

BAGBY AND BALK PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Forum of Bagby and Balk Parish Council Wednesday 13th May 2026

Present: Cllr McKenzie (Chair), Cllr Crick, Cllr Cook and 2 members of the public.

2026-27.01 Welcome from the Chairman

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

2026-27.02 Minutes

The minutes had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Resolved: To accept the minutes as a true reflection of the meeting.

2026-27.03 Chairman's annual report

See appendix 1

2026-27.04 Reports from local groups/organisations

None at this time.

2026-27.05 Open forum for electors

The Chair invited a resident to speak. Speaking on behalf of himself and his neighbours, he raised issues regarding the lower end of the village. These issues centred around flooding, branches of the Oak tree touching overhead cables and lack of street lighting near the playpark. Resolved: That councillors visit the area to inspect the situation.

The Annual Parish Forum ended at 7.15 pm.

Appendix 1

Chairman's Report

Bagby and Balk Parish Council 2025/26

I have been Chair of the Parish Council for the last 12 months and I'm delighted to present my Annual Report for the year.

The Parish Council meets once a month at the offices of PowerPoint and I'm grateful to Councillor Alan Cook for providing this facility free of charge. We meet to discuss issues affecting the Parish, planning applications are considered and discussed, and we have the opportunity to object or seek clarification regarding those plans. There is always a 15-minute slot at the beginning of the meeting for Public Participation when Planning concerns or any other matter can be raised.

During the year the Council agreed to support local objections to an alcohol licence at a local venue, and I attended the public meeting along with North Yorkshire's Councillor Baker to voice those concerns.

Councillor Baker is our local District Councillor and she attends as many of our meetings as she can - in her absence, she will provide a written update of any current issues affecting our area. She acts as a conduit between ourselves and North Yorkshire Council, especially if we experience any difficulties, and I'm grateful for Councillor Baker's continued support.

As you would expect, our finances are reviewed at every meeting. An Annual Governance Statement for the year 2025/26 has been prepared, an internal audit has been performed by an independent company, and the relevant documents are due to go to an external auditor following this meeting. Payments have increased during the year by nearly £23,000, primarily due to the completion of construction work at the allotment, and our bank balance has reduced to £10,000, half of which is the recently received grant from the Lottery Fund earmarked for allotment projects. To help deal with the extra expenditure across the board and associated with the allotments, we asked for an increase in the precept to £15,000.

There are several other items of expenditure in the past year that are worthy of note:

Grass cutting	£2039
Grant to the Bagby and Balk Village Society	£1157
Parish website, professional memberships and insurance	£1500
Defibrillator battery replacement	£300

You will be aware that we have two speed cameras positioned on Moor Lane and outside the playpark on Bagby Lane, and we also pay a maintenance fee for these.

I am pleased to note that the allotments are nearly complete. Over the last 18 months the allotments have developed, and the last plot is about to be adopted. As mentioned earlier, a further grant has been received from the Lottery for just over £5000 and this will complete the work, particularly on the community plot.

At the beginning of the year we were sorry to lose Councillor Clive Wrightson and our Chair Carol Musgrove. Clive had served for a number of years and I thank him for his help and dedication. Carol was Chair and Councillor for many years for which I am grateful, and she continues to assist in maintaining the defibrillator and allotments - she is an excellent source of knowledge if we have any unresolved queries, and we hope to continue to liaise with her when required.

The Parish Council consists of myself, Jean Varey who is my Vice Chair, Alan Cook, Mike Crick, and Bev Southwell. They are all volunteers and I could not have a better team who serve the Parish with dedication and good humour, and I thank them all for their support.

Finally, I would like to thank our Parish Clerk, Rosie Hedger. Rosie started 12 months ago when she took over from the previous clerk, Sandra Langthorne. Rosie is very professional and keeps the Parish Council on course from both a Financial and Governance perspective and I'm very grateful to her.

I'm very proud to be Chair of the Parish Council and I look forward to the next year with much anticipation.

Peter McKenzie

Chair of Bagby and Balk Parish Council