

# WISWELL PARISH COUNCIL

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## Draft – Minutes

The **Annual Parish Meeting** and Meeting of Electors was held on Wednesday 13 May 2026, at Pendleton Village Hall, commencing at 6:00 pm.

Present: Cllr Houghton (Chair), Cllr Ramsbottom & Cllr Birtwhistle.

In attendance: Clerk to the council & RFO: Nina Shaw

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Scholfield

### 2. Approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were approved and signed by the chair.

### 3. Annual Report from the chair.

The chair's Annual report is attached to these minutes.

"Cllr Houghton (Chair) has also given 12 months' notice of his intention to step down from both his councillor and chair roles."

"Recruiting potential councillors was also mentioned."

### 4. The draft Financial Statement for the year ended 31 March 2025 was presented.

The RFO updated members of the council of the financial position for the last 12 months to the end of March 2026, the report was received.

### 5. Open forum

A discussion between Cllrs took place regarding village activities:

"A resident privately raised an issue with Cllr Houghton regarding the pathway to Whalley, highlighting the need for a safer crossing between Wiswell and Whalley. A potential footpath from Wiswell Shay to either the underpass or the traffic lights at the new Whalley Manor development was suggested.

Action: Cllr Birtwhistle will follow this up."

**Meeting ended 18.35pm**

**Signed:**

**Date:**

## **Wiswell PC Chairman's Report 25 /26**

Once again, this year has been one of considerable activity and I'd like to personally thank my fellow Councillors Alan Scholfield, Mike Ramsbottom and David Birtwhistle for their unstinting support and advice. Mike Ramsbottom now co-ordinates the PC response to planning matters whilst Alan is on the Board of the joint Whalley, Barrow and Wiswell burial ground as well as being our representative on the Board of Whalley Old Grammar School. In addition, he is our point of reference for Highways and co-ordinates the work of the Lengthsmen. David provides a vital link with Ribble Valley Borough Council. We are still in need of recruiting an additional councillor for the coming financial year and those with an interest in this role should contact any of the councillors mentioned above.

Administratively we'd like to thank Mike Hill for his contributions to our PC through his time with us as Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer (RFO). Mike has been instrumental in helping us to draw down additional funding for Coronation Garden as well as deftly advising councillors on all aspects of PC work and administration. Also, thanks to Greera Norse and Anna Haines for their contributions as Clerk. We have now appointed Nina Shaw as both Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer and warmly welcome her to our Council. As well as managing a personal business commitment she is also the Clerk and RFO for Chatburn PC.

In terms of village activities, we celebrated the centenary of the unveiling of our war memorial (2025) with a well-attended Remembrance Sunday Service. Our annual Christmas Carols event was also well attended. In May 2025 we had a village walk to Jeppe Knave's grave, an historical landmark near the top of Wiswell Moor, followed by an excellent bacon sandwich and vegetable soup event courtesy of Bruce, Paul and Charlotte. Thanks also to Richard Cort who organised an Easter egg hunt for children in the village. Summer 2025 also saw the re-launching of our village library in the red telephone box. Thanks to all residents who contributed books to the library. The books were put in storage over the winter months, but the library will "re-open" in May

We secured some funding to re-etch names on our war memorial, replace the wooden trough and re-point the cobbled area in front of the memorial. As part of this bid, we have also produced a booklet giving brief biographies of the young men commemorated on the memorial. The booklet contains some fantastic old photographs of our village; A copy of the booklet will be put in the red telephone box in May. We have also donated copies to two local schools who attend our Remembrance Sunday Service (Oakhill and Barrow) along with an offer to support local history projects. A copy has also been given to Whalley Old Grammar School for their help in signposting us to relevant research material.

Finally, 2026 / 2027 will be my last year as a member of the Parish Council. Increasing family commitments means that I wish to step down from May 2027.

DRAFT