



MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS for 2024-25

HELD ON MONDAY 19th May 2025 at 7.00pm

Present:

Parish Councillors: Cllr Capel (Vice-Chair); Cllr Bowes; Cllr Temple;
Cllr Robinson;
County Councillor: Cllr J Weighill
Others: 8 Resident; Sue Nicholson (Clerk)

Item Ref 2024-25

Detail

1) **Welcome and Apologies**

The Vice-Chair welcomed everyone in attending the Annual Parish meeting and informed the meeting of the Chair's apologies due to urgent personal reasons:

- Cllr Margaret Curry (Chair)
- Cllr Fiona Stead

2) **Chairman's Report**

A written report had been presented before the meeting from the Chair and was presented verbally to the meeting by the Vice-Chair. See below attached report.

3) **Public discussion time.**

The only item raised was that the Bus Shelters are owned by the parish and was noted as not owned in the Chair's Report. This was noted and the Chair will be advised. Update what has happened in your parish this year:

- Discussion on several Planning Issues
- New Playground Equipment
- Bus Shelters revamped in Exelby
- Work on Trees and Bridleways
- Maintenance on various parish items (dog Bin)
- Planters
- Notice board in Exelby
- VAS for Exelby

In progress:

- Speeding survey and work with other agencies to reduce speeding in Leeming
- Leeming Bus Shelter sign and parking restrictions
- Continued scrutiny of Planning applications
 - Leeming housing developments
 - Solar Farm

Annual Report May 2024-25

Good evening and welcome to this the Annual Meeting of Exelby, Leeming and Londonderry Parish Council.

Parish councils are an essential part of the structure of local democracy and have a vital role in acting on behalf of the communities they represent. In law the Parish Council is a single corporate body and decisions taken are the responsibility of the council as a whole. With this in mind 2024 - 2025 has once again seen councillors actively working on behalf of the residents of Exelby, Leeming and Londonderry endeavouring to make their villages safer, cleaner, pleasant to live in and well maintained.

I take my hat off to my colleagues who give their time as volunteers on the Parish Council and who serve their communities diligently. Following this Annual Meeting will be the monthly Parish Council Meeting at which we will welcome a new co-opted councillor which will give us our full commitment of 7 councillors.

Over the past year we have discussed, debated, and made decisions which are all outlined in the minutes of meetings and these are available on the parish website for all to read.

The need for all councils, including Parish Councils, to have website became a legal requirement in 2020 and we have fully complied with this requirement. Unfortunately, the website is visited by the public very infrequently and this has led to the council's move to establish a Council Facebook account as we felt that residents would be more likely to use this social media platform for information. The work is on-going but hopefully the new account will be in place soon.

Rather than looking back on the last year's actions let's look ahead to what we are carrying forward into the next year on behalf of residents.

We expect there will continue to be planning applications for us to consider and comment on - this we will do without favour to anyone but following the principles set out for consideration of applications.

We are hoping for a resolution to applications for developments in Sycamore Lane and Exelby Lane which have been on-going since 2023 and 2024, respectively. Our County Councillor John Weighill had been advised that decisions would be made by January 2024, then May 2024 and here we are in May 2025 and still no decisions!

I have raised my concerns with Cllr Weighill about the planning department and their decision-making process in that they:

- a) take far too long to reach decisions as in the above cases;
- b) they grant applications with stipulations only to agree to amendments to these stipulations with no reference to the Parish Council leaving us to address concerns raised by residents;
- c) the number of retrospective applications that are made which are automatically agreed.

Cllr Weighill agreed to refer these concerns to the Planning Section, and we will request an up-date on this in the future.

The bus shelters in the villages are well maintained by the Parish Council, but there are concerns about parking around the shelter in Leeming which hinders the bus from pulling into the kerb for passengers to alight and disembark. A request to Passenger Transport and Highways about marking of this bus stand with yellow markings has been refused due to lack of funds - however this will not deter us from continuing to request actions from both parties to keep people safe.

We now have a twice daily bus service for Leeming and Londonderry however some residents are dissatisfied and request that more time is made available to shop in Bedale. On past experience it would seem unlikely that the bus timetable will be amended mid-contract but we will keep this request on the table for the future.

Thanks to the Roman Governor Gnaeus Julius Agricola. who was responsible for the building of Dere Street between 79 and 81 AD we have a lovely straight road through and beyond Leeming that encourages speeding through the village. To counter this we have discussed having chicanes' road humps, road markings amongst other measures and have involved NYC traffic department in seeking ways of overcoming the hazard before someone gets hurt.

A speed survey has highlighted the problem, and the council requested the Police traffic department carry out enforcement. An officer has been out taking reading of through traffic speeds, and we await the outcome of this.

As I've already said we spend your money wisely and sensibly requesting the least possible funding via the Precept as we possibly can. We always manage to stay within our budget and maintain a relatively small savings account to fall back on if needed.

The council's banking is now done online, and I apparently am a co-signitor should my signature be needed.

In ending my report one anecdote I share with you relates to my mum advising me to have a "running away" fund when I first got married over 50 years ago and even gave me a ten bob note to start if off. The fund is still in place even now. Hubby and I have also gone to online banking and at the beginning of our foray into this I asked for his help. However, I'd clicked on my "business" account not my "private" account and when he saw tens of thousands of pounds show up, he said: "You never told me you had that much in your running away fund! So, when are you leaving?"

So, folks in answer to that question look out for white smoke coming from the chimney at number 11 because that'll be the day! Again, thank you for coming this evening.

Signed by Chair:

Dated:.....