



Fylingdales Parish Council

CHAIR'S REPORT

2025-2026

There have been a few changes over 2025-2026.

First of all, we were very pleased to welcome Cllr Stuart Micklewright onto the Parish Council. Most residents will have seen Stuart in various guises (and disguises). He has been a key figure in Bay Town Players for longer than I have known him, but many residents will know him well as pantomime dame (Oh yes, you will). Fortunately (you might think otherwise) Stuart changes into his civvies to Parish Council meetings and has quickly become established as a very valuable member of the PC team.

We have also lost Sally, our former Clerk/RFO but have been very pleased to welcome back Jude Wakefield as a locum clerk whilst we are working through the recruitment process. Jude can only give us limited and is covering for 3 months until she takes off on holiday. We are very grateful to her for helping us out (she says it's like riding a bike). We also offer heartfelt thanks to Frankie Gibson who has stepped in magnificently to take minutes on the dates when Jude had prior commitments. Thank you, Frankie.

Sadly, the Parish Council, along with the rest of the community said a final 'Goodbye' to Dick Hoyle early in December 2025. Dick had been a longstanding and highly active Parish Councillor and he is missed.

Although we have had a few comings and goings over the year, we have still been working hard on our priorities for the year, which were focused on Communication, Community and Environment.

Communication

As planned, we have launched a new website, which is more accessible and very much more comprehensive. There are a couple of sections that are not quite ready yet, but the website has been up and running since September and feedback is that it is clear, comprehensive and easy to navigate. You may have noticed the new logo. We asked for help from Fylingdales School in designing the logo. We set up a competition for the children to present their ideas of how they would represent Fylingdales Parish and were very impressed by their responses. It was a difficult choice and eventually we chose aspects of 4 children's designs and put them into the composite logo that is now becoming familiar around the Parish. The children won book tokens for themselves and the school.

We have made some movement on communicating through social media – but still have a way to go. This remains a priority for the coming year.

There was good feedback on the newsletters. We don't have contact details for Parish residents and businesses, and we are aware that not everyone uses social media. A newsletter seems to

be the best strategy to pass the message direct to you. We have included costings for newsletters in the forthcoming budget and again will make newsletters a priority for the next year.

We have completed a major review/assessment of noticeboards in the Parish. Some are too small, one is in very poor condition – and one fell apart altogether! We are bearing in mind the need for spaces not only for the statutory parish council notices but also for the many community notices. The Parish Council has provided community noticeboards in both bus-shelters on Thorpe Lane – and also in the bus shelter on the Whitby Road near the junction with Church Lane. The Community currently shares the notice board on the wall of the Old Police Station on the Bridge near the entrance to Fisherhead. We are about to order 2 new notice boards – both to be placed at Baytown Stores (subject to Planning Permission) – one will be specifically for community use, the other will be for Parish Council notices.

Community

Over 2024-2025, we organised introductory defibrillatory training events for members of the community. We followed that up this year with 2 more in-depth CPR training events that were delivered by our local fire crew. The events were limited to 12 per session and were well attended. Over 2026-2027 we are planning at least one more introductory event to be run by Yorkshire Ambulance Service and at least one more in-depth follow-up for people to learn the lifesaving CPR techniques. Let Penny Whitesmith (cldr.p.whitesmith@fylingdalespc.org.uk) know if you'd like to express an interest.

We'd had a community picnic in mind for 2025-2026 but responded instead to the request from the Pageant Office to mark VE day. We agreed with some trepidation, especially given that the event was a month earlier than the D-Day event in 2024, so we were more concerned about the temperature and weather generally. However, despite a few last-minute hiccups, the event went well and was very well received. We managed to book a large marquee to keep the wind at bay. The Fylingdales Inn did a superb job with the fish and chips as did Barnards with the pizzas. We offer special thanks to the WI members who produced cakes and scones and helped with hot drinks, cold drinks and soup, to Bent Rigg Farm (again) for the hay bales and to Hooks House Farm (again) for providing fuel for the beacon. Andy Burbidge led the beacon ceremony, and we welcomed local bands, singers and musicians to the event as well as stalls and exhibitions.

The school children were involved again and produced those wonderful banners to advertise the event and location. Yet again, we were overwhelmed by the support and offer thanks to all the community groups and individuals who were involved.

We're still aiming for a community picnic or BBQ.

Environment

We have been working with RHBTA and NYC to make improvements in RHB. Focusing mainly on the street scene and lighting, we have done some walkabouts together to look at areas that are particularly problematic in terms of rubbish collection (and frequent dispersal by badgers). The NYC Street Scene gained a much better understanding of the problems and have begun to explore some solutions. We have met them again at what felt like the middle of the night to

assess the streetlighting. NYC trialled a couple of options for streetlighting that would retain the heritage character of the area, provide light and conform to the Dark Skies Initiative

Grants are available for owners of buildings where the lights currently installed are too harsh to be compliant with the Dark Skies Policies. If you let us know, we can put you in touch with the lighting teams and fundholders. Contact clerk@fylingdalespc.org.uk for more information.

We have continued to make improvements to the playground environments, particularly at Bank Top, where we have improved some of the fencing and approach to the playground.

We have also been working on developing an improved scheme for memorial benches. We have walked miles and miles, tracing and logging all the benches that fall with the responsibility of the PC. We reckon there are 50+. They are all now logged, numbered and assessed in terms of condition. We have finalised our policy and procedures for the sponsorship of benches and are now working through the list of people waiting for information. It's a slow process. Nobody told me you have to be a keen walker to be a Parish Councillor! Hopefully, we will be able to speed up when the new clerk is in position.

Complaint

One rather negative point in the year was a complaint, initially made against the Parish Council as a whole and then redirected against the Chair. The substance of the complaint was that the Chair had knowingly breached licensing laws at the VE day event. The allegation was unfounded and the Chair provided evidence to demonstrate that the event had been managed with full compliance with licensing legislation. The complaint was **not** upheld.

That was a low point – but it seems to me that there have been many more high points during the year, including the development of a highly active and engaged team of councillors who work together to support each other and the community.

Thank you Councillors Whitesmith, Wall, Sutterby, Micklewright, Kemp, Gibson for all your hard work and support during 2025-2026.



Cllr Carolyn Watkinson
15 April 2026

FYLINGDALES PARISH COUNCIL

PLANS 2026 -2027

PRIORITIES	STRATEGIES
1. Communication	Finalise website Improve use of social media Website admin Newsletters Install noticeboards Improve collaboration with other local community groups
2. Governance	Appointment of new Clerk/RFO Prepare for 2027 elections Ensure all policies are up to date Publish comprehensive budget
3. Community	Further defibrillator/CPR training Community Event Work with NYC/Mayor's Office to develop sustainable strategies that balance needs of the community and the local economy.
4. Environment	Maintain and enhance wildlife habitats at Kingston Field and Kings Beck