



# Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

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**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Time:** 6pm

**Venue:** The Pavilion, Tithes Lane, Tickhill, DN11 9QN

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**Present** Chair of Tickhill Town Council Cllr P Walker and Clerk to Tickhill Town Council Maxine Gravill  
**Members of the public;** 18

**The meeting commenced at 6:00pm**

## MINUTES

### **1. CHAIRS WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed everyone and explained that as part of the Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12, Part III every Parish must hold an annual Parish Meeting allowing parishioners on the electoral register the opportunity to hear what is happening in Tickhill and to raise any matters of interest that relate to the local community. This is not a meeting of Tickhill Town Council.

### **2. CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT:**

The outgoing Chair provided an overview of the Council's activities over the past year, building on the themes already shared in the published Chair's Report, available via Tickhill Today and upon request from the Clerk.

Recent events such as the VE Day celebrations were highlighted as a demonstration of community progress and successful collaboration. The lighting of the beacon, activation of new coloured lights above the Buttercross, and effective use of social media were noted as improvements in community engagement and delivery since earlier years. The event was praised as a joint effort involving various local groups and volunteers.

The Chair welcomed the presence of local community organisations, including Tickhill Together, Tickhill in Bloom, and the Speed Watch team. It was acknowledged that some invited groups had not responded, and there was hope for broader participation in future annual meetings.

The Chair reflected on the evolution and continuing responsibilities of Tickhill Town Council, noting that while it functions legally as a Parish Council with limited powers focused mainly on planning and recreation, it remains an essential voice for the town's approximately 5,500 residents.

Acknowledgement was given to the newly elected and returning Ward Councillors—Jackie Dudley and Martin Greenhalgh respectively.

Changes within the Council's administrative structure were noted. Maxine Gravill now serves as Town Clerk, Joanne as Responsible Finance Officer, and Lisa manages social media. The Council is compliant with AGAR (the legal framework for Parish Councils) and now produces monthly updated accounts in line with standards set by the new internal auditor.

Key ongoing matters were summarised:

The Pavilion is now financially stable, with its final room nearing completion for meetings and hire, although a longstanding flooring issue remains unresolved.

The transfer of land off The Paddock remains delayed due to boundary uncertainties.



The adjacent Pavilion Allotments are also still in the process of being transferred and are seen as strategically beneficial.

St Mary's Car Park remains unregistered due to an administrative oversight dating back to 1987, which prevents enforcement and commercial use of the space, though business rates continue to be paid.

Efforts to improve engagement with younger residents were recognised, with particular thanks to Cllr Sai Patel and support from Cllr Paula Thomas. While responses from some youth groups have been limited, a grassroots initiative to create a BMX track indicates potential, and the Council aims to support further development in this area.

The Neighbourhood Plan is being updated following a brief pause due to the passing of Cllr John Hoare. The updated plan now includes Design Standards and a Population Needs Survey, which highlights the town's ageing demographic. Ongoing planning law changes and disagreements with the City of Doncaster Council continue to cause delays, particularly concerning green space definitions and housing types.

Finally, the Buttercross monument was discussed. Now formally owned by the Council, it is undergoing a condition survey, with an updated insurance valuation significantly increased to £500,000. External funding will likely be needed for forthcoming repairs.

The outgoing Chair concluded by expressing thanks to colleagues and wishing them success in the work ahead. Although stepping down, they confirmed their continued interest and support for the Town.

3. **TICKHILL COMMUNITY LIBRARY** - To receive a report from Tickhill Community Library on how the grant was spent in 2024 and plans for summer activities in 2025. Report from Tickhill Community Library.

#### **A Day in the Life of Doncaster**

There are thousands of photos in the Doncaster archives depicting life in the Victorian era however as 2025 marks the quarter of the way through this century, most of today's photos are digital and don't go into the archives, so in years to come there will be no record of life today. Tickhill Community Library explained the borough-wide event encouraging residents to record everyday life in Doncaster. The aim is to create a snapshot of ordinary life for future generations — whether that's walking the dog, enjoying a meal at the pub, visiting the Yorkshire Wildlife Park, or simply attending a meeting. Photos can be as simple or personal as you like — a selfie with friends or just a shot of your surroundings if you're camera shy. A Day in the life of Doncaster is to record a pictorial slice of local life so that in 50 or 100 years future Doncasterians will be able to see what the people of our time look like and what our lives look like. Printed information was left telling residents how they can submit their photos to the Doncaster archives

#### **Grant report from Tickhill Community Library.**

Tickhill community library was granted £500 from Tickhill Town Council in 2024 for their summer reading challenge and summer activities. Tickhill community library is run entirely by volunteers. Doncaster provide books, pay for bills and essential maintenance to the building, however everything else from the decorating to providing soap and toilet roll must be funded by Tickhill community library. To do this the library volunteers hold regular coffee mornings, fashion shows and other events.



throughout the year to raise money. Doncaster library service even abolished fines which Tickhill community library had been permitted to keep so this is another loss of funding revenue. It is widely recognised that one in four children are not reading well by the age of 11, which can significantly affect their future opportunities. To help address this, The Reading Agency launched the national Summer Reading Challenge in 1999. Aimed at primary school children, the initiative encourages reading for pleasure over the summer holidays and helps support children in developing their reading skills outside of term time. Tickhill were very successful with this scheme and in 2019 a hundred children signed up to the summer reading challenge, however the service had an operational rethink and in 2021 only 24 children signed up. Following this following this the trustees of Tickhill Community library joined the national scheme once again rather than the local scheme and in that year 110 children signed up to the scheme. As part of the scheme rewards are offered at 2 at reading 2 four and six books and on completion a certificate is issued to each child there is a cost implication for this, and a breakdown of the costs can be found below.

#### **Events**

Author & illustrator Liz Million

Thursday 25 August 10 am – 11 am & 1 pm – 2 pm

Cost £310

Sam's Safaris

Monday 29 July 10 am – 11 am & 11.30 am – 12.30 pm

Wednesday 7 August 10 am – 11 am & 11.30 am – 12.30 pm

Cost £340

#### **Summer Reading Challenge Materials**

Core Materials £110

Certificates £21

Banners £22.50

Postage £50

**Total £203.50**

48 World Book Day Books £45.11

96 Mini Colouring Books £58.45

Book token £15

**Grand Total £972.06**

106 children (4 – 11 years) joined the summer reading challenge

74 children completed the challenge

Tickhill Community Library have successfully been awarded funding for their 2025 Summer reading challenge and activities.

- 4. TICKHILL IN BLOOM REPORT** - To receive a report on the flower beds in Tickhill, the work of Tickhill in Bloom and the repair works required/in progress.

The secretary of Tickhill in Bloom introduced himself and the treasurer and gave the following report. Tickhill in bloom have been in existence for over 40 years and until 2003 was part of Tickhill Town



Council. The group are responsible for over 24 flower beds and planters which are all owned by Tickhill town council. Volunteers plug and plant 1750 winter plants to save funds but 1200 summer

plants are purchased as garden ready. Tickhill in Bloom have received 2 gold awards from Doncaster in bloom and support the scarecrow festival and other events throughout the town, last year's expenditure was £1628.

Since 2003 the breakdown of the source of funds - 45% comes from individuals 15% from other groups and 40% from fund raising, last year there was £100 surplus fund. The group consists of 18 volunteers mostly elderly, and of the 11 new members recruited in 2023 7 remain, 4 have left so there is a need to recruit to continue the good work in maintaining the flower beds throughout the town.

In August 2022 Tickhill in Bloom received a £50 grant from Tickhill town council and although they haven't applied for a grant since the council are funding repairs for the flower beds. There is an increasing need to carry out risk assessments of the full activities and flower beds of tickling bloom some of the flower beds are dangerously close to the roads posing a hazard for volunteers working on them. The Secretary requested that any members of the public with experience in preparing risk assessments contact them to offer their assistance. Tickhill In Bloom continues to recognise the contribution and support of to Tickhill Town Council and hope this relationship continues into the foreseeable future.

- 5. TICKHILL TOGETHER** - To receive a report from the Tickhill Together Community Group on events activities organised throughout the year. The chair of Tickhill together gave the following report. Tickhill Together has been in existence for 20 years. In 2006, the owner of Hopscotch decided to encourage Tickhill shops to open late one evening for Christmas shoppers, and the Christmas Late-Night Shopping event was born, marking the beginning of Tickhill Together. The idea behind Tickhill Together is to promote and bring together all parts of the community. The late-night shopping event has remained an annual tradition and is a key date in the town's calendar.

Another major event is the Scarecrow Festival, usually held in May. The theme for 2024 was "Storybook," with 40 entries received. There is always the option to enter under a 'free category' for those not wishing to follow the set theme. The 2025 event is scheduled for the weekend of 17th and 18th May, with 38 entries confirmed so far.

To celebrate Yorkshire Day on 1st August, Tickhill Together will be organising a treasure hunt followed by a pub supper and quiz.

In addition to the three key annual events, Tickhill Together also aims to host an additional event each year, depending on time and resources. In 2023, this was a 1964s-themed event; in 2024, a 1960s-themed event. Although not a registered charity, Tickhill Together operates as a not-for-profit organisation.

As part of its community activities, Tickhill Together offers a flag package to local businesses for a small fee. This helps cover the cost of insurance and flag replacements when needed. The package includes Christmas trees, Union Flags, gala flags, Yorkshire Day flags, and the Remembrance flag—all installed by a contractor.

Where there are any surplus funds, Tickhill Together may choose to either supplement one of the events in order that ticket prices are lower or maintain tree and flag package prices as they did last



year. Last year they were able to donate to one of the funds for a new defibrillator and any proceeds from this year's Scarecrow festival will be donated to a community defibrillator spares fund.

Tickhill Together meets monthly on a Monday. Attendance has increased in recent years, which is welcomed as it allows the workload to be shared among more volunteers. However, there was no attendance from local businesses at the recent meetings. It would be appreciated if businesses could attend to share their thoughts and ideas with Tickhill Together.

**6. TICKHILL COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH** – To receive a report on the group's activities and aims of the scheme. The Co-ordinator of the Tickhill Community Speedwatch gave the following report.

Community Speedwatch is a national initiative where communities work with their local police to record details of speeding vehicles. Tickhill works closely with South Yorkshire Police, who provide supervision and support, including the use of a speed gun.

Registered keepers of vehicles who exceed the speed limit are contacted by letter, which explains the potential risks and consequences of their dangerous behaviour. Repeat offenders will receive a visit from local police, irrespective of where they live. Persistent offenders may face prosecution.

The Tickhill Speedwatch scheme was established in 2023 by the current Clerk to Tickhill Town Council. It was initially set up to collect data to demonstrate to Doncaster Council that road safety measures in Tickhill are necessary—such as additional pedestrian crossings, traffic calming, etc. Doncaster Council requires evidence before considering any road safety interventions, and schemes like this provide the data needed.

The Tickhill group currently has 11 registered volunteers, with an active core of about five members. Two additional volunteers have recently completed the mandatory training. Volunteers register via a dedicated website, which provides an initial short training course, including instruction on using the speed gun. The training is straightforward, and operating the speed gun takes only a couple of minutes to learn.

The locations where volunteers monitor traffic are determined by South Yorkshire Police, based on requests made by the Speedwatch group. Volunteers cannot choose their own monitoring sites. The Police assess each location for the safety of both volunteers and drivers before approving it. Tickhill currently has six authorised sites. Each location displays a permanent sign warning the motorist that they are entering a Speedwatch zone. These signs, similar in style to those used in Neighbourhood Watch schemes, are approved by the police.

The number of Speedwatch events is decided by the group and depends mainly on volunteer availability. Each session must include a minimum of three volunteers, one of whom must be a co-ordinator. Currently, only the speaker and current Clerk serve in this role. The group aims to hold one session per week, although in practice it is usually around two per month. Each session lasts approximately one hour and can only take place during daylight hours and in dry weather for safety reasons.

Drivers are logged and reported if they are travelling at 35 mph or above in a 30 mph zone, or 24 mph or above in a 20 mph zone. Each session is reported back to the police via the official website. Any incidents of abuse by motorists are also reported.

**Stats:**

Tickhill - last 6 months

10 sessions carried out (2 cancelled)

319 vehicles monitored

36 reported as exceeding the max limit

**South Yorkshire stats**

In last year;

1366 speeding offences recorded

3 vehicles reported as being driven after being declared SORN with no MOT or tax.

**7. Bowling Club** – to receive a report. Tickhill Bowling Club gave the following report.

Tickhill Bowling Club host matches for other clubs in the region most of whose members are retired. Tickhill Bowling Club has been in existence for many years and currently has 59 members, including five new members this year. Sadly, two members have passed away, one of whom was 99 years old. Many of the club's members are in their mid to late 80s.

The club is actively trying to encourage new members from the general public, including children. As part of this effort, they are running an “open house” initiative to invite people to watch the games, enjoy the social atmosphere, and have tea and coffee.

Tickhill's green is a crown green bowling surface. There is only one flat green in the local area, located at Fishlake. Crown green bowling differs from the flat green version often seen on television; it is played with two bowls and a small jack, and the green has a slight bias.

The club participates in several leagues, with matches, league fixtures, or practice evenings held on most evenings of the week. Tickhill Bowling Club runs both an 'A' and an 'B' team, each consisting of eight players, in contrast to the 10 players typically found in flat green matches.

In addition to competitive play, the club hosts a variety of social events, including fun games, competitions, and fun Sundays with prizes and medals.

The Bowling Club is fortunate to have access to excellent facilities provided by Tickhill Town Council. Previously, members only had access to changing rooms, but following recent renovations, the club now benefits from a superb self-contained room with it's own kitchen and toilet facilities. The club wishes to thank Tickhill Town Council for providing these improved amenities.

Each of the 59 members pays an annual fee of £60, which contributes to the rent of the building.

Other costs include grass cutting by Doncaster Council (£1,100 per year), insurance, affiliation fees, and general rental costs.

There have been a few maintenance issues—for example, with the sprinkler system—due to a mains fault that is tripping the switch. However, the Town Clerk has been very supportive and is working with Doncaster Council on behalf of the Bowling Club to resolve this issue as soon as possible.

Tickhill Bowling Club would like to thank the Clerk, whose parents were long-standing members and captains of the club, and who appreciates the club's importance to the local community.

**8. TO CONSIDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

A member of the History Society, and former Mayor and Chair of Tickhill Town Council, expressed their appreciation to the current Chair, Cllr P. Walker, for his work during his term of office and for laying the groundwork for several ongoing projects.

There were no other questions or comments from residents, and the meeting was declared closed at 6:57pm.



**These minutes will be presented for approval at the next Annual Parish Meeting, which will be held between 1st March and 1st June 2026. Notice will be issued to resident electors through the usual channels, and the agenda will be circulated at least seven days prior to the meeting.**