



**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF
SITLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 13th March 2025
St Lukes Church Hall
Overton**

PRESENT: Cllr Allott (Chair) Cllr Smith, Cllr Ingham, Cllr Fyles, Cllr Dickinson, Cllr Myers

District Councillors-Cllr Nicholls

412/0325-Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor Shaw, Cllr Fearnside, Cllr Crow
The apologies were received and accepted.
Apologies also received from the Parish Clerk, District Cllrs Harvey, Cllr Jordan

413/0325-The chairs reminder of the council's expectations for the audio or visual recording of this meeting.

Noted-Recorded for administration.

414/0325 Members Declarations of Interest

a. To receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from Councillors on agenda items. None declared.

415/0325.Public Admissions to Meetings Act (1960)

To consider, if thought fit, a resolution under the terms of the Public Admissions to Meetings Act (1960) to exclude members of the public and press from any item on the agenda which may be of a confidential nature of the business being transacted.

416/0325.Public participation

The chair reminded the meeting of the expectations of a public meeting, explaining the reason for holding the meeting.

It was noted that the meeting was booked for St Lukes church hall, due to lack of suitable venues in Netherton. The Parish Council can only use a licensed premises if it is the last resort for a meeting in the parish. **(LGA 1974 Sch 12 para (14))**

The chair asked for anyone who wished to speak to stand up and introduce themselves. A representative of Balk Lane thanked the PC for arranging this meeting and asked for clarification on the questions asked and the misinformation between the communication.

The friends of Hartley Bank representative spoke, noting attendance at the Parish Council meetings to find out more about the junior football club and their plans for the field. Noting they came away from the meeting feeling more informed, with very strict rules imposed upon the football club for use of the field and the pavilion. These finding were relayed to the

Sitlington Parish Council extra ordinary council meeting 13/03/25

Chair

Date

members of the friends of Hartley bank. It was also noted that Sunday's game was a great success which unified the whole community, bringing together the young and old in the spirit of true sportsmanship, friendship and harmony.

A resident of Netherton introduced themselves and described the many ways she works to support the community.

She had received significant hostility in the past when she approached the PC to try and establish activities at the pavilion.

417/0325.To discuss and consider the concerns raised by the residents of Balk Lane regarding the U9 football team playing on the community field and agree action.

Rumours of three matches on a Sunday were raised as a concern.

The football team confirmed there would never be three matches played on a Sunday, at the most it would be two occasionally.

A Resident of Balk Lane presented a speech, to be sent to the Parish Office with questions requiring a response.

A resident from Balk Lane noted they were happy for the football to commence as long as access to their drive was not a problem.

Explaining no information had been received about the football but they had no objections. Attending the match, it was noted that it was well organized and was enjoyed by all there.

Also, it was noted he felt uncomfortable as a Balk Lane resident at the match, as it was thought he was there to spy on the event. He wished to share his views and was looking forward to the next match and to join everyone in the pavilion for refreshments after the game.

A resident of 40 years in the parish, noting that their son had to play out of the parish and this was disappointing and sad as he had played for Netherton JFC.

A resident of Balk Lane, raised that they do not want a sports Centre, also fearful of accidents. Explained at length the issues accessing Balk Lane from their driveway. With a history in Health & Safety they wanted to ensure, risk assessments are carried out for use of the pavilion and the field.

It was noted that residents should be informed when matches are to take place.

The letter sent to the residents from the PC was raised, noting there was not an issue with the football but the PC process.

Conflict between different parties was dealt with and apologies accepted.

418/0325.To receive information regarding the pavilion to date

It was noted that the pavilion was not going to be a sports bar/centre

419/0325.To consider the parking issues raised by the residents of High Ridge and agree action.

The residents raised an incident when an ambulance could not access High Ridge in 2018. Detailing the issues faced. Quoting traffic review figures carried out.

Sitlington Parish Council extra ordinary council meeting 13/03/25

Chair

Date

It was also noted that the residents of High Ridge should have been informed of the junior football playing on Balk Lane.

A residents of High Ridge asked about the traffic concerns, and heard a rumour that if the football did not go ahead the land would be sold for houses.

The Chair reassured that this was not the case, it was sold to the cricket club in the 1970s to be a recreation /cricket field. The cricket team obtained a grant from Wakefield Council (then West Riding) to build the pavilion a condition of this grant that the PC was the fifth trustee. When the Cricket Club folded in 2019 the PC was approached to take on the land and pavilion as a community asset.

The Chair also explained clearly that whilst the area is used it will pay for itself and does not cost the parish Council and the residents of the whole parish.

420/0325.To receive an update on the Sitlington Junior football team game at Hartley Bank community field 9/3/25

The football representatives explained there was nowhere else suitable in the parish to play the junior football matches. All parking will be at Netherton Sports and social club, all vehicles attending the match will be recorded.

Parking marshals will be positioned at the entrance to Balk Lane and the Police are aware of the concerns raised by residents at High Ridge, noting it had been a problem for some time. The Police and the Parish Council will work together to support options to resolve the matter such as parking permits.

420/0325.Public /Parish Councillor Questions and Answers

A Resident of Balk Lane presented a speech, to be sent to the Parish Office with questions requiring a response.

It was highlighted that there were already extensive provisions in the village, the resident requested as a rate payer they wanted free access to the field for dog walking.

Questions asked were how often was the field to be cut?

How long do the football games last including use of pavilion.?

Noting this was not explained to the residents of Balk Lane.

It was also raised that the traffic management was only added after the residents complained. The Football team representative explained that this was not the case and these plans were presented to the Parish Council prior to the resident knowing about the football in the very early stages.

The Chair explained the stipulation that had been enforced on the Junior football team and guidelines from the FA

The Chair also apologised for 90% of the matters raised, noting the football will be reviewed at the end of the season and if residents do have any concerns to contact the Parish Council.