

BELTHORN VILLAGE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 6.00 pm on Wednesday 5th November 2025
in The Dog Inn, Belthorn

Members Present: Cathryn McGurk Judith Hamilton Marianne Davies
Tina Walker Lesley Kay Paul Ellwood

	Action
1. 100 PLUS CLUB – NOVEMBER 2025 DRAW The November draw was made by Judith. Winner of the 1st prize of £58.10, ticket number 121, Jane Winner of the 2nd prize of £33.20, ticket number 154, Duncan K Winner of the 3rd prize of £24.90, ticket number 135, Kelly H Winner of the 4th prize of £16.60, ticket number 10, Sheila D Winner of the 5th prize of £8.30, ticket number 1, Paul E	
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Owing to work commitments apologies for absence were received from Richard.	
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Interest was declared by Tina Walker in her capacity as a local councillor but there was nothing contentious on this month's agenda.	
4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – 1st (8th) October 2025 The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a correct record.	
5. MATTERS ARISING <u>POGB</u> - No further developments to report on the outline planning application other than fund raising is continuing and next year's calendar will soon be available to buy to help fund the environmental consultants fighting for our cause. <u>Village Pond</u> - Marianne reported that The Lancashire Wildlife Trust had started to spray the Environment Agency approved herbicide and would continue the work after the winter die-back. She stated how horrified she was to see the result of a local who had taken his chain saw to the trees in the front of the pond area, irrespective of lack of discussion, the visual effect on the pond area, the effect on the resident bird population and to the disgust and disappointment of nature-loving villagers. As a result, she stated how demotivated she was after many, many years of working on the pond area, fund raising for the pond and other village	Marianne

environmental projects. She would continue the projects she was currently leading on but would no longer raise funding for other environmental projects. She would remain on the Village Committee and continue as Committee Secretary and to help in other capacities. <u>Recreation ground Footpath</u> - Marianne's efforts to create a more substantial footpath between the recreation ground and Kendal Row has not been abandoned despite lack of co-operation from Lancashire County Council's Footpaths & Rights of Way officers. After many phone calls, messages left and e-mails sent, Marianne was still waiting to hear from the Footpaths team regarding the recycled materials recommended by Lancashire Wildlife Trust. She indicated that she would happily attend an on-site meeting with the Footpaths officer if required before a final decision is made to allow a re-application for funding. <u>Replacement Give Way sign on the B6232 Moors Road</u> In view of the current closure of Old Haslingden Road resulting in extra traffic on the Grane Road, and ahead of the major works to be started shortly to improve motorway junction 5, following discussion at the last meeting Marianne had contacted LCC's Highways Department asking for the carriageway Give Way sign to be re-painted on the B6232 at the bottom of the village to hopefully make it easier for village traffic to leave and enter the village. After the 20 days waiting period for a decision, she would contact Highways again for an update. <u>Syke Mill Garden</u> - Committee members met to cut back the overgrown trees/bushes in the garden around the lay-by to improve the look of the area and improve the parking spaces. <u>Memorial Garden</u> – It was noticed that damage had just been done to the Memorial garden wall by a lorry and trailer. Hyndburn Council had been contacted and a response received notifying us that it sadly wouldn't be repaired in time for the village Remembrance Day service but that we would be notified when funding was available and when work would start.	Marianne Marianne
6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED No correspondence had been received.	
7. TREASURER'S REPORT Judith's Treasurer's report had been finalised, circulated to members and posted on the Charity Commission website as required by law. In Judith's unavailability over the December/January period she advised that she had started collecting members of the village 100+ Club 2026 fees and would cover as many of the village and regulars' fees as possible when she can.	Judith

It was agreed that next year prizes would be awarded for 1st to 4th numbers drawn only and the 5th prize would be cancelled as it was only for a nominal sum.	
8. VILLAGE AUTUMN/WINTER SOCIAL EVENTS <u>Remembrance Day Service – Sunday 9th November at 11.00 am</u> - Last minute arrangements for the day were discussed. Many positive comments from villagers were received about the poppies purchased and erected on suitable lamp posts by Village Committee members. Thanks were expressed to Tina whose idea it was, to Lesley for making the arrangements and to Paul and Judith for battling the weather conditions to fix them in accordance with the Royal British Legion rules. <u>Firework Display</u> – The event of Monday 3rd November, despite the poor weather conditions, was again a great success for all involved. £465 was raised less £300 paid towards the fireworks. Thanks were expressed to the Dog Inn staff for holding the event, to Cathryn for making the refreshments and to Belthorn Academy, which were again funded the refreshments. <u>Christmas parties</u> The Children's party - last minute arrangements were discussed and Collette had once again arranged the event. A limited number of tickets at £9 each were now available for sale from the Dog Inn until the deadline of Saturday 22nd November. As usual, a visit from Santa handing out gifts, entertainer included together with buffet refreshments. Over 60's Party - will be held on Sunday 14th December from 2.00 pm onwards – Marianne offered to take the names of those planning to attend. She can be reached by e-mail on ma.davies31@gmail.com or leave a message on landline 01254 262125. Cathryn again agreed to provide the usual delicious buffet. School Christmas meals - Taking into account the cost to the school of providing the meals and how, last year, some villagers had sadly taken advantage of the school's kind offer, this year the offer, limited to 50 villagers, was available to those over 65 years of age and available to villagers only. Would all Over 65s interested in having a free Christmas meal delivered to their home please contact Tracey at the school on 01254 55620 as soon as possible to ask to be included on the list.	Judith / Collette Marianne Cathryn
9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS There was no other business to discuss.	
10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – The next short meeting, mainly to discuss final Christmas arrangements, will take at 5.30 pm on Friday 28th November 2025 in the Dog Inn.	