

**BRANDSBY CUM STEARSBY PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN CHOLMELEY HALL**

**ON TUESDAY 6 MAY 2025 AT 7.30PM**

**PRESENT:** Chairman: Ricky Pearson-Adams

**ALSO PRESENT:** Nigel Knapton (Clerk)  
7 members of the public.

**25/1 APOLOGIES & DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were apologies from Martin Waite.

**25/2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 MAY 2024**

Minutes previously circulated and these were accepted.

**25/3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None

**25/4 PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT**

Reading through the past reports I note that the same old items keep reappearing with little or no resolution - speeding through the village and extending the 30 mph limit to beyond Brandsby Hall entrances.

I'm not an expert on this but my feeling is that drivers are, on the whole, far more aware of the difficulties that can come with a prosecution.

On the 30 mph sign extension I cannot see the Highways Dept ever wanting to spend money on the change or indeed altering the Camberwell of the Crayke road outside Far Rush but as a Parish Council we should keep pressing on this.

I believe that the planning permissions were all agreed with NYC and we had no concerns that were overruled especially good news that no requests were contentious.

It was an unusual year from the point of view of only holding three meetings due to unforeseen circumstances and less councillors being present thus not being able to present a quorum, however since the agenda had little of significance to discuss an alternative date was not sought.

The Cholmley Hall continues apace to provide a great community meeting point with terrific opportunities for learning, exercise, brain power and just a chat over a drink.

Huge gratitude to all those who arrange these activities and for keeping the C. Hall accounts in great shape.

Another great sign of the community spirit being forged is the Brandsby Social WhatsApp, many thanks to all involved and all who use it.

Thank you also to Nigel, our clerk, who keeps us on the straight and narrow with his huge knowledge of council legalities and affairs concerning North Yorks Council.

I look forward to a contentious free and an easy to navigate year ahead.

Ricky Pearson-Adams

Approved ..... Chairman

## 25/5 CHOMLEY HALL ANNUAL REPORT

The Current Committee consists of;

Ruth Lyon (Chair)  
Deborah Lockett (Secretary)  
Christine Waite (Treasurer and Booking Secretary)  
Carol Pennington

The signatories to the Committee Accounts are; Christine Waite and Deborah Lockett.

**Up to April 2025 the regular users of the Hall were;**

Pilates class – Friday morning (attendance approx. 10)  
Yoga Class- Wednesday evening (attendance approx. 6)  
Table Tennis- 1st/3rd/4th Tuesday of every month in the evening (attendance 6-10)  
Crafty Mondays- 1 Monday morning a Month (attendance between 5 and 10)  
WI meetings 2nd Tuesday of each month (attendance between 15 and 40)  
Committee run Coffee mornings and Book Swap- monthly (attendance 8-20)  
Committee run Pop up Pub- once a month (attendance 20 to 50)  
Committee run Quiz night and Supper, 1 this year (attendance 58)  
Committee run BadApple Theatre production with Bar (attendance 60+)  
Committee run Macmillan Coffee Morning (attendance approx. 35) Raised £531.50  
Occasional bookings for Birthday parties  
Use by Parish Council  
Use as a Polling Station

### **Repairs and Refurbishment**

The Solar Panels have been installed and are working well. We have had substantial problems with a previous Electricity provider in having a Smart meter fitted (an essential precursor to feeding back into the grid) This took 18 months and several abortive attempts but was finally fitted in February 2025. We have now applied for the Smart Export Guarantee (SEG) which will enable us to recoup some of the costs of our Electricity use from selling excess Electricity back to the grid. This may take up to 3 months to be approved. The previous supplier Opus have sold their business to EDF and they have proved more helpful. Our contract is due for renewal in November 2025 and we will look for the best deal. It is true that although our new heating system is more efficient and better looking than our previous installation, it is costing us more in the winter months.

Downstairs was redecorated and we have installed lovely new curtains. The hearing loop was refreshed. We have had a lot of positive feedback about the improved look of the Hall.

We appointed Howells Builders to continue the building works upstairs and they did a particularly thorough job, removing infested timber panels and installing a new plaster board screen with Fire Door. They installed Roof lights upstairs and the room is now much more welcoming and light. Insulation was fitted to the Building inspectors specifications. The end of the room has been retained for storage. The downstairs storage area has been remodelled to make it easier to use and a local joiner replaced some damaged woodwork. We have been advised that some of the floor joists have

suffered from water ingress in previous years (now resolved by the installation of a new soakaway) and may require replacing when funds allow.

The fundraising pot established by the Committee is now almost all spent, so in order to finish off the decorating upstairs we have sought Community involvement. We did apply to the National Lottery Awards for All fund for £15,000 to finish off upstairs with decorating, flooring and furniture but our application was denied. We are aware that several village Halls locally have also had their applications rejected.

Sean Clegg has decorated the main upstairs Hall for us (free of charge). We also held 2 'decorating work party' weekends. Terrance (Tez) Gregg has been particularly hard working and helpful but approximately 8 villagers have joined us at various occasions to help out. The storage areas still need painting (all offers gratefully received!)

## **Communications**

Glenys Sears has stepped back from the Committee but has kindly offered to run our Communications. We advertise in the Village Link, through Facebook, WhatsApp and an email list. We are looking into the replacement of the Swing signs at each end of the village which were damaged in the high winds.

## **Future plans**

The Committee desperately needs additional members and this has not been forthcoming, however we now have a group of approximately 7 individuals from the village who have offered to assist us in running events and this has been particularly welcome.

We have just enough left in funds to put some flooring down upstairs and the stairs will be sealed or waxed. Both of these jobs need to wait until all the painting and decorating is finished.

Future plans may include an upgrade of the kitchen and toilets but that is a whole other chapter in the life of Brandsby Village Hall and will require another fundraising effort and substantial work and effort by the Committee. For the time being we are reflecting on our efforts and taking a rest and a step back.

Carol Pennington (on behalf of the Village Hall Committee)

### **25/6 PLAYGROUND ANNUAL REPORT**

The playground has had a good deal of use as is evident when the time comes to cut the grass.

The playground was inspected in October 2024. I will forward the report when I can but I've had to ask for them to resend the link as it has expired .

There is currently no committee as John Carlton-Musker has left the area and sadly Jim Schofield died last year.

I continue to pay the insurance premium and RoSPA inspection.

After strong winds, earlier in the year some of the fencing blew over which needs to be reinstalled.

Peter Jones has been cutting the grass for the last 13 years but is unable to continue doing this. It does not need doing too frequently as it is best it is not cut too short.

Thankyou  
Teresa Jones.

**25/7      RESOLUTIONS**

No resolutions had been received.

**25/8      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 8 May 2026 at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 7.37pm

Approved ..... Chairman