

Tatham Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

Tuesday 20th May 2025

The Old School Lowgill.

7.30 pm

Attendance.

Cllr Osborne, Cllr Taylor(Chair), Cllr Wilson, Cllr Wattam and 2 members of the public.

APM/001 Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Parker, these were noted.

APM/002 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21st May 2024.

The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.

APM/003 Annual Chairman's Report, *written and read at the meeting by Cllr Taylor.*

Chairmans report 2024/2025

Another busy year with 8 open meetings, 1 closed meeting and working behind the scenes attending area meetings We have been consulting County and City councillors building up working relationships which will now have to start again.

We have looked at, and commented on if needed, 11 planning applications.

We have done some more footpath work when the weather dried up with Councillor Wilson continued to lead a team and Councillor Osborne with her WI members, all volunteering to enhance the PROW network.

A large amount of Parish Council time both in and outside meetings is responding to the continued barrage of emails (68 since the last AGM) from one parishioner. The stalking, harassing and bullying attitude with the threat of legal action has caused stress to the clerk, councillors and their families using up much of our clerks contracted time. Councillors are bound to follow rules of public office and confidentiality, and have very little within the law to combat these attacks. However, our clerk as our employee officially reported to us personal email attacks on her ability, integrity and history. I called an extraordinary meeting to address this issue. Following this meeting pursuing our Unreasonably Persistent and Vexatious Complaints policy, we contacted the parishioner by post and hand delivered a letter asking for this behaviour to cease. More nasty emails and a nasty visit to Public Time at the March meeting have now resulted in a ban on the parishioner contacting the Parish clerk or councillors by any means other than post. A personal report to Lancashire Constabulary by our clerk, resulted in further action and ongoing assistance from Lancashire Constabulary.

Over the past year we have appointed 3 new councillors, so we had for a short while a full complement of 7. Recently Councillors Cowling and Ray have resigned due to family and work commitments, so we now have 2 vacancies.

Roads continue to be the source of most reports and complaints potholes, rough surfaces and blocked drains. There was a lack of winter salt bin and grit pile replenishment which I have failed to find a reason for, but I am still working on it.

I would like to thank all the councillors past and present for their support during the past 2 years.

APM/004 Open Forum.

Mr Edward Mason raised a concern about the speed of traffic, in particular through Lowgill village and passing the Primary School. The use of LED speed displays was discussed and members agreed to contact the road safety unit at Lancashire County Council for further information.

Mr Peter Osborne raised a concern about the priorities used to determine road repairs and maintenance. Members shared these concerns and expressed their frustration and disappointment that emails and phone calls to Lancashire County Council, Highways Department had not had a satisfactory response or improved the information being made available to the Parish Council.

Members advised the following Parish Council meeting agenda included additional highways issues raised by residents, the concerns raised at this meeting would be included in that discussion and resolution.

Residents were thanked for attending and contributing to the meeting.

APM/005 Date and time of next Meeting

Tuesday 19th May 2026 at 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 7.57 pm

Signed: Chairman	Date: 19/05/26
---	-----------------------