as a deterrent to speeding motorists and is moved between the two authorised locations at either end of the village boundary by Cllr Kirby on a regular basis. The information that it captures is downloaded by the PC and monitored.

In 2025 the long awaited full resurface work to the Main Street carriageway and footpaths took place. The PC and Cllr Taylor have worked for years to secure this project so it was wonderful to finally see this work take place. It was unfortunate that the building works behind the Manner House B&B and in particular the need for utilities to dig up the road in that area meant that the resurfacing works could not be completed at the west end of the village, however we have been assured that the resurfacing will be completed in that area once the utility companies have finished their work. The PC requested that road signage cleaning take place in 2025 and continues to monitor and communicate with highways regarding gully cleaning. The PC will this year ensure that the dual purpose footpath, Jauncey way, receives attention to ensure that the grass does not continue to encroach onto the path, keeping it wide as intended for the multi-use and safety of both pedestrians and cyclists in this well used 40mph zone.

Finance

At the time of writing the Council Accounts for 2025/2026 are being prepared for the auditor. The accounts show an underspend on the overall agreed budget of almost £5k (budget was £18390, spend was just under £13k). However this is slightly skewed by the timings of the swings ordered in the 25/26 financial year but invoiced in the 26/27 financial year – these cost £8k ex VAT. Actual income and expenditure were approximately £20,262 income and £12,623 expenditure. The accounts remain healthy with a reserve of £20,000 invested in a high interest deposit account which has meant it has accrued almost £800 in interest in this financial year. The precept request for the financial year 2026/27 was kept the same as the 2025/26 financial year, £18,500.

Environment

The PC continues to monitor the traffic situation within the village and the data gathered from the vehicle activated sign. Speeding within the village continues not to be a major concern. The cleanliness of the village and lack of litter is still notable, despite the increase in village population. I have very little doubt this is in the main due to volunteers such as Mr Scarbro monitoring, reporting and indeed picking. Thank you Naill.

Unfortunately, dog fouling of our streets and verges continues to be a problem and unfortunately even appears to have escalated in 2025, especially in the winter months. The PC invests heavily in waste receptacles, indeed for a village of our size, we have more than is reasonably expected, as such there is simply no excuse for dog fouling on our streets. We continue to monitor and report on the issue to the dog warden services.

The front of the village hall and play park continues to be maintained by a mix of volunteers and contractors. Mr Brama, very kindly looks after the front of the village hall, cleaning the Cairn's and plaque to ensure they always look their best for the services carried out throughout the year. Julian ensures the correct flag is always in place throughout the year and Virginia ensures the troughs in front of the hall always look fantastic and colourful, not easy given the shady area in which they are situated. We are very lucky as a community to have such a fantastic village hall that plays such an important role hosting events such as Remembrance Day, VE Day and of course the many social events in and around the hall. I would like to recognise the huge contribution that the village hall committee make to facilitate how well the hall operates for the community and of course Helen Kirby for organising the services throughout the year and Taff Morgan for always squeezing us in to his busy schedule to take the Remembrance Day service and the VE Day service. As always a huge thank you to Mike and Judith Keegan and Team Linton for organising Linton Fest again this year on the 9th May, but unfortunately the great British weather had it's say and the Fest is now re-scheduled for 13th June.

The play park continues to receive regular maintenance and as was necessary last year and this year, the PC replaces equipment that is beyond repair. A huge thank you to Cllr Dryden for all his efforts carrying out regular inspections of the park alongside our external contractors responsible for health and safety inspections. Thank you also to Cllr Drydon for his efforts in respect of park health and safety and risk assessments.

The book exchange situated in the telephone box in the centre of the village was made winter ready with solar powered lighting and continues to be very well used as does the plant swap situated at the entrance to Linton Meadows. We will soon have a bench and hard standing installed by the millstone on Jauncey Way. My thanks to Cllr Hall for all of the above.

As the RAF base continues with its close down and withdrawal procedures, the PC is extremely grateful to Sqn Ldr Hicks for his continued regular communication with the PC, if Sqn Ldr Hicks cannot make it in person to the monthly PC meeting he always sends a comprehensive written report updating us as to progress, or sometimes, frustratingly for all (including Sqn Ldr Hicks), the lack of it. The decommissioning of the radar on the base is the main reason that the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) has not yet been able to be dispose of the former RAF base. As of writing this report the PC has no further updates as to when this situation will change.

Annington Homes in 2025/26 refurbished and began to let the properties that originally sat behind the wire on the base and in 2026 as of writing this report they are well underway with refurbishment of the ex mod hoses on Linton Place.

The PC continues to work closely with and support Linton on Ouse Primary School and looks forward to once again involving the children in village events and ceremonies. As a community we are extremely lucky to have such a wonderful primary school and on behalf of the PC I would like to congratulate the school on their recent fantastic Ofsted report.

The PC continues to work closely with Team Linton, to support their efforts with events, projects and of course our famous Christmas tree. Mike, Judith and Team Linton add so much to our community. It still amazes me, not to mention children and families within the village, that they always seem to get Santa to stop over in his slay in front of the village hall every year. I also met one of his elves in December 2025, very friendly chap. The serious side to all this fun is that our community benefits so much from the fundraising, defibrillators, external electric sockets on the village hall, bouncy castles, Christmas Trees, Christmas lights..... and more.....

The coffee mornings are hosted every 3rd Saturday in the month and attendance continues to grow. My gratitude to the Village Hall Committee, the hall is such an integral part of our community and such a valued asset. The village hall Calander can be found on the PC website to enable everyone to keep any eye on what's happening and to check for gaps to enable enquires for booking the hall.

Play Area

The play area is inspected regularly by an outside contractor, Park Lane, however the PC as of 2026 will appoint a new contractor to undertake this role. Reports will continue to be submitted to the PC for consideration and review for recommendations for repair or maintenance. Cllr Dryden also carries out a weekly inspection to ensure the integrity of the equipment and reports are filed. The PC continues to carry out routine maintenance as highlighted in these reports. One such example of this work was the unfortunate condemning of the toddler swings and basket in October 2025, the wooden frame was found to be unsafe, and this equipment was removed immediately by members of the PC. It was decided that this equipment would need to be replaced by spring 2026 as it is a very well used piece of equipment. The PC decided to fund this immediately due to how well used the play area is and due to many more families moving into the village.

It is noteworthy to mention that since the addition of the new waste receptacles in 2023/24 the play park remains for the most part litter free, thank you to all our park users. Please remember, the play park remains a smoke free and dog free environment.

CJ Kirby continues to provide contractual services to the PC providing ground maintenance, grass cutting services. We continue to leave a wild area at the bottom of the park. The PC are grateful for this continued service provision.

Concluding Remarks

It has been another busy and varied year for the Parish Council, my thanks to Cllrs for their time and effort, hopefully our community is a better place for your dedication, I know from the comments I receive personally and those I read on the forum what you do is appreciated. What the Parish Council does and achieves, however, could not be done without help and support from the wider community. I have mentioned many of those people throughout this report, if I have forgotten anyone, I am sorry, but you know who you are.

We have a wonderful village and community, we are very fortunate to have a pub, often the heart of any community, sadly missing in many rural settings, thank you Kevin. It would also seem that very shortly the village shop will reopen, a tremendous asset for the community. We have the most fantastic Primary School, with dedicated teaching staff, governors and PTA (Friends) and with the village demographic changing, houses being filled with permanent residents these assets and people are so important for our community to thrive. Our Parish Council meetings take place each month on a Monday at 7pm and anyone is welcome to attend. It would be lovely to see more of our residents at these meetings, please do come along if you can and join in or just sit and observe. This report is a brief overview of the year May 2025 to May 2026, but I would encourage anyone within our community that would like more detail of the councils work to read the minutes from each Parish Council meeting posted on our website.

Marc Goddard

Chairman Linton on Ouse Parish Council