

MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
FOR LITTLE OUSEBURN, KIRBY HALL AND THORPE
UNDERWOODS

held on Thursday 14th May 2026 at 7pm.

1. Present: Cllrs. A Sheldon (chairman), J Slight, county Cllr. A Warneken, A Kennerley (clerk)
2. Apologies: Cllrs. D Smith, C Bligh
3. Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting were approved and signed as a correct record.
4. To receive the annual report of the Parish Council by the Chairman.

I would like to begin by thanking my fellow councillors and County Cllr. Arnold Warneken for all their hard work supporting the three parishes which we represent. This year the council has tried to take a more proactive approach to speeding by organising a Speed Watch group to complement the work already done by installing the Vehicle Assisted Sign (VAS). Community Speed Watch is a scheme designed to support local communities to improve road safety by allowing residents to address speed concerns in their community with the support of North Yorkshire Police. The scheme is not designed to catch as many speeders as possible. It is to reduce speeds and community fears, making drivers aware that excessive speed within posted limits is socially unacceptable. Many thanks to the 7 volunteers who have been trained and approved by NY Police. Special thanks to Martin Plavins, who is the volunteer leader. Martin has now been approved to train further volunteers and we are grateful for their efforts on behalf of the village. New volunteers welcome.

The village footpaths have been cut back and finally resurfaced by NYC.

There was an excellent turnout for the official opening of Townend Field. LOPC are delighted that the Upper Ouse Conservation Trust has been successful in preserving this important asset for both villages.

LOPC strives to make as many improvements to the infrastructure and surroundings as possible by informing Highways of important issues within the parishes. These include the condition of Tippetts Lane, the clearing out and repairing of gullies and cutting back of vegetation at Fishponds bridge. However, NYC has a deficit of £74m and we have to accept that some projects important to the parishes may be overlooked.

This year's Open Gardens was a great success due to the many volunteers who worked hard not only on the day, to make it possible. The weather on the day was fortunately fine and everyone came together as a community and raised £9000. This will be shared equally between the Church and Village Hall.

Finally, many thanks to our clerk, Amanda Kennerley, for her continued hard work and dedication.

Doug Smith (LOPC Chairman)

5. To receive the report from Arnold Warneken, the County Councillor of Ouseburn Division of NYC.

North Yorkshire Council have set the budget for 2026/27. The Council has a £74m deficit.

Defection from a councillor to Reform means that there is now no overall control from one party.

Councillor Keane Duncan has put his name forward as a candidate to lead the North Yorkshire Conservative Group — a position currently held by long-serving councillor, Carl Les.

County Cllr. Warneken will hold his next surgery at Great Ouseburn shop on 22nd May. He intends to stand in the local elections next May.

There will be a complete carriageway repatching along Tippets Lane for 166m² starting on the 15th June.

6. Open discussion from members of the public in attendance. None present.
7. To agree the date and time for the next meeting be next may following the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm