

Torver Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting

Held in the Schoolroom on Thursday 1st May 2025 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Chair: Cllr P Worth

Deputy Chair: Cllr C Bradley

Councillors: M Feather, V Kay, T Stergiakis

Clerk: C Sargeant

Members of the public: C Barr, A Hadwin, E Hadwin

Minute Number		Action By
APM1/25	Councillor Peter Worth welcomed members of the public and explained that this was an opportunity for parishioners to question people and organisations on any issues relating to the village.	
APM2/25	Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 23rd May 2024: Resolved: The Minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair P Worth and D. Chair C Bradley.	
APM3/25	Parishioners' Questions: CBa wished to be updated about the Parish Plan, and drew attention to a document, amongst those on the LDNPA website, relating to the Priestley Centre's application (7/2024/5732), that referred to a Neighbourhood Pan. The clerk to investigate. AH and WH were interested in the planning application from Hoathwaite Farm. It was agreed that as these items were included in the ordinary meeting to follow discussion would be deferred to then.	
APM4/25	The Chair's Report for the year May '24 – April '25. I would like to begin my report by expressing my sincere thanks to my fellow councillors, Chris Bradley. Val Kay, Mark Feather and our newest councillor, Tom Stergiakis. Councillors give their time freely and I am genuinely grateful to my colleagues for volunteering their time. Last year I reported that Pat Barr had stood down but was quite pleased that we had been able to maintain a	

	nearly full quota of councillors in contrast to neighbouring parish councils, some of which are barely quorate. This year Val Kay is standing down, and I thank her for her contributions over the years, particularly in dealing with the Highways Department at Westmorland and Furness Council. At our last meeting in March, we welcomed our newest councillor, Tom Stergiakis, and it is great to get a younger person on the council. During the year, we've experienced a change of clerk. Christine Adams who was already clerk at a number of other parish councils was appointed but stood down after a couple of meetings. However, we are very fortunate that Chas Sargeant has volunteered to step in as clerk this year, with the added bonus that he has chosen not to be remunerated, which appeals to the Yorkshire in me! We have had to change our internal auditor, as Gina Adams who did it last year, has said that she is retiring. Chas has secured the services of Fiona Ebbs to do the audit for use this year. The draft accounts for 2024/25 show a very healthy balance £4,740, which is an increase of £1,700 on the balance of £3,000 last year. This is largely due to the savings made from Chas providing his time free as the clerk and is about £600 higher than expected when the precept was set for 2025/26. The balance now meets para 5.33 of the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance (JPAG) 2022 Guide which recommends that for smaller parish council, such as Torver, that reserves should be close to 12 months of annual expenditure. Reducing the frequency of parish council meetings to once every 2 months appears to have bedded in satisfactorily, and we have been able to hold additional meetings as needed for planning applications, which require a relatively short turn-round for response. Parish Plan Looking at the parish plan: Pollution in watercourses – it is pleasing to note that United Utilities appear to be upgrading the plant at the Coniston wastewater treatment works. However, we remain concerned about the capacity of the Torver wastewater works. Flood risk – we don't seem to have had any repeats of previous years' flood events. Road maintenance – the drains at Scarr Lane remain an issue and it appears that at least one gully pot is blocked	
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	between the Schoolroom and Scarr Corner, which may be exacerbating the issue. Traffic issues do not seem to have been as big an issue as in previous years. Communal events – we hope to have a decent turnout for next week’s VE80 celebration which we will be marking with a Street Party on Saturday 10th May in front of the Wilsons Arms – my thanks to Fran Mayvers. Environmental issues – footpaths have been cleared by the National Park, which is great. Mark Feather refurbished the bench on Tommy Hoghouse Hill (lay-by on A5084) – thanks. The Pattinson bench on Torver Trail was damaged recently– it has now been repaired and appears to be good as new, thanks to Nigel Pattinson. The bus shelters will need repainting and a bit of re-rendering which we will do in the next couple of months. Internet connectivity – Project Gigabit - some villagers attended the workshop on implementing Hyperfast internet connectivity last year. We have already seen work on putting in the infrastructure so hopefully this will be available for all in the near future. Finally, the village noticeboard on the end of the Church House Inn is reaching the end of its useful life. An order has been placed with Haverigg Enterprises at the prison for a new free-standing noticeboard to be placed on the village green so that it is in a more central location.	
APM5/25	There followed an ordinary meeting of TPC.	

Signed

Date

Signed

Date