

KILSBY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held at Kilsby Village Hall on Thursday 28 May 2026

Draft Minutes

1. Welcome and Introduction

The meeting was opened and chaired by the Chairman of Kilsby Parish Council, Cllr Rob Chamberlain who welcomed residents and representatives of village organisations.

The Chairman reflected on nearly 39 years of living in Kilsby and highlighted the strong sense of community that continues to exist within the village. He thanked all residents, volunteers and organisations for their contribution to village life and encouraged attendees to remain after the meeting for refreshments and informal discussion.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in 2025 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Chairman's Report – Kilsby Parish Council

- The Chairman presented a report on the activities of the Parish Council during the previous year. Thanks were recorded to Cllr Howard Gibbs to outgoing Chair of the Council for his many years of service.

Recreation Ground and Open Spaces

- Section 106 funding had been secured for improvements to the Recreation Ground.
- A new play feature had been installed.
- Additional benches are due to be installed.
- Recreation Ground fencing has been replaced and further improvements are planned.

Highways and Traffic

- Traffic safety remains a major priority.
- The Council is investigating traffic calming options and considering commissioning a formal highways survey.
- Existing Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) have been repaired and options for additional or relocated signs are being explored.
- Meetings have been held with Kier and West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) regarding highways issues and potholes.
- Discussions are taking place with Prologis regarding HGV traffic through the village.
- Efforts continue to re-establish Community Speed Watch, although additional volunteers are required.
- Residents were urged to park considerately and avoid obstructing pavements and junctions.

Environment

- The Council continues to promote responsible dog ownership and address dog fouling issues.

Planning and Development

- The Parish Council has actively engaged with planning consultations and local development proposals.
- Councillors attended planning meetings relating to proposed housing developments affecting the village.

- Objections have been submitted regarding the Cadman Sporting (Barby Sporting Club) application, particularly concerns relating to:
 - Significant HGV movements associated with importing material to the site.
 - Doubts regarding the effectiveness of larger earth bunds in reducing noise.
- The Council continues to participate in consultations on the West Northamptonshire Local Plan and future housing allocations.

Governance and Finance

- The Council continues to meet regularly and manage its finances responsibly.
- Annual accounts, audits and governance requirements have been completed.
- A review of the Clerk's responsibilities and working hours is being undertaken.

Communications

- Residents continue to be updated through the Kilsby Kronickle, Parish Council website and social media.
- Residents were encouraged to attend Parish Council meetings and engage with local issues.

Community Support

- The Council confirmed its support for:
 - Kilsby Village Shop.
 - Kilsby Climate Action Group.
 - Numerous village organisations through grants and practical support.

The Chairman concluded by thanking residents for their continued support and engagement.

4. Presentation from Kilsby House

Representatives from Kilsby House introduced their organisation and explained the services now operating from the former care home site.

Key points included:

- Kilsby House is operated by Camino Healthcare.
- The facility provides specialist residential rehabilitation for adults with mental health needs and associated conditions.
- The service works closely with NHS commissioners and is not privately funded.
- The home has been redeveloped to provide 21 beds.
- Individual rehabilitation programmes focus on independence, recovery and community integration.
- Residents are supported through psychological therapies, life skills training and structured rehabilitation plans.

Questions from residents covered:

- Length of stay for residents.
- Community access arrangements.
- Substance misuse support.
- Opportunities for residents of Kilsby House to participate in village activities and voluntary work.

Representatives welcomed future engagement with village organisations and residents.

5. Report from West Northamptonshire Councillors

Andrew Simpson presented a report on behalf of himself and Rosie Humphreys. A copy of the report can be found on the Kilsby Parish Council website. [WNC-Councillors-Report-to-Kilsby-Annual-Parish-Meeting-28-05-26.pdf](#)

Key points included:

Planning and Development

- Continued support for Kilsby residents regarding planning applications.
- Recognition of the strong community response to previous development proposals.

- Ongoing concerns regarding speculative development due to the West Northants Council's current housing land supply position.
- Progress on the emerging West Northants Local Plan.
- Proposed housing allocation of 63 dwellings in Kilsby has been challenged.

Environment

- Efforts continue to secure greater protection for the Rainsbrook Valley landscape.
- Support remains for local environmental and climate initiatives.

Highways

- Highways maintenance and potholes continue to be major issues.
- Concerns remain regarding contractor performance and quality control.

Active Travel

- Work is underway with neighbouring communities and organisations to improve walking and cycling links between villages and surrounding areas.

Questions were asked regarding:

- Timescales for adoption of the Local Plan.
- Housing allocations in rural villages.
- Waste collection arrangements.
- Garden waste charges.

The Parish Council recorded its thanks to Andrew Simpson and Rosie Humphreys for their support during the year.

6. Neighbourhood Watch Report/PLR

Councillor Jenna Palmer – Police Liaison Rep - presented an update on Neighbourhood Watch and PLR activities.

Key points included:

- The NHW scheme is being revitalised with a greater focus on community cohesion and reducing social isolation.
- New Neighbourhood Watch signs have been purchased and will be installed around the village.
- Residents were encouraged to subscribe to Northamptonshire Talking.
- Plans are being developed for future community meetings.
- Support continues for anti-dog fouling campaigns.
- A Winter Helper Scheme is being explored to support vulnerable residents.
- Neighbourhood Watch supports the re-establishment of Community Speed Watch.
- A Deputy Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator is being sought.

Residents were encouraged to join the scheme and become involved in future initiatives.

7. Police Report

Police Constable Johnny (standing in on behalf of the local neighbourhood policing team) presented a report.

Key points included:

- Introduction of the local policing team:
 - Sgt Lewis Judd
 - PC Josh Tyers
 - PC Hannah Cotton
 - PCSO Craig Egdell
 - PCSO Tara Cook-Sammy
- Continued partnership working between the police, Parish Council and Neighbourhood Watch.
- Joint walkabouts and speed enforcement activities have been undertaken.
- Warning letters have been issued where inconsiderate parking has been identified.

- The most recent reported crime was the theft of a red BMW.

Questions were raised regarding:

- Fly-tipping on Nortoft Lane.
- Road safety concerns at the crossroads near Nortoft Lane.
- The powers available to PCSOs.

PC Johnny to feedback issues of concern. The meeting recorded its thanks to PC Johnny for attending at short notice.

8. Kilsby Cemetery Report

A report was presented by Cllr Tony Kerr regarding the management and maintenance of Kilsby Cemetery. Noted that after many years of management by Mr Phil Martin, the PC Clerk is now managing the cemetery in conjunction with Cllr Kerr.

Key points included:

- The cemetery continues to be maintained to a high standard and remains an important and valued facility for the parish.
- Routine grounds maintenance, grass cutting and general upkeep have been carried out throughout the year.
- Memorial safety inspections continue to be undertaken to ensure the cemetery remains safe for visitors.
- Work has been undertaken to maintain the appearance and accessibility of the site while preserving its peaceful character.
- The cemetery remains financially sustainable, with burial fees contributing towards ongoing maintenance costs.
- Thanks were expressed to contractors, volunteers and Parish Council staff involved in the management and upkeep of the cemetery.
- Residents were reminded of the importance of complying with cemetery regulations regarding memorials, planting and the placement of items on graves.

The meeting recognised the importance of the cemetery as a community asset and thanked all those involved in its ongoing management and care. Records for the cemetery have been digitised and can now be found on the PC website [Cemetery – Kilsby Parish Council](#), along with information regarding the cemetery and burials procedure.

9. Reports from Village Organisations

Kilsby Garden and Produce Association

A report was presented on behalf of the Association.

Highlights included:

- Membership currently stands at 93 households.
- Members benefit from discounts at local nurseries and bulk purchasing schemes.
- Successful events held during the year included:
 - Gardeners' Party
 - Annual Plant Sale
 - Village Show
 - Summer outings
- The Association received Parish Council grant funding towards the repair and maintenance of village planters.
- Open Gardens will be held on 21 June 2026.
- The annual Village Show will take place later in the year.
- Additional committee members would be welcomed.
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Kilsby Village Hall

A report was presented on behalf of the Village Hall Committee.

Key points included:

- The Village Hall continues to be a well-used and valued community facility hosting a wide range of clubs, societies and events throughout the year.
- The Committee has continued to invest in the maintenance and improvement of the building to ensure it remains fit for purpose for future generations.
- Hall bookings remain strong and the facility continues to provide an important hub for village activities.
- The Committee thanked volunteers and regular user groups for their continued support.
- The Village Hall remains financially stable but ongoing maintenance and utility costs continue to present challenges.

Kilsby Climate and Nature Action Group

Representatives provided an update on the group's activities during the year.

Key points included:

- The group continues to promote environmental awareness and practical projects within the village.
- Activities have included community litter picking, biodiversity initiatives and support for tree and wildflower planting projects.
- The group has worked closely with the Youth Club to involve younger residents in environmental projects.
- Members continue to engage with residents on issues including climate change, sustainability and nature recovery.
- The group thanked volunteers and residents who have supported events and projects throughout the year.

Kilsby Youth Club

Kilsbys Youth Worker, provided an update on the Youth Club.

Key points included:

- The focus has been on community engagement and providing a safe, welcoming space for young people.
- Attendance has increased significantly, growing from around 3–4 attendees per session to regularly attracting 12–14 young people.
- The club has worked alongside the Climate and Nature Action Group and plans further community projects during the summer months.
- Efforts continue to ensure activities reflect the interests of the young people attending and encourage long-term participation.
- The meeting congratulated Chloe on the successful growth of the club.

Kilsby Kronicle

Report on behalf of the editorial team.

Key points included:

- The current team took over production of the Chronicle in June 2024 and has since produced thirteen editions.
- The publication has been redesigned and now benefits from full-colour printing.
- The Chronicle continues to provide an important source of information on village events, organisations and local issues.
- Approximately 600 copies are distributed each month by a dedicated team of volunteers.
- Contributions are received from many village organisations and residents were encouraged to continue submitting articles, photographs and news items.

The Chairman thanked the editorial team and distributors for their work.

Kilsby Village Shop

A report was presented on behalf of the Village Shop.

Key points included:

- The shop continues to operate successfully as a community-owned enterprise and remains an important village asset.
- Customer numbers have increased and the shop is busier than ever.
- Extended opening hours have proved popular with residents.
- The shop continues to provide a valuable local service while also acting as a community hub.
- Additional volunteers are required to support operations and residents were encouraged to get involved.
- The committee thanked customers, volunteers and supporters whose commitment continues to ensure the success of the shop.

Kilsby Women's Institute (WI)

Representative of the WI presented the WI report.

Key points included:

- The WI meets monthly at Kilsby Village Hall and currently has 26 members.
- A varied programme of speakers, demonstrations and social activities has been delivered throughout the year.
- The organisation continues to provide opportunities for friendship, learning and community involvement.
- New members are always welcome.

Kilsby Charities

Annual report presented on behalf of the village charities.

Key points included:

- The charities continue to support the aims established by their historic benefactors.
- Income from charity assets, including allotments, is used to benefit local residents in accordance with the charitable objectives.
- Trustees continue to oversee the management of the allotments and Jubilee Plantation.
- The charities remain in a sound financial position.
- Janet noted that she will shortly mark 40 years of service as Clerk to the charities and indicated that a successor would be welcomed in due course.

The meeting thanked Janet for her long and dedicated service.

Kilsby Players

A report was presented on behalf of Kilsby Players.

Key points included:

- The group has successfully re-established itself following a period of inactivity.
- Recent performances have been well supported and received by audiences.
- Planning is underway for a further production later in 2026.
- The group welcomed new members both on stage and behind the scenes.

The meeting welcomed the continued success of the organisation.

Kilsby School PTA

A report was presented on behalf of the Kilsby School Parent Teacher Association (PTA).

Key points included:

- The PTA continues to play an important role in supporting Kilsby Primary School through fundraising activities and community events.

- Throughout the year, the PTA has organised a range of successful events for pupils, families and the wider community.
- Funds raised have been used to support educational resources, equipment and enrichment opportunities for pupils that would not otherwise be possible through the school's core budget.
- The PTA continues to work closely with school staff and governors to identify projects that will benefit children attending the school.
- The committee thanked all volunteers, parents, staff and local businesses who have supported fundraising activities during the year.
- New committee members and volunteers are always welcome, and residents were encouraged to support future events.

The meeting thanked the PTA for its continued commitment to enhancing opportunities for pupils and supporting the school community.

Kilsby Action Group (KAG)

A report was presented on behalf of Kilsby Action Group (KAG).

Key points included:

- KAG was established to campaign against inappropriate development affecting Kilsby and to maintain the green buffer between Kilsby and neighbouring settlements.
- The group believes that Kilsby should remain an independent village, with any future growth taking place at a scale and pace that reflects the wishes of local residents.
- KAG supports meaningful local consultation on development proposals and seeks to ensure that local views are properly considered within the planning process.
- Since 2014, the group has campaigned on a number of major planning applications affecting the village, including proposals for large-scale warehousing and housing developments.
- The group is entirely funded by village residents through donations, pledges and fundraising events, together with a previous grant from the Parish Council.
- Fundraising activities, particularly community quiz nights, continue to provide valuable support for the group's work. A further fundraising event, a Race Night, is planned for 24 July 2026.
- KAG emphasised that its campaigns are conducted through the planning process, using planning policy, evidence and professional advice to present robust objections to speculative development proposals.
- Funding enables the group to engage specialist planning consultants and legal advisers where necessary in order to effectively represent the interests of the village.
- The group thanked Kilsby Parish Council, Ward Councillors Andrew Simpson and Rosie Humphreys, MP Stuart Andrew and village residents for their continued support.
- KAG highlighted the significant level of community engagement in recent planning consultations, noting that the most recent campaign generated an exceptionally high number of resident objections.
- The group continues to oppose the current application for 62 dwellings on land off Rugby Road and will keep residents informed as the application progresses through the planning process.
- Members also outlined concerns regarding the emerging West Northamptonshire Local Plan and confirmed their intention to participate in future consultations and examination hearings to ensure Kilsby's interests are represented.

Residents were encouraged to join the KAG mailing list and follow the group's updates to remain informed about planning matters affecting the village.

The Chairman thanked KAG for its continued work on behalf of the village and for keeping residents informed on planning and development issues.

The Chairman thanked all village organisations, volunteers and committee members for their commitment and contribution to village life over the past year.

10. Closing Remarks

The Chairman thanked all speakers, village organisations and residents for attending and contributing to the meeting.

The meeting closed with refreshments and informal discussions between residents and representatives of village organisations.

Meeting Closed

Signed: _____

Chairman

Date: _____