

BELTHORN VILLAGE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 6.00 pm on Wednesday 10th September 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 – SEPTEMBER 2025 DRAW</p> <p>The September draw was made by Judith.</p> <p>Winner of the 1st prize of £58.10, ticket number 109 – Kim H</p> <p>Winner of the 2nd prize of £33.20, ticket number 73 – Chris & Dawn</p> <p>Winner of the 3rd prize of £24.90, ticket number 5 – Tom S</p> <p>Winner of the 4th prize of £16.60, ticket number 125 – Adam E</p> <p>Winner of the 5th prize of £8.30, ticket number 16 – Peter C</p>	
<p>2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Richard Hollingworth submitted his apologies for lack of attendance owing to work commitments.</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 – 6th August 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>There are still currently two holding objections against the outline planning application. One from Highways England and another from Natural England. No further developments to report.</p> <p><u>Village Pond</u> – Marianne provided an update on her efforts to prevent bulrushes from taking over more of the pond.</p> <p>Since time is moving on without any progress on clearing the bulrushes Marianne had submitted an application for funding to cover the cost and professional application of herbicide by Lancashire Wildlife Trust. Herbicidal treatment was not the favourite option but owing to the amount of silt built up in the pond, it was the safest and easiest option. Fortunately the total amount of funding was granted by a local charity therefore allowing work would be carried out on approximately 20% of the bulrushes at a time, following receipt of a licence from the Environment Agency for permission to carry out the work.</p>	Marianne

<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. Apparently permission to carry out the works is required from Lancashire County Council's Footpaths officers. Despite forwarding all information requested, a phone call discussion is still awaited to discuss the proposal. A request to a local Reform County Councillor to chase the footpaths officers had been made and a decision awaited.</p>	Marianne
<p><u>Remembrance Day Plans for 2025</u> – Lesley reported that the ordered Unknown Soldier signs for the village lamp posts had arrived. On the dates advised by the British Royal Legion they were to be displayed on village lamp posts - to be removed on the dates they also advised.</p> <p>The Unknown Soldier signs had been funded by the Village Committee, with a number of poppies donated by the British Legion. Discussion took place around who and how they were to be tied to the lamp posts.</p>	Lesley
<p>6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED</p> <p>No correspondence had been received.</p>	
<p>7. TREASURER'S REPORT</p> <p>Judith's Treasurer's report had been finalised and circulated before the funding cheque was received and banked so that would be shown on October's report.</p>	Judith
<p>8. VILLAGE AUTUMN/WINTER SOCIAL EVENTS</p> <p><u>Remembrance Day Service</u> – Roger had agreed to once again officiate at the ceremony on the 9th November and Phil Cornell was to be asked if he could take part.</p> <p><u>Firework Display</u> – a provisional date of Monday 3rd November was suggested for the event, to be confirmed. It was agreed that a maximum of £300 from the Committee would be donated towards fireworks with the remainder donated by the Dog Inn.</p> <p><u>Christmas parties</u> – the Children's party will be held from 2.00 – 4.00 pm on Saturday 6th December and the Over 60's party will be held on Sunday 14th December from 2.00 pm onwards.</p>	
<p>9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p><u>Village Traffic situation</u></p> <p>Marianne had contacted Blackburn with Darwen Council and National Highways asking for the traffic lights on the motorway roundabout to be changed back from being on full time to the original and usual part-time as signposted on the traffic lights.</p> <p>After checking the situation Blackburn with Darwen Council amended the sequence to their original part-time operation saving everyone's time during quiet periods.</p>	

At a village meeting in the Dog Inn, arranged and chaired by Hyndburn's Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Zak Khan, Tina announced that she felt before major work starts on the M65 roundabout, the village needs a plan of action setting out when work is actually going to start, what plans are in place to control traffic from Haslingden to the motorway and how it's likely to affect Belthorn.	All
Discussion took place regarding replacement Give Way sign or a yellow box junction to allow traffic to exit Belthorn into long lines of traffic during busy periods. Agreed, Marianne to approach Blackburn with Darwen to discuss.	Marianne
<u>Syke Mill Garden</u> – Marianne suggested getting together one weekend to cut back some of the overgrown bushes at the garden. Agreed – Richard to be asked if he could help out with as many Committee members or villagers we could get together to carry out the work and Mez to be asked if we could use his company's bins again to dispose of the green waste.	All
<u>Top of the village Notice Board</u> – Cathryn knew a villager who could carry out replacing the broken door on the notice board and offered to contact him for a price.	Cathryn
<u>Memorial Garden</u> – We had been advised that Belthorn Memorial Garden was next on the list for repair work to the monument to be carried out by Hyndburn Council.	
10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - The next meeting will take at 6.00 pm on Wednesday 1st October 2025 in the Dog Inn.	