

Holme Valley Parish Council

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Monday 23 March 2026

7pm Lesser Hall, Holmfirth Civic Hall, Huddersfield Road, HD9 3AS

Cllr Glenn Kirkby, Chair of Holme Valley Parish Council, was in the Chair.

Jen McIntosh, Clerk, clerked the meeting.

- DRAFT MINUTES -

The meeting was preceded by a Reception commencing 6.30pm. Cllr Kirkby welcomed all to the meeting at its commencement. The meeting was being recorded.

2526 01 To confirm the minutes of the previous Parish Meeting 24 March 2025 - The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 24 March 2025.

APPROVED: the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 24 March 2025, items 2425 01 to 2425 06 inclusive.

Cllr Butler (Netherthong) raised a point of order as to the nature of the meeting i.e. was this an Annual General Meeting? Cllr Butler was concerned that an AGM should be held in May and commence with the election of councillors to committees and so forth.

It was confirmed that this was the Annual *Parish* Meeting, which is distinct from the Annual *Council* Meeting scheduled to take place on Monday 18 May 2026.

2526 02 Annual Report of the Parish Council - The Parish Council was pleased to share its Annual Report 2025-26 accompanied by a video presentation courtesy of the Assistant Clerk. Approved print copies with minor errors amended would be made available following the FULL COUNCIL meeting that was scheduled to follow on when the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING concluded.

NOTED: the Annual Report 2025-26.

2526 03 Report from the Chair - The Chair, Cllr Glenn Kirkby, gave a verbal report on the activities of the Parish Council in the year April 2025 to March 2026.

Cllr Kirkby reflected that it had been a real privilege to serve as Chair over the past year. He highlighted the many positive projects the Council had been able to support, particularly through grant-giving to local festivals, youth provision, and transport initiatives, all of which continued to strengthen community life across the Valley.

He shared his enthusiasm for the planned extension at Honley Library, noting the exciting opportunities it would bring, and reported good progress on the Civic Hall, where work on the lease review and the development of a shared long-term vision was well underway. He also welcomed the improvements made to the Holmfirth Public Toilets, a small but important enhancement for residents and visitors alike.

Cllr Kirkby expressed pride in the Council's backing of wider initiatives such as the Democracy Friendly Schools initiative and the Community Governance Review. He emphasised the importance of closely monitoring the town centre works and supporting local businesses throughout the disruption, including through the creation of promotional videos showcasing Holmfirth and the wider Holme Valley.

He was pleased to welcome the new councillor for Netherthong, Cllr Rob Butler, and closed by offering sincere thanks to all councillors and staff for their hard work, commitment, and

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support throughout the year.

NOTED: report from the Chair.

- 2526 04 Parish Council Accounts** - The Responsible Finance Officer reported that the Parish Council was not quite at the end of the Council Year and therefore the submitted records were up to the end of February, with one month to come before the end of the Financial Year.

The Accounting Statements for 2025-26 showed projected final figures. The finalised accounts would be available in April, submitted to Full Council in June 2026, and available for public viewing in July 2026.

Cllr Butler expressed his concern at money spent on Holmfirth Public Toilets improvements.

The Responsible Finance Officer explained further that General Reserves had been relatively low at the end of council year 2024-5 and that the position should be more favourable for General Reserves being carried over into 2026-7.

Financial records were published to the HVPC website and the annual accounts would be published in due course.

NOTED:

*Accounting Statements 2024-25 (final), 2025-26 (projected).
Detailed Income and Expenditure by budget heading.
Cash and Investment Reconciliation.
Earmarked Reserves.*

- 2526 05 Community Organisation Updates and Feedback** - A number of community organisations gave a short overview of their work and their experience of working with or alongside the Parish Council.

These were:

- *Café 100 based at the Tech*
- *Kirklees initiative – Democracy Friendly Schools*
- *Holmfirth Children’s Book Festival*
- *Holme Valley Climate Action Partnership (HVCAP)*
- *Honley Village Community Trust.*

Each presentation was informative, heartening and inspiring and the community groups presenting were thanked for their contribution to the meeting and the community.

- 2526 06 Public Question Time**

A question was asked about the Civic which, it was noted, put on some significant events, for example, the visit of Sir Willard Whyte this Spring. Assurances were sought that the Parish Council intended that the fabric of the building should match up to the quality of the events.

The Chair referred in his response to the current development of a vision for the Civic. That project would soon be shared with the public and feedback sought.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.