

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting for Haxby held on

Monday 27 April 2026 at 7.30pm m in the Oaken Grove Community Centre, Haxby

Present: Cllr J. Secker – in the chair
Cllr C. Cooper
Cllr C. Layfield

Also present: Alan Draper (town clerk), Jane Grant (cemetery clerk), Joanne Pratt (admin officer) and seven residents.

1. Welcome from the Chairman

It was agreed by those persons present to elect Cllr J. Secker to chair the meeting.

Cllr J. Secker welcomed everyone to the Annual Town Meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

2. To receive apologies for absence

Those present received apologies from Cllrs I Cuthbertson, C Hogg, R. Pearson, G. Stow and I. Thompson.

3. To confirm the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 28 April 2025

Those present confirmed the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 28 April 2025.

4. Report from the Chairman of Haxby Town Council, Cllr R Pearson

In the absence of the chairman of Haxby Town Council, Cllr J. Secker reported as follows:

We were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Cllr Grant Cockburn. Grant was a stalwart of the council and he stepped into the role of council chairman at a particularly difficult time for Haxby Town Council and then became the vice-chairman - a position he held until his untimely death. He was hardworking, fierce, moral, honest and kind - an advocate for the people of Haxby and Wigginton. He will be greatly missed.

In the past year the town council has undertaken the following:

- Organised Haxby Carnival
- Organised the Christmas lights switch-on (even if our new Christmas tree is still a baby).
- Supported the netball club with their fundraising for a new netball court.
- Worked with the sports clubs on plans to address the aging pavilion on Ethel Ward.
- We ordered an exciting piece of play equipment for Ethel Ward, ready for the summer.

- We managed Ethel Ward as a sports centre for the Haxby junior and senior football, netball, and running clubs. We continue to subsidise the football pitches and pavilion.
- We managed the children's play areas on Mancroft and Ethel Ward.
- We hosted the fun fair on Ethel Ward.
- We started discussions with the scouts on a new lease for the council-owned land that the scout hut is built on.
- Maintained Ethel Ward car park for the use of sports/playground users. The car park is also free to use for shoppers and others needing to park near the town centre.
- We've improved the management of the allotments on Station Road, which are now fully occupied with a waiting list.
- We've cleaned and extended the hitching rails on the village green areas that are managed by the council.
- We've continued to maintain the snickets, bus stops, benches and rubbish bins , and green spaces that are managed by the council (Some are also managed by York City Council)
- We now understand our finances, after the pandemic and loss of staff created an exceptional (and not good) situation.
- We agreed an exceptional precept increase earmarked for the pavilion replacement and play equipment.
- We part-funded the temporary post office in Oaken Grove Community Centre and councillors worked to facilitate a permanent solution.
- We've continued our grants to Oaken Grove Community Centre and Citizens Advice Bureau. We also gave a few small grants to local groups.
- We've lobbied the police over anti-social behaviour and thefts from Haxby shops.
- We've lobbied City of York Council over the state of Haxby's roads, most recently on the need for a zebra crossing and other outside Ralph Butterfield school.
- We've commented on planning applications (that are approved by City of York Council)
- We continue to jointly-manage the cemetery with Wigginton Parish Council
- Training for staff and councillors.

5. Various report(s) concerning the parish from interested parties

Jane Grant provided an update on the cemetery.

6. Parish matters raised by electors from the floor

The following matters were raised:

- Council funding for the youth service at Oaken 'Grove and the hope that it will continue.
- The ST9 housing development.
- The long term plans for Haxby.
- Organisations which receive funding/support from the council should attend the meeting.

The meeting ended at 7.55pm.

Signed **Date**

Chairman