

BELTHORN VILLAGE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 6.00 pm on Wednesday 6th August 2025
in The Dog Inn, Belthorn

Members Present: Cathryn McGurk Judith Hamilton Marianne Davies
Tina Walker Lesley Kay Paul Ellwood

	Action
<p>1. 100 PLUS CLUB – AUGUST 2025 DRAW</p> <p>The August draw was made by Judith.</p> <p>Winner of the 1st prize of £58.10, ticket number 131 – Rachel M</p> <p>Winner of the 2nd prize of £33.20, ticket number 74 – Phil C</p> <p>Winner of the 3rd prize of £24.90, ticket number 81 – Wendy E</p> <p>Winner of the 4th prize of £16.60, ticket number 101 – Janet F</p> <p>Winner of the 5th prize of £8.30, ticket number 97 – Peter L</p>	
<p>2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Owing to work commitments Richard Hollingworth submitted his apologies.</p>	
<p>3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>Interest was declared by Tina Walker in her capacity as a local councillor but there was nothing contentious on this month's agenda.</p>	
<p>4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – 2nd July 2025</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>5. MATTERS ARISING</p> <p><u>POGB</u></p> <p>Fundraising continues to help pay consultants working to help fight against the proposed development. Updates from the team are regularly provided. The latest one regarding the outline planning permission submitted some time ago which has not yet been granted. There are currently two holding objections. One from Highways England and another from Natural England.</p> <p><u>Village Pond</u> – Marianne reported on recent developments on efforts to prevent bulrushes from taking over more of the pond -</p> <p>She had cleared weeds from the left side of the water to create a path through to reach the bulrushes ready for work to start and Steve Radcliffe had kindly helped her by burning the cleared weeds;</p> <p>Steve had discussed the bulrushes problem with his neighbour who has access to heavy machinery which could dig out the silt whilst allowing the</p>	<p>Marianne /Kevin/ Paul/ Richard/ Steve Ratcliffe</p>

<p>water to pass through holes in its bucket. This would allow easier access to the bulrushes. Unfortunately Steve was currently incapacitated owing to an injury to a tendon in his arm but would arrange to start work one Sunday when he and hopefully others could help with the work.</p> <p>Meanwhile Marianne had applied to another pot of funding for money to help cover costs or employ Lancashire Wildlife Trust to use herbicides on the weekends.</p> <p><u>Recreation ground Footpath</u> - Marianne reported on her efforts to create a more substantial footpath between the recreation ground and Kendal Row. According to Lancashire County Council and Land Registry the footpath is unregistered therefore classed as unadopted Land. Just to ensure there are no future come-back or ownership problems Marianne was awaiting a response from farmers Nuttalls regarding ownership since their land abuts the footpath.</p> <p><u>Get Belthorn Active</u> – Unfortunately, after trying everything suggested, no progress could be made. Unfortunately the idea had therefore been abandoned unless anyone expresses an interest in the future.</p> <p><u>Remembrance Day Plans for 2025</u> – Lesley reported on progress on arranging some general poppies together with more expensive Unknown Soldier notices on village lampposts. She was due to meet a representative from the Oswaldtwistle branch of the Royal British Legion for advice on applying to the council for permission to use their lamp posts.</p> <p><u>Dog Inn 10th Anniversary Gift from the Village Committee</u></p> <p>This last-minute celebratory event, held in the marquee, took the form of a karaoke night with buffet supplied by Christine Yates and committee members. After a slow start it ended with a great party atmosphere with many locals and village visitors singing and taking part in dancing afterwards. Many thanks to Steve Horrocks for providing the equipment, Tina for leading the event, Paul Ellwood for mastering the technology and Kevin for acting as DJ and generally taking part.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Marianne</p> <p>Lesley</p>
<p>6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED</p> <p>Judith advised of having received a letter from our bank advising that our account would be changing to a charity account. This change was discussed under the next agenda item.</p>	
<p>7. TREASURER'S REPORT</p> <p>Judith's Treasurer's report had been circulated electronically. The bank balance over the last 12 months was reviewed which included donations totalling £65 from the bottle on the Dog Inn bar.</p> <p>It was suggested that we ask, when changing our account to a Charity Account, if our account name could be changed from Belthorn Village Hall Fund to the more appropriate Belthorn Village Committee Fund. Judith offered to ask the bank if the name could be arranged.</p>	<p>Judith</p>

<p>8. VILLAGE AUTUMN/WINTER SOCIAL EVENTS</p> <p><u>Firework Display</u> – a provisional date of Monday 3rd November was suggested for the event, to be confirmed later. A maximum of £300 from the Committee was to be donated towards fireworks.</p> <p><u>Remembrance Day Service</u> – Roger to be asked if he would once again officiate and Phil Cornell to be asked if he could take part.</p>	All
<p>9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p><u>Village Traffic situation</u></p> <p>After many months of smooth running traffic, unfortunately the part-time traffic lights on the Guide roundabout had again been changed to full time use adversely affecting the usual smooth running of traffic round the roundabout outside of normal rush hours and at week-ends. This is causing traffic chaos on the roundabout not seen since the part-time traffic lights were cancelled some time ago and re-instated after complaints</p> <p>Complaints to Blackburn Council by some villagers and Tina in her capacity as the local Hyndburn Councillor and had been ignored.</p> <p>Marianne offered to contact Blackburn with Darwen on 01254 588105 and/or National Highways on 0300 123 5000 to appeal for a reversal on behalf of regular roundabout users - or to ask for an explanation for the disruption. She would report back on conversations to Committee and villagers.</p> <p>Marianne suggested we try to arrange for the road markings (Keep Clear) be re-painted on the moors road at the bottom of the village in preparation for the major disruption which we will have to endure when road work to Guide roundabout starts.</p>	Marianne / Tina
<p>10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Owing to summer holiday absences, the next meeting, will take place a week later at 6.00 pm on Wednesday 10th September 2025 in the Dog Inn.</p>	