



Yarkhill Parish Council

**DRAFT - Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting held on
Thursday 7 May 2026 at 7.00pm
At Yarkhill Village Hall, Yarkhill, Herefordshire, HR1 3ST**

Note: The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) is separate meeting from a Parish Council meeting. It is an open public meeting at which electors may raise any matters they consider important to the parish or suggest items for future consideration by the Parish Council at its formal meetings.

The meeting is open to all parish electors, and an annual report will be presented by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

Present:
Councillor I Carr (Chairman of the Council)

Councillors:
L Alfrey, S Kirby, N Higham and J Snell

Members of the Public: 4

In attendance:
Michael Greenfield – Clerk

1. Welcome from the Chairman of the Council

The Chairman welcomed the electorate to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 22 May 2025

It was noted that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22 May 2025 were unavailable.

3. Chairman's Report

To receive the Chairman's report, including:

3.1 Review of parish activities during 2025/2026

The Chairman presented the following report:

Yarkhill Parish has been through a very difficult time in the last year.

I welcome everyone to the meeting this evening.

We now have a new Council, and are only needing one more Councillor to make a full Council.

We welcome approaches from interested parties.

I thank everyone sitting on the Council for their bravery and efforts to get here. I must also thank others that stood by us in dark times.

I welcome Michael Greenfield as our new Clerk. He is a qualified clerk, has been involved in local government for many years. Please support him.

I want to put the past behind us. We need an open, honest, transparent Council to take us forward.

We can only get there by getting to know each other, and looking for a common aim.

We need to try to build a community. How we do that is up to all of us, but there needs to be trust. We now have the support of Hereford County Council and Herefordshire Association of Local Councils (HALC).

Our Ward Councillor will continue to support us, I am sure. He is very approachable. We need to help ourselves, as others can only offer a certain amount.

Yarkhill is in a beautiful part of the world, and is at the junction of several major routes in Herefordshire. We are not remote. However we have few facilities. We have a Church, a garage and a Village Hall.

I look at surrounding parishes, some are more developed, but others are happy as they are.

We have little commercial development. We have lost our pub. We will have to work together to try to find a way forward if that is what the parish wants. Let us look outward for ideas. Let us encourage people with ideas, particularly the young.

Let us be a 'can do' parish. I look around and I see many parishes who have demonstrated ideas and talent. Learn from them.

This Council is now able to discuss things, and may that long continue. I like talking, and I know that my fellow Councillors feel the same. I want people to move here because they want to stay, and to invest in our parish.

I see future residential development in the parish.

We want this to be in the right place, and development plans should be designed to recognise that.

Should anyone want to get involved over the next few years please come and discuss this with the Council.

It is now up to us. I look forward to pleasant 2026/2027.

Thank you and good luck.

3.2 Summary of the financial position at the end of the financial year
Closing balance as at 31 March 2026 was reported as £17,845.39.

4. Voluntary and Charitable Organisations

To receive feedback and updates from local voluntary and charitable groups.

A representative of the Village Hall advised that a defibrillator had been installed through a contribution from the Yarkhill Charities Fund. Thankfully it has not been required for use.

During the summer period of 2025, training sessions were provided on the use of the defibrillator, with further sessions planned as volunteer numbers increase.

A new “Hall for Hire” sign has been installed with the aim of increasing usage of the Village Hall.

Structural works have been undertaken at the hall to prevent water ingress, address damp issues, and carry out general maintenance. Certain walls and sections of flooring have been replaced; however, ongoing maintenance requirements remain.

In July 2025, £300 was raised, with the proceeds shared with the Church.

It was reported that on 8 August 2026, a “Produce Fayre” will be held at the Village Hall. Anyone interested in exhibiting is encouraged to contact representatives of the Village Hall Committee.

The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall will take place on 14 September 2026, and all are welcome to attend.

The Village Hall Committee also has responsibility for the Old School House, which is currently let to a tenant. The committee has replaced the windows, undertaken renovations to address damp issues, and carried out further improvements to the property. A small increase in rent has been introduced to assist in covering the overall cost of these works.

The Old School House EPC is currently rated F and requires improvement to achieve an E rating. Although an exemption is currently in place, achieving the required improvement from an F to an E rating represents a significant undertaking.

A resident commented that the Yarkhill Charities account balance, as at 31 December 2024, stood at £116,351.12. The resident further commented that they were awaiting publication of the subsequent charity accounts.

A resident commented on the publication of the “Hop Parishes Newsletter”, which is to be distributed to approximately 700 local households, churches, and various community groups within the surrounding area. The newsletter will provide an opportunity for local businesses to advertise and for charitable organisations to promote their events and activities.

The resident further commented that they hoped the Council would consider providing financial support towards the publication.

5. Matters raised by Yarkhill Residents

A resident advised that a Yarkhill Community Picnic would be held on Sunday 14 June 2026 from midday in the field adjacent to Monksbury Court Cottage, Monkhide. Residents and their families were invited to attend. (Contact 07973 36 85 08 for further information).

The Chairman thanked those present for attending the meeting and for their valued contributions.

6. Date of next Annual Parish Meeting will be May 2027

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Signed:.....

Chairman of the Meeting

Date:.....