

SCORTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday 27th May 2026 in the Scorton War Memorial Institute at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Threlfall, Rafelt, Calvert, Terry, Richardson & Walker-Wilson, MOP x 1, Cllr Marsh (later)

Audio recording of meeting by PC, informed attendees, no objections.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr Marsh may be late, NY Cllr Les, PCSO Brown
2. Election of Officers. It was resolved to delay this until the next meeting when all Cllrs are in attendance.
3. Chairman's report. Scorton is still the epitome of a Yorkshire village with its unique raised green with everybody in the community bringing something to the table, whether it be the organisation, groups, club that provide events, activities or just keeping a watch out for our neighbours that bring us all together throughout the year. Sadly, we have lost a pub this year and to many this is very much the hub of village life, hope we see return soon. As a Parish Council we are custodian of much of the village infrastructure along with the well-being of the community, which I know we will continue to do as we move into the final year of our 4-year tenure, with the possibility that the next elected Council will have Bolton on Swale within its boundary. This year has seen many of the concerns which were expressed as the county moves into Unitary Authority in our case the loss of RDC were we had a much closer one to one local connection, hopefully as the new NYC beds in we can return to a closer one to one engagement with the NYC Authority. Parish Councils have been passed over more responsibility which sounded great, ie. being in control of one's own destiny, however this has not been matched with extra financial support but has come with a raft of legislation that we have to abide by. The Parish Council this year saw the financial implication of pure landscape planting by developers of inappropriate species of trees resulting in the Parish Council having to pick up the substantial cost. As Chairman 25/26 can I thank each and every Councillor for their support over the past year along with our Clerk who has navigated the Council through all the new legislation and without whom I know we would of run aground; to our newer Councillors thank-you for bringing your own special skills to the table at our Parish Council meeting, and to the hands on approach Councillors have to repairs, maintenance, and keeping our village clean and tidy resulting in praise last years by the best kept village judges. We continue and will continue to support Villagers with their concern over issues that we have no delegated authority over and are, in truth, completely out of our hands, where with do have some success. Can I conclude with words that are echoed by Councillors outside the area but know of the village, that Scorton has one of the most proactive Parish Councils around, something that members should all be very proud of.
4. Financial report
 - External audit – approval of Annual Governance Statement 25/26 & Certificate of Exemption. Cllrs resolved to approve the statement.
 - Adoption of the accounts for year ending 31st March 2026. The Bank reconciliation and year's accounts were distributed to councillors, and it was resolved to adopt the year's accounts. The combined balances at 31/3/26 = £14,012.77. Cllr Threlfall notes that the PC manages so much for so little financially, and much of this due to Cllrs carrying out working parties to resolve issues.
 - Appointment of Internal Auditor. It was resolved to retain Margaret Goldie, fee £150.

Summary of Accounts for 2025/2026

Income

Funding/donations 400
Precept 18,500
VAT refund/wayleaves 2750
Urban grass cutting 1135

Outgoing

Insurance 1200
Donations 1550
Grass cutting 8000
Broadband 650
General maintenance 2500

Projects (JG tree work, bridge sign, VE Day, Cemetery water butt) 2600

Admin (Wages, PAYE, S&D Times, PC phone, training, audits, defib replacements, service charge & subs) 13000

Park inspections 650

5. Parish documents annual review. Review completed.
6. Bolton on Swale School report. The school is full, with 104 pupils on role in 4 classes. Work to renew the school roof is now completed, and the school is grateful for the support from the local community who generously supported 'Raise the Roof'. DfE funding was also gained for the outdoor cabin for Wraparound Care which is provided by Shelly's Childminding. The Church school inspection was very positive. This inspected the school's vision 'To Love, Live & Learn Together'. The report stated *"The vision is lived out in deeply nurturing and caring relationships. This is evidenced in exceptional politeness and behaviour throughout the school."* A two-day Ofsted inspection was carried out in November 2024, the school was graded Outstanding for Behaviour & Attitudes, and Good for quality of education, personal development, leadership & management, and early years provision. The school appreciates the support of the PC in relation to making the layby parking available for school parents to use at drop off and collection times, and also improved road markings at road junctions around the school to improve safety but disappointed that Highways are unable to reduce the speed outside school to 20mph. Awaiting the adjacent development and the additional school parking places reserved for school.
7. Trustee Michael Syddall Representatives' report. Cllr Les sends a report: the committee continue to understand the complex way that this Foundation was set up. There remain some gaps in the paperwork, but the legal representatives are hopeful to bring matters to a conclusion shortly, where we can transfer the assets to the Michael Syddall school for them to use.
8. Parish Council Representatives for YLCA x 2, Scorton War Memorial Institute Committee. Cllrs Richardson & Threlfall elected as YLCA reps, Cllr Marsh arrives, SWMI rep – Cllr Terry.
Meeting closed at 7.25pm