

# BIGGIN PARISH COUNCIL

BIGGIN, SHERBURN IN ELMET, NORTH YORKSHIRE, LS25 6HJ

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Biggin Parish Council held at Barkston Ash Village Hall on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026.

18 members of the public present, plus Vice Chair, Cllr Earle and Clerk to the Council, Georgina Ashton.

*The meeting opened at 7.24pm*

1. Minutes of the last Annual Meeting (*Wednesday 15 May 2025*)  
**Resolution: to approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026**
2. Matters Arising  
There are no matters arising from the previous Parish meeting.
3. Report of the Chairman covering the activities of the Parish Council followed by any questions

Biggin Parish Council – Report for the Year 2025/2026

I stepped down as Chair in May 2025 and Cllr R Anderson took on the role in my stead. The majority of the time taken by the councillors and the clerk on PC business throughout May to July was in communicating with residents, other councils, MPs and Planning officers to object to the appeal by the owners of Bridge House Caravan Park against the already issued rejection of their planning application.

This culminated in mid-July with a 2 day hearing by HM Planning Inspectorate; the result was announced on the 11<sup>th</sup> August 2025 that the appeal was refused and a timescale was imposed for vacation of the site and restoration to the previous condition, both of which are due to be completed by October 2026. The Councillors also gave their attention to the planning application for the change of use of a workshop on Bridge House Park with particular support for the residents of Bridge House. This subsequently also resulted in a hearing by HM Planning Inspectorate and another successful outcome for all the hard work put in by the Councillors, residents and the Clerk.

The owner of the Blacksmiths Arms announced that she was going to close the pub and sell up in September and this triggered the opportunity for the Parish Council to instigate purchase of the pub having already established it as an asset of community value. This, once again, commenced a quite substantial amount of investigative and consultancy work by the Parish Council and much debate with residents, during which time Councillors Anderson and Hartley stepped down from the Parish Council.

I took over as Chairman and Tony Bowey was co-opted to the Council in January of this year to fill one of the vacant seats. In the meantime, a comprehensive survey of residents was undertaken, the result of which was that the Parish Council advised that purchasing the Blacksmiths Arms on behalf of the residents was not a fully supported option. We also undertook support of local objections from South Milford and other Parish Councils against planned Solar Farm in Little Fenton and the surrounding areas – which would have impacted quite substantially on Biggin, and a very large development encompassing Chapel Haddlesey, Birkin and Monk Fryston. Currently the Little Fenton project has been refused on highways grounds, and the Monk Fryston development is still to be considered. All-in-all, and once again, for a small hamlet of the size of Biggin, a very involved year!

As I have now moved out of the village, I felt it incompatible to stay on as a Councillor and resigned. In closing I would like to say how much I have enjoyed being part of this very active community for the last several years, to wish all residents and Councillors the very best for a peaceful future, hopefully with a popular and thriving Public House and finally to thank my fellow councillors, past and present for their unstinting advice, support and friendship. I reserve a special thank you for the Parish Clerk who has been a constant source of support and who works far more hours than she should have to on parish business and without whom none of the successes we have enjoyed so far would have been possible.

NEIL KAIPER-HOLMES  
IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR, BIGGIN PARISH COUNCIL  
18<sup>th</sup> May 2026

#### 4. Points for discussion raised by electors

*Meeting closed at 7.41pm*