

BELTHORN VILLAGE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 6.00 pm on Wednesday 6th May 2026
in The Dog Inn, Belthorn

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

Also Present: Hyndburn Councillors Zak Khan and Candidate Vinette Davitt

	Action
1. 100 PLUS CLUB – MAY 2026 DRAW The May draw was made by Judith. Winner of the 1st prize of £63.60, ticket number 25 – Andy B Winner of the 2nd prize of £31.80, ticket number 22 – Lennon G Winner of the 3rd prize of £23.85, ticket number 91 – Kieran H Winner of the 4th prize of £15.90, ticket number 123 – Tim R	
Tina started the meeting by briefly explaining to Vinette the purpose of our village Committee, which works to improve life in Belthorn for villagers of all ages. We also work with the Dog Inn Board of our community-owned pub to arrange village social events and to help maintain age-old traditions. Zak responded by setting out the future democratic proposals for Lancashire.	Zak
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cathryn McGurk sent apologies.	
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Interest was declared by Tina Walker in her capacity as a local councillor together with Councillors Zak Khan and Vinette Davitt but there was nothing contentious to be discussed on this month's agenda.	
4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – 1st April 2026 The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a correct record.	
5. MATTERS ARISING <u>POGB</u> - At the 12th March update meeting held in the Dog Inn, residents were asked to send letters from the suggested template to Blackburn with Darwen's Planning department setting out the concerns of residents and their opposition to the outline planning application for the erection of industrial units around Guide and Belthorn. Marianne had e-mailed the request to her village e-mail database, had sent a letter from herself plus one on behalf of the Village Committee.	

<u>Pond Bench</u> - Councillor Khan had been asked to delay the installation of the Cllr Marlene Haworth commemorative bench until the drainage work was complete. Although the drains are repaired and water again flowing into the pond, Zak was asked to continue holding off the new bench since access to the water might be needed. Marianne was awaiting a response from the Lancs Wildlife officer regarding the dead fish, condition of the pond, its water level and suggestions for the removal of the bulrushes. He was due to visit the pond shortly and report back before a decision is made between the Village Committee and all involved.	Marianne
<u>Recreation ground Footpath</u> – Marianne was still awaiting a response from The National Lottery regarding her funding application for the work to improve the Footpath between the Recreation Ground and Kendal Row. LCC would also fund a replacement metal gate onto the field footpath.	Marianne
She mentioned to Zak how LCC's Footpath's officer had pointed out an old, overgrown path on the Recreation ground that could possibly be reinstated at little cost to the Council. Agreed; Zak offered to mention it to Hyndburn's Leisure officer Adam Hall since he has ignored her phone and e-mail messages on the subject.	Zak
6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED No correspondence had been received.	
7. TREASURER'S REPORT AND SOCIAL EVENTS EXPENDITURE Judith had circulated her latest Treasurers report electronically and the issue of funding for future social events was discussed. Tina advised that she may be allocated some Council funding in her capacity as a Hyndburn Conservative councillor for our area. She had submitted a bid for £1,000 for village social events and was expecting a response shortly. Agreed: Zak to chase a decision for Tina after the results of 7th May Local Elections were known. Judith agreed an amount of £20 for plants to put in the tubs at the top and bottom of the village chicanes.	Zak
8. FUNDING It was agreed that more funding is needed towards village social events and suggested that Tesco, ASDA and possibly Morrisons be approached for donations from the sale of plastic carriers. If some Christmas funding is again available from the Syke Mill management, it should go to the Village Committee purely for Children's and Over 60s parties as agreed with the Mill, since Christmas meals prepared by the school and delivered by villagers and the Dog Inn team in previous years were considered unnecessary and too time consuming for the village school.	

9.EASTER AND MAY DAY EVENTS FEEDBACK <u>Easter Egg Hunt</u> - for under 12s was held on Easter Monday and <u>Children's Easter Bonnet craft afternoon with Judith</u> held on Easter Saturday were both great events enjoyed by those attending. <u>Traditional May Day Parade</u> was held on Bank Holiday Monday 4th May with the School choosing a May Day king and Queen for the day. It started with few children dancing round the maypole but more joined as the parade progressed through the village. Donations totalled £39.47 were received less £10 for lucky bags for all children who took part. Judith was thanked for leading the event where both dancing children - and parents - enjoyed the day.	
10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS <u>Police</u> - After the following day's Local Council Elections Zak offered to chase up attendance by a member of the Neighbourhood Police Team attending occasional Village Committee meetings to discuss, amongst other things, the setting up of a village Neighbourhood Watch scheme. <u>Hyndburn Garage Site</u> – Tina raised the problem of villagers, with garages on the site, who had moved house and sub-let their garage rather than notifying the Council of its availability. This would allow the officer to allocate their garage plot to someone in the village from the long waiting list as clearly set out in the rules. Tina offered to monitor all houses for sale with garages in the village and forward details to Council officer Ian Marfleet for action. Zak offered to mention the issue to the officer after the outcome of the following day's Local Election. <u>Memorial Garden</u> – Bernadette has made a fantastic job of turning the previously overgrown garden into a lovely scented, beautiful area, but after removing lots of unwanted weeds and plants at the beginning of the take-over she recently returned from holiday to find more unwanted plants including Spanish bluebells placed there. She asked villagers who have any spare plants to discuss them with her first to ensure they fit in with her fantastic garden planting scheme. Please contact Bernadette on e-mail: bernadettesager@btinternet.com	Zak Zak / Tina
11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting, together with the monthly 100+ Club draw, will take place at 6.00 pm on Wednesday 3rd June 2026 in the Dog Inn.	