

## **MESSINGHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2026**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7pm in Messingham Community Hub.

**PRESENT:** Chair of the Parish Council – Cllr. N Poole  
Clerk to the Parish Council – Tracey Black  
21 members of the public (6 of whom are serving Parish Councillors).

**1. INTRODUCTION & WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Jill Fenwick.

**3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

The draft minutes were circulated to those present and a copy had been placed on the website. The minutes were agreed to be a true record and duly signed by the Chair.

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

No matters were raised from the minutes of the previous meeting.

**5. PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT**

Cllr Neil Poole, Chair of Messingham Parish Council, gave the following report

• **COUNCILLORS**

There had been no changes to Councillors during 2025-26, there are currently 15 serving members and no vacancies.

• **IN BLOOM**

The Parish Council had continued to sponsor the 'Best Kept Front Garden' competition in the Village and the 'Best Kept Allotments' competition. Prizes of Garden centre vouchers were presented to the winners at the annual Village Horticultural Show held on 6 September 2025. Messingham Parish Council was pleased and thrilled to win the Best Kept War Memorial category of the CPRE Best Kept Village competition. The Council was also awarded a Highly Commended award, in the Large Village category. The Council received prizes in the form of Garden Centre vouchers to the value of £100, to date an English Oak tree has so far been purchased and planted at Holme Meadow Recreation field to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ending of the Second World War.

• **GRASS CUTTING**

The Parish Council contract grass cutter had retired at the end of last season and a new contractor had commenced.

The cutting of the Highway verges in Messingham and Public footpaths in both Messingham and Holme and the grass cutting in East Butterwick and Manton had continued to be managed by the Parish Council on the NLC devolved cutting scheme. Grants had been received from NLC for all of this work. The scheme gives the Parish Council more control and flexibility to react to seasonal growth.

The Parish Council had recently accepted the NLC devolved arrangements for 2026, which also included the weed spraying of kerbs, channels and edges of carriageways and footpaths. Again, this will give the Parish Council more control to react promptly.

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

- REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The service at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday in 2025, had been unbelievably well attended, with close to 400 people and 34 wreaths being laid by Village organisations. It was thought this had possibly been the most wreaths to have been laid.

Last Christmas, a sleigh had been constructed and generously donated, by a Parish Councillor, and together with the two reindeer, this had provided a focal point alongside the Christmas tree. Donations had been given to the charities of the Councillors choice.

- ALLOTMENTS

49 plots are currently rented, with new and established plots available for rent.

Several new allotment holders had been welcomed in 2025.

The small holding land of 15.14 acres is currently let on a 3-year Farm Business Tenancy.

- CHRISTMAS COMPETITION

There were many decorated properties and shops in Messingham and Holme again during the festive season.

Certificates and shields had been presented to the winners of the Best Residential, Commercial and Street displays.

The winners of the 2025 Christmas Displays were;

Best Residential Display – Sharheen, Northmoor Road

Best Commercial Display – The Cookie People

Best Street Display – Aysgarth Avenue

- HORTICULTURAL SHOW

The Parish Council had continued to organise the Horticultural Show which took place on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Some of the categories had been updated, and the Show had been well attended.

Profits raised of £207.44 had been donated to Lindsey Lodge Hospice.

- COMMUNITY HUB

Library facilities are available in the Community Hub for two sessions a week. These are provided by volunteers and the library is managed by NLC library services. 5 new volunteers have recently been welcomed to our group of volunteers.

A small informal craft group meet during the Wednesday afternoon library sessions and an informal card playing group had recently started.

Teas, coffees, cakes and biscuits are available whilst the library is open, provided by the WI ladies.

The Hub is available to hire for meetings; group activities; workshops; events etc. Last year saw an increase in the number of hirings, with the Hub being frequently used by village groups and organisations for meetings etc.

- HOLME MEADOW RECREATION FIELD

**Changing room / toilets / storage facility**

The construction of the new changing facility building had been completed in May. The new building consists of two changing rooms, a toilet block and a store room and is available for the use of organisations who hire the field.

This new facility had been made possible, by grant money towards the cost, from North Lincolnshire Council, through various funding streams, which will total £156,000 on completion.

There is some outstanding remedial work to the exterior render.

The building is included in the hire charges of the recreation field.

3 new recycled benches were installed on Holme Meadow Recreation field last year.

A new hardcore track and access gate/palisade fencing had been installed on the east side of Holme Meadow field. This will provide a hard standing track for vehicles attending events.

- CHILDRENS PLAY AREA – NORTHFIELD ROAD

8 pieces of new outdoor gym equipment had been installed on the field during the year.

Palisade fencing and rabbit mesh had been installed on the south side of the playing field, to enhance the safety and security of the field and help protect the field from the ongoing damage caused by rabbits.

The Parish Council had recently been informed of success in seeking grant funding of £45,000, towards the purchase of 8/9 pieces of children’s new play equipment for under 8-year-olds, to be placed on the playing field on Northfield Road. It is hoped to have the new equipment installed in time for the children to enjoy in the summer.

- OPEN SPACE LAND ADJACENT TO KEALHOLME ROAD/RUSSELL WALK/HALL RISE/ALLISON CLOSE

A new recycled bench had been installed in this area, in response to residents request.

- ANNUAL PRECEPT

**2025/26** - The Precept for 2025/26 was £75,000 against a budget of £86,087 with the shortfall being met from Accumulated Reserves.

Donations to local organisations in 2025/26 totalled £6,257.23

Grants were received during the year of;

Humberside Police & Crime Commissioner – Post for Speed Device	£360
NLC VJ & VE Day Grant	£415.55
NLC In Bloom towards Summer bedding plants at the War Memorial	£270
NLC UKSPF Grant Outdoor Gym equipment – 8 pieces at Northfield Road	£10,087.53
NLC UKSPF Grant Hardcore Track at Holme Meadow Recreation field	£11,753.73
NLC UKSPF Grant Palisade Fence & Gate at Holme Meadow	£3,563.73
NLC & SSE Grants new Changing Facilities Building, Holme Meadow	£44,716.71
Humberside Police & Crime Commissioner – Palisade fencing, Northfield Rd -	<i>Pending receipt</i>

**2026/27** The Precept for 2026/27 is £78,000 against a budget of £83,216 with the shortfall to be met from Accumulated Reserves. This Parish Council precept would keep the increase of resident’s council tax to just 2.1%.

Grants to local organisations for 2026/27 are predicted to amount to £2,750.

## 6. **PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2026.**

A financial statement showing Receipts & Payments and the Bank Reconciliation as at 31 March 2026, had been circulated to those present prior to commencement of the meeting.

There were no questions raised.

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

## 7. VILLAGE ORGANISATION REPORTS

### MESSINGHAM CRICKET CLUB

Stuart Langford (Cricket Club Chair) thanked the Parish Council for the grant towards new training equipment. The cricket club had a successful year in becoming the Lincolnshire County Premier League Champions. The newly formed women's team will be entering the ladies' section of league cricket in 2026.

### MESSINGHAM MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION

Stuart Langford (MMPFA Chair) thanked the Parish Council for the grant to help with rabbit control, which made a tremendous difference, without which the field may have been destroyed within a year.

### MESSINGHAM HORSE & FOAL SHOW

Sally-Anne Cowling (MHFS Chair) reported that Messingham Show Committee are hoping for good weather for the 109<sup>th</sup> Show in 2026. which will be the 118<sup>th</sup> Show. A profit of £3,800 was made from the 2025 Show, this will be reinvested into providing free activities and entertainment for children at this year's Show. The committee are grateful to the main sponsor in 2025, West Building Supplies Ltd., who have also agreed to sponsor the 2026 Show.

The Parish Council was thanked for the grant given towards the cost of providing activities and facilities at Messingham Show.

### MESSINGHAM WOMENS INSTITUTE

Julia Briggs (WI member on behalf of the Chair) thanked the Parish Council for allowing the WI to provide refreshments throughout the year, at the Community Hub during the library sessions.

### HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Ian Till (Church Warden) reported, unlike a steadily increasing number of rural churches, Messingham has a fully open church which is available for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Following a reorganisation of the Diocesan, driven largely by financial constraints, Rev Swannack is responsible for Scotter, Messingham, Scotton, Northorpe and Kirton Lindsey with Gunness and Burringham being added. Regular Sunday services are rotated around some of these villages.

Being a Grade II\* listed building, the church requires a significant amount of work that comes at a cost. The PCC is responsible for the cost of all maintenance. Grant opportunities are often competitive and require time, expertise to access and deliver. Ian thanked the Parish Council for a precept grant towards the maintenance of the churchyard; this cost is also supported by the church monthly draw ticket holders – currently 143.

Developing a wider range of uses for this church and its environment is an essential aspect of sustainability. 2025 included hosting in the church/church room: Messingham Community Choir for practices and concerts; involvement in the West Lindsey Churches Festival, last year had a musical focus; Messingham Yarn Spinners group – established after a previous successful community craft event; needle felting workshops during spring autumn 2025; Holy Trinity Handbell Ringers; Messingham School Reception class visit; Little Imps visit; Two church bell ringing competitions – West Lindsey Branch LDGCB bellringing competition – won by Messingham band; LDGCB bellringing competition final – a Messingham/Scotter band were placed 1<sup>st</sup> and second in one section and second in the more advanced section - more ringers required to maintain this tradition; Christmas & Easter Fayre.

To sustain a fully functioning church and heritage asset requires considerable volunteer support. Ian thanked everyone who already contributes in some way.

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

#### MESSINGHAM JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Sean Maloney (Club Secretary) reported it had been a tricky year with 3 teams folding, this mainly involved children of exam age and the club is keen to keep the teams as village players only. The U6 age group is doing well and has two teams and the U7 is also doing well. The Club has a scheme that provides free kit to every player and this will be renewed at the start of the next season. U16 team are in the cup final against Bottesford.

The Annual Tournament will be held on 16/17 May 2026 which is earlier than previous years, 64 teams took part in 2025.

Work had taken place to improve the pitches at Northfield Road, which had been made possible by FA grant money. The Parish Council were thanked for the ongoing use of Holme Meadow recreation field. Two managers associated with Scunthorpe Schools have brought success to the U13's boys and girls teams, who are near the top of the league.

#### MESSINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Anthony Kirk (Steward) reported Methodism had celebrated 205 years having been founded in 1821. The building is used every evening by the uniformed organisations, with other regular use, including the Tuesday Friendship Group, the Lite Bite Group on alternative Wednesdays and regular coffee mornings where people can meet in a safe place. A review is due to be held on 2028, when services may alter and groups merge due to a lack of Minsters.

Rev. Bailey, the local minister, is due to take the Remembrance Service in 2026.

#### MESSINGHAM COMMUNITY CHOIR

David Barker (Choir leader) reported the choir is growing in numbers and has had to move from the Church room to the Community Hub. He thanked the Church for their support.

The choir was lucky to have 7 male singers.

#### MESSINGHAM HOLY TRINITY HAND BELL RINGERS

Barbara Rand (member) reported the group had been going since 2002 and meet on a Monday afternoon from September to June time. The group has a new conductor and musical director, who is working to increase the repertoire with a variety of music. Regular performances are given at various groups and Care Homes. New people are welcome.

#### MESSINGHAM PENSIONER CHRISTMAS PARTY

Paul Wright (joint organiser) reported another successful Christmas party in 2025, with 50 people attending. The party is free to attend with carol singing, food and a free raffle. Messingham businesses had once again been very generous with their support of food, drink and raffle prizes.

- The Chair thanked all the representatives for attending the Annual Parish meeting and for all the good work that takes place in the village by so many volunteers.

#### **8. ITEMS OF BUSINESS FROM PARISHIONERS**

- Sally Grindrod-Smith (resident) spoke regarding how the recent negativity on Messingham news forum, regarding children riding bikes and making jumps on the playing field, had resulted in the growing support of over 300 people commenting on Facebook, for the Parish Council to consider the delivery of a purpose-built community bike facility.

Sally Grindrod-Smith spoke of the lack of provision for youngsters in the village and had produced a written proposal to present to the Parish Council, outlining the intention; site identification; community engagement; planning; funding; delivery; indicative costs. The resident would like to move the idea forward and seek in principle, support from Messingham

Parish Council, to explore in partnership with the local community, the development of a bike / skate facility.

The Chair responded, that with the Parish Clerk, he had recently visited the bike track newly installed by Winterton Town Council and spoken with the Town Clerk and a user of the facility. The proposal would be placed on the agenda of the next Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

- Toni Robinson (resident) spoke in support of a bike track for the community and asked for the Parish Council to engage and consult with residents prior to engaging in projects.

**9. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 19:54.

DRAFT