

# Twycross Parish Council

## Annual Electors Meeting Minutes

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
Twycross Village Hall at 20.15

### **2025/01 Present & Approved Apologies**

**Attendees:** A. Taylor (Chairman), J Hadfield, D Bonser-Hadfield, A Tolli, M Humphreys, County Councillor J Melen, Borough Councillor B. Sutton

**Clerk:** K. Steadman

### **2025/02 Approval of Minutes (May 2024)**

The June 2023 minutes were signed by Cllr. A Taylor following unanimous approval.

### **2025/03 Twycross Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report (2023/24)**

Cllr. A Taylor read extracts from his annual report to the attendees (see attached).

### **2025/04 Twycross Parish Council Financial Report (2024/25)**

The Clerk read the annual financial report to the attendees (see attached).

### **2025/05 Reports from Parish Organisations**

The Clerk read out reports from local organisations, please see attached.

### **2025/06 Meeting Closed:** at 8.24pm

**Chairman's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date**

## **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT TO TWYCROSS PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING – 8 TH MAY 2025**

1. Twycross Parish Council had a much more settled start to 2024 than it did 2023. No extraordinary meetings and thankfully the council has remained quorate throughout.

2. Planning issues once again continued to appear on our mailing lists. We considered dozens of local planning applications, most of which we did not object to. We did object to two controversial applications near the green and on Pipe Lane in Orton which were successful. However, within the last couple of weeks both have gone to appeal.

3. I would like to thank District Councillor Brian Sutton for all the excellent work he does on our behalf not least his regular attendance at our council meetings which is very much appreciated. I would like to congratulate County Councillor Joshua Melen on his very recent appointment and hope to see him in attendance at our meetings slightly more than his predecessor. A thank you also to our MP Dr Luke Evans who continues to take a very active interest in local matters.

Twycross Zoo continued to raise some issues with traffic queues on the A444 during busy periods. Uncertainty seemed to arise over whether the extra entrance is being used to calm this issue? The Zoo has recently introduced parking charges and we really hope that this doesn't encourage dangerous and inconsiderate parking in Norton Juxta Twycross. A meeting with the CEO of Twycross Zoo Craig Dunkerley, may soon need to be arranged and he has so far proven to be very helpful with similar issues.

We had a very productive day last year, with residents, helping to clear debris and branches from the Twycross ponds, while water levels were low.

We continue to support our parish churches with the annual churchyard maintenance grant.

Agreement has been given to plant more trees in all our villages which I for one am very pleased to see.

We are very pleased with the excellent work of our grounds technician Geoff Cantwell who not only maintains all our green areas but also helps out with numerous other tasks as and when required. He is an excellent worker and is a very handy man to have on board. We have received many commendations of his work from parishioners.

Orton on the Hill villagers have asked to have a flagpole on the green we have successfully applied for and obtained planning permission. Councillors have agreed to support them in this project. I will let you know the final outcome in next years report.

Twycross village has again been affected by trouble from accidents and speeding vehicles on the A444. The Parish Council has again been raising concerns with our MP and County Council. Indeed Councillors had a very positive meeting with Dr Luke Evans and we are hopeful that actions raised will be implemented to help ease these issues.

Norton Juxta Twycross had more complaints from parishioners with regard to breeches of planning regulations on the Wood Lane development and also of flooding on Orton Lane. The Parish council reported both to the correct authorities.

Ownership issues have raised their head again last year with Twycross village hall. This does seem to raise its head periodically having spoken to previous council members. As long as it is solved fairly and amicably for the residents of Twycross to enjoy the village hall then all parties will be happy.

Financial information for the EOY left us with a closing balance of £17559 which we believe is a very healthy balance and we could look to spend more money on our local communities. Again we must say a big thank you to our clerk Kate Steadman for all her continued hard work in this process and everything else she does for us. She works very hard and is very dedicated and professional in her role as Twycross Parish Clerk. Thank you Kate.

Last but not least a big thank you to all of our councillors. Thank you for your time and efforts in supporting your village and parish. I appreciate your commitment and support yet again.

### **Twycross Parish Council Financial Report 2024-25**

The 2024/25 financial year ended with a balance of £17,559 compared to £13,544 for 2023/24.

Receipts for the year were £30,315 compared to £30,667 last year.

The precept increased by £25,95 to £26,950.

Payments in the year were £16,959, this is a decrease of £8,589. This is mostly due to having to repair vandalised play equipment the year before which cost £12,987 in total.

We had unexpected costs this year which currently stand at £2,427 as we had to take on solicitors to advise us on the land issue with Twycross Village Hall and the maintenance of the land we have access over.

We have had to request a larger precept amount of £31,740 for the next financial year due to having the new cost of maintaining the land adjacent to the road in front of Twycross Village Hall. The surface and trees will both require work in the coming months.

**Kate Steadman**  
**Responsible Financial Officer**

## **St Edith's, Orton-on-the-Hill**

We have now completed our latest renovation project at St Edith's. Major work has been done to the stonework and to a number of the windows. Internally, we have moved the Victorian font and some pews to create a larger clear area at the rear of the church for community use. All of which cost over £150k, so we hope to have a bit of a break now !!

## **Twycross Village Hall**

### **Ownership Issue**

The water leak and subsequent claim to the insurance company threw up an 'issue' over ownership of the hall and land, with both the management committee and PC believing different aspects of the 1933 Deed of Conveyance.

We sought advice from John Preston at Halls Together and the Rural Community Council and sent them the above deed and the PC title deeds from when you registered the hall with land registry in 2011. John's advice is very clear that the Management Committee own both the hall and the land that the PC hold it in trust for us, as we are not a legal entity, and therefore cannot hold property.

We have taken this advice and will proceed in this way. Both John and Kevin Taylor (RCC) have offered to meet the PC and discuss this with you should you want. We hope that this is a step forward and delivers clarity for both of us, and that we can move forward and work together for the benefit of our community. We will however be asking the PC to financially contribute to assist us with the renovations that still need to be done!.

### **Activities**

We have continued to offer a twice weekly coffee morning which has been well supported throughout the year. We have been well supported by HBBC who gave us a donation as a warm welcome venue. During these coffee mornings we have held lots of different events looking at mental health and wellbeing, benefits and saving energy and keeping warm. The warm welcome has come to an end now, but we will continue to offer the coffee mornings twice weekly. Thank you for your financial contribution as well, it was well received.

We have held several games nights for the local community to meet and play old traditional games and bingo.

We have held bingo and fish and chip nights as well as curry and a Beetle Drive, all were well supported.

Our quiz night in November, together with Greek food was also well supported.

We held a xmas fair which was well supported with lots of local crafters displaying their goods.

We have held an afternoon tea, last year and will be doing another for VE day celebrations on the 11/5/25.

We have a weekly class of Pilates, however unfortunately we have lost 2 regular classes.

We have been successful in attracting Commercial bookings for the hall, as well as many private bookings, all of who comment on the positive change to the hall because of the renovations.

### **Bids and Renovation**

We have had good support from HBBC in regard to various bids recently.

We were awarded £500 towards our picnic table which will be sited so the people can enjoy outdoor space when the hall is closed. This will be installed in the coming months.

We were given money to have an instant hot water boiler to make drinks in the kitchen, this has been installed.

We were given money from HBBC to host our VE day afternoon tea.

I have submitted a bid to BIFFA waste management for 30k to pay for a new floor, as the current one is no longer fit for purpose. I will keep you updated on progress.

In the coming months we will be writing bids to see if we can improve the insulation and heating in the hall, and to get the outside painted, possibly with the National Lottery. We want to make the hall as energy efficient as possible and fit for purpose to take it into the next 100 years!! (It was built in 1933, so coming up to 100 years old).

We will have another busy year coming up with renovation of the hall.

Debbie Walker

Chair

DRAFT