

Holmesfield Parish

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly

13 May 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Councillors Mr B Wheat, Mr B Hoare, Mrs K Marples, Mr T Marples, Mr P Reaney, Mrs S Reaney, Mr W Rosser, Mrs H Stuart-Bamford.

Also Present: Mrs E Boswell – Clerk to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer.

1 Apologies

None

2 Minutes of the meeting 12 May 2025

The Minutes of the last meeting were received.

3 Chairman's Report

Introduction

Welcome to tonight's meeting. Firstly, I would thank my fellow Parish Councillors for their assistance whose support has been invaluable to me in my year as chair this year.

I would also like to heartily thank our Clerk Liz Boswell, without whose help, guidance and experience in running the Parish finance and administration we would be floundering.

Since our last annual meeting we co-opted Anna Hutchinson and Kerry Marples on to the Parish Council to make up a full council but sadly Anna has recently resigned, and we now have one vacancy.

Newsletter and Website

The monthly newsletter continues to provide residents with timely information activities of the Parish Council and clubs and meetings and I wish to thank Nick Wheat for editing the newsletter, for Nick and Barry Wheat for managing its distribution and also to the many volunteers for delivering a copy to every household.

The website continues to be a significant data base for information and activities of the Parish as well as hosting the digital versions of the newsletter and I thank again Nick Wheat for the continuous updating of the site so that timely information is available for visitors and residents.

Police and Neighbourhood Watch

Sally Marples Shaw continues as the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and with the local PCSO Jonathan Flowers serves as a conduit for advising of issues within the community.

Crime within the Parish this last year has principally been around domestic issues.

Unfortunately, the speed watch team has not operated this year because of the lack of trained volunteers, the police have frequently requested assistance for the volunteers to assist them in educating drivers in keeping to speed limits and gathering data to assist in future policing but it does require additional trained volunteers to make this happen.

Councillors and the Parish Clerk carried out a site visit with Derbyshire County Council Highways (DCC) to discuss the issues raised by residents regarding flooding at East Hollows, car parking on the pavement at Cowley Lane, speeding and general issues regarding highways.

DCC were very positive and agreed to investigate the cause of the flooding of the road which appears to be due to restrictions within the culvert under the road, this issue has also been raised by the field owner, and that the enforcement officer would visit at selected times to stop drivers from parking on the double yellow lines adjacent to the Rutland PH.

DCC have plans for later in the year to resurface the B6054 from Owler Bar to Mickley lane and as part of those works agreed to repair damaged road signs and reflective marker posts at the entry to the 30mph signs. They also agreed to cut back the overgrowth on the footpath between Gooseberry Farm and the school.

The issue of road closures was discussed especially the issue of closing the roads on bus routes and they were asked to make diversions suitable for bus routes.

We have successfully had reinstated the bus stop adjacent to the Old Horns public House.

Village Hall

Lucy Perry who is Caretaker and Letting Officer performs both roles with enthusiasm and efficiency; and is aided by Andrea Kilner as Deputy Caretaker. The Village Hall continues to be well used by hirers old and new. During the last year we have continued with the modernising the hall with security glass to the internal vestibule door, new gutters, fascias and downpipes and general repairs to the external ground works.

Open Spaces

The Council owns several open spaces in the Parish, the Millennium Garden, the Playground, Football Field and the Memorial Garden at Millthorpe as well as assisting with ground maintenance of the Church graveyard.

The Millennium Garden paving has been repaired and cleaned and we in the process of fixing two new benches, helped by a substantial donation by the Holmesfield Markets committee.

Areas of the playground have been re-drained, and we are hoping that this will reduce the ponding adjacent to some of the play apparatus.

This year we will try and negotiate for grant funding to replace some of the ageing children's apparatus.

Osian Wilson is the Playground Inspector, submitting a weekly report on the equipment and helping to keep the playground safe.

The Council also own the post box at Millthorpe which is now managed by the Council as a book swap kiosk.

Councillors attended the Peak Park Parishes meeting and two Parish Liaison meetings hosted by North East Derbyshire DC, both heavily focussed on two important changes being put forward by the Government.

The first is the draft New Local Plan and for Holmesfield the only change from the existing local plan is the inclusion of Cartledge Grange farm as a possible residential building plot.

The second is the change in the political landscape for 2028 when it is intended that North East Derbyshire as a local district Council will cease to exist and be part of a larger Derbyshire Unitary Council.

Planning

We continue to monitor all applications received from North East Derbyshire District Council and the Peak District National Park. Most applications this year relate to domestic

extensions which have been generally non-contentious. We however still have some issues re enforcement decisions requiring action.

Charities

Parish Councillors continued to act as trustees to the four Holmesfield based charities these being The Holmesfield Amenity Trust, The Penny Acres Charity, the Relief in Need Charity and the Holmesfield Educational Foundation. All whose functions are to solely benefit the residents of Holmesfield. In addition, Councillors were on the trustee boards of the Dronfield Relief in Need Charity, which also supports residents of Holmesfield and the Dronfield Henry Fanshaw School Foundation Trust which supports activities and purchases for equipment outside of the funded curriculum

Footpaths and Bridleways

Although Footpaths and Bridleways are maintained by Derbyshire County Council, the Holmesfield Footpaths and Bridleways Society have managed improvements to the drainage of the bridleway off Cowley Lane with a grant via the council from DCC and again a generous donation from the Holmesfield Market trust.

Village Society, Holmesfield Support Group and Other Community Groups

The village is extremely well served by the volunteers running the many societies and groups to enhance life within Holmesfield. It's especially refreshing to see the many geared to the youth of Holmesfield from the family related activities of the Village society to the youth and cricket club.

4 Parish Council Accounts 2025/2026

The Clerk has prepared for audit the annual statements of account for 2025/2026; they have been assessed by the internal auditor and following Council approval will be submitted for external audit. The accounts for 2024/2025 were passed by external auditors. The income and expenditure are very much in line with our estimates, and we are satisfied that our financial position remains sound. My thanks again go the Clerk for her hard work.

5 District and County Councillors

No reports

6 Charities

There are Charities whose function is to benefit the residents of Holmesfield in different ways. These are The Holmesfield Amenity Trust, The Penny Acres Charity, the Relief in Need Charity and the Holmesfield Educational Foundation. The Council also has representation of the trusteeship of the Dronfield Relief in Need Charity.

The Penny Acres Charity which was created in the 18th century with a donation of land on Cowley Lane, which land is still owned by the Charity Commission on behalf of the Trust. It is let to a local farmer, and the rent payable is divided equally between the Relief in Need Charity and The Holmesfield Educational Foundation.

The Relief in Need Charity. This was created in the early 19th Century. It receives income from the Penny Acres Charity, and from two other charities administered by the Charity Commission. Its objects are to relieve hardship, need or distress suffered by residents of

the parish. Such needs are these days intended to be covered by the Welfare State, which did not exist in any recognisable form when the charity was founded. We do not have information on grants for 2025.

The Holmesfield Educational Foundation. Originally created in its present form in 1820 when land (now the site of Penny Acres School) was enclosed from the Common by the Enclosure Acts and awarded to the School Board. It is let to the Derbyshire County Council. The Charity's funds derive from other investments held by the Charity Commission. The income is to be used for assisting pupil's resident in Holmesfield to further their education. We do not have information for 2025.

The Dronfield Relief in Need Charity have received lots of requests for help. The aims of the charity are to help people who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress in the ancient Parish of Dronfield – the geographic area covers includes Dronfield, Holmesfield, Unstone, Barlow, Eckington and Topley. During 2025 income totalled £5262.31, expenditure and grants totalled £4079.13.

Councillor Wheat reported that the Holmesfield Amenity Trust was created in 1980 by Geoff Willan. Its objects are to promote the preservation of land and buildings of beauty or historic interest or ecological or other scientific importance in the parish. There is a self-administered capital fund of £5589.24. No grants have been made during the year.

7 Any Other Business
None.

The Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors for all their hard work in the past year.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Chairman.....