Woolsthorpe-by-Belvoir Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held at the Church, Woolsthorpe-by-Belvoir on Monday 19th October 2026 at 7.00pm

PRESENT
Cllr McCallion
Cllr. A. Hill
Cllr. P. Hill
Cllr. A. Ryland
Cllr. N. Ellis

Julie Gillies Clerk & RFO

GUESTS

Cllr. R. Leadenham
Cllr. R. Litchfield
39 residents

224/26 To Receive Apologies for Absence and Resolve to Accept the Reasons Given
There were no apologies for absence.

225/26 To Receive Declarations Of Pecuniary Interest In Accordance With The Localism Act 2011
Cllr. A. Hill and Cllr. P. Hill declared an interest in item 227/26 – Village Hall and Social Club.

226/26 To receive the resignation of Cllr. Price
Councillors noted and approved the resignation of Cllr. Price.
SKDC has been informed and the required notification was displayed on the noticeboard.

227/26 Village Hall and Social Club
It was reported that the village hall remained closed as it is currently uninsurable. Two quotations have been received, with a third expected by the end of the week. Once all quotations have been obtained, a village meeting will be held to consider the options and agree a way forward. An Extraordinary General Meeting may then be required.
Cllr. McCallion reported that investigations into the ownership and lease arrangements are ongoing. While records indicate that the village hall and car park land were leased in 1984 and placed under a Deed of Trust, the relevant documentation has not been located despite extensive searches. The only lease identified relates to the former village hall site and does not apply to the current building.
Correspondence found suggests that if the building ceases to operate as a village hall, it must be cleared and the land returned to the estate. No timescale has been identified, and further discussion is required regarding the implications and potential costs.
Councillors noted their gratitude to the church for offering the use of its facilities.

Public Forum – To Resolve to suspend standing orders for a maximum of 15 minutes to allow members of the public to make comment.

The meeting adjourned at 19.07
Queries were raised as to whether a planning application had been submitted for land that currently contains two caravans and has been subdivided, amid concerns that it may be intended for use as a traveller site. Residents were advised that neither the Parish Council nor SKDC planning officers were aware of any application. Councillor Leadenham agreed to make further enquiries and update the Clerk, and residents were encouraged to report any concerns to both the Parish Council and SKDC.
Concerns were also raised regarding parking associated with the children's home, with vehicles restricting pedestrian access to the pavement. It was noted that parking enforcement is a matter for Lincolnshire County

Council, and Councillor Litchfield agreed to circulate details of the reporting portal for parking concerns. Councillors Hill agreed to raise the matter at the next Village Hall Committee meeting.
It was noted that the planning application for the children's home included measures to reduce staff car use, including the provision of free bus passes, and that the Planning Inspector had previously identified limited parking as a characteristic of the area. The Chair agreed to raise the current parking concerns with the planning officer via Councillor Leadenham.
The Chair also agreed to report an overgrown hedge at a local cottage to the estate.
The meeting re-convened at 19.16
Thirty-three residents left the meeting.

228/26 To receive and approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 13th July 2026 and the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 29th July 2026.
The minutes of both meetings were approved and signed by the Chair as true and accurate records of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7.20pm to allow a representative from the Grantham Canal Society to address the Parish Council to request funding to purchase PPE for volunteers, as the number of volunteers had increased and demand could no longer be met from existing resources. A request was also made for funding of approximately £500 towards volunteer training. Councillor P. Hill advised that he would explore potential sponsorship opportunities through his employer and it was agreed that consideration of a Parish Council grant would be included on the agenda for the next meeting.
The meeting reconvened at 7.24 pm

229/26 Finance

a) To verify bank reconciliation, payments and monies received and budget to actual (appendix i and ii) and to approve invoices for payment:-
An invoice had been received for annual grazing rent charge of £100. It was explained that a small piece of land behind Cobleas had previously been rented by the Parish Council but was subsequently returned to the Estate. The Chair agreed to discuss the matter with the Estate.
Stacey Woodard – Mowing and Strimming Play Area September – £220.00 – Agreed.

b) Cllr. Litchfield advised that funding of up to £3,000 was available through the Councillor Community Grant Fund, shared between four parishes, with applications closing on 27th February 2026. An application for £300 would be submitted towards the purchase of a new defibrillator, at an estimated cost of £1,578. Mr. Able-White to be approached regarding installation of the new unit.

230/26 To receive a report from the District Councillor
Councillor Leadenham reported that Local Government Reorganisation had been paused and that SKDC elections would proceed in May 2027.
Forthcoming changes to planning legislation were reported, including proposals to reduce the ability of District Councillors to call in planning applications and decisions on smaller developments of up to nine dwellings delegated to planning officers. It was noted that larger developments refused by planning committees may be referred to the Secretary of State. Councillor Leadenham advised that a vote on the proposed constitutional changes was due to take place later that week and confirmed that he intended to vote against the proposals. It was also noted that utility providers' comments do not form part of planning decisions.
Councillor Leadenham reported that requests had been made for roads to be swept before winter to help prevent gullies becoming blocked.
Concerns remained around speeding traffic, with some roads continuing to be used for excessive speeding and anti-social driving.

231/26 To receive a report from the County Councillor
Councillor Litchfield advised that a larger community funding scheme, with approximately £300,000 available, was open for long-term projects. Applications do not need to be submitted through the Parish Council. Details had been forwarded to the Clerk.

It was advised that items reported previously were being addressed, including exposed electronics on the speed indicator device. Drainage improvement works on Belvoir Lane had been expected but no activity had yet taken place. Councillor Litchfield agreed to follow this up.
It was also noted that Parish Council elections are scheduled to take place in May 2027.

232/26 Planning

a) To receive planning applications
S26/1184 Applewell, Main Street
T1 Portugese Laurel - to reduce by 2.5m T2 Cherry – to reduce by 3.5m
PC - No comment.

b) To receive planning decisions
S26/1671 Lilac Cottage, Main Street
Remove dead tree to ground level
The tree to be replaced, species agreed with planning authority and planted as close as practical to location of original tree.

233/26 Playground

It was advised that the bark was due to be delivered imminently to the play area, the swing has been installed and new handholds fitted, and some timber replacement works remain outstanding.
It was noted that a fence post in one corner of the site requires replacement, which Cllr. P. Hill agreed to undertake.
It was reported that the works had originally been expected to be completed in August, but delivery of materials had taken longer than anticipated.
The recent RoSPA inspection had identified issues already known to the Parish Council and that were currently being addressed. Warning signs remain in place, although barrier tape has repeatedly been removed.
The current lease arrangements restricted opportunities to seek external funding. The estate will be approached regarding a longer-term lease to enable future funding applications and investment in equipment. It was acknowledged that securing the long-term future of the play area remains a priority.

234/26 Village Maintenance

Discussion took place on the purchase of a Christmas tree, similar in size to last year.
Permission to be sought from the owners of the shop to the siting of the tree and a contribution towards the electricity costs for the Christmas tree lights to be offered by the Parish Council.
ACTION: Cllr. P. Hill to obtain quotes and present to the November meeting.
ACTION: Cllr. A. Hill to ask the owners of the shop for permission to site the tree.

235/26 Community Speed Watch Group

It was noted that additional volunteers were required and two volunteers were awaiting training. Cllr. Leadenham advised that the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership had appointed a new officer and training dates were awaited.
Discussion took place on whether Speed Watch sessions should continue throughout the winter or be limited to major events. It was noted that regular monitoring provides a more accurate picture of traffic speeds and can provide useful evidence, particularly in relation to future housing developments.
It was further noted that an Archer Survey has been requested, and potential locations for the survey were discussed.
ACTION: Cllr. Leadenham to organise training for the volunteers.
ACTION: Cllr. McCallion to produce a poster to help recruit further volunteers.

236/26 VPG

A letter of resignation had been received from Sarah Turtle. Thanks were given to Sarah for her time and commitment to the VPG on behalf of the Parish Council.
A volunteer was sought to fill the Parish Council vacancy on the VPG and Cllr A. Hill was appointed to the role.
AGREED: That Cllr. A. Hill represent the Parish Council on the VPG.

237/26 Emergency Plan

ACTION: Cllr. Leadenham to source a template.

238/26 Risk Assessment

The current risk assessment to be re-circulated for discussion at the next meeting.
ACTION: Councillors to inform the Clerk of any amendments.

239/26 Correspondence received and circulated

Belvoir Ward Annual Briefing, Notification of temporary traffic regulation, Be Flood aware, Letter re pause of LGR, possible joint parish SID funding application, LGR Briefing slides, CPRE update and Council Tax early payment mistake correspondence.

240/26 Any Other Business

a) Defibrillator
   This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.
b) Cycle Race
   Concern was expressed that notification of the cycle event had not been received in advance, with event signage erected on the day and no prior notification provided to the Parish Council or Highways. Cllr. McCallion reported that an email had been sent and an apology received.
   ACTION: The Clerk to contact the organisers to inform them to ensure they notify the Parishes in the areas the races take place and to make them aware of the make up of the villages.

241/26 Dates of future meetings

16th November 2026 @ 7pm
14th December 2026 @ 7pm (budget meeting)
18th January 2027 @ 7pm
22nd March 2027 @ 7pm
24th May 2027 @ 7pm
12th July 2027 @ 7pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.10.