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18/02/2026

To: All Members of the Council

You are summoned to attend a meeting of **Laxton Parish Council** that will be held on **Wednesday 25th March 2026 at 7pm** to transact the business set out below. The meeting will take place at Laxton Victory Hall, Station Road, Laxton, DN14 7TW. Members of the public and press are welcome to attend and may address the Council during the public participation section.

Yours sincerely

Clerk to the Council

A G E N D A

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To record declarations of interest by any member of the council in respect of the agenda items below.
3. To receive and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 28 January 2026 as a true and correct record.
4. Public Participation - to temporarily suspend the meeting to receive questions from the public.
5. To agree to reopen the meeting following suspension.
6. To receive an update on the action log from the Clerk.
7. To receive an update from Ward Councillors.
8. To receive an update from Parish Councillors.
9. To receive an update from Laxton Victory Hall.
10. To discuss the following correspondence:



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- i. ERNLLCA – Warm Homes Briefing
 - ii. ERNLLCA – Email address compliance
 - iii. Street Scene – Update on Kiplin Bridge and Cotness Bridge.
 - iv. ERNLLCA – Village Hall Conference
 - v. NHS – Health Care Messages
 - vi. Zurich – Insurance Policy
 - vii. ERNLLCA – February Newsletter
 - viii. McAfee – Anti-virus Policy
 - ix. ERNLLCA – Training Plan 26/27
 - x. ERYC – Salt Bin Invoice
11. To discuss putting up a CCTV camera within the village.
 12. To discuss plans to host an event for Yorkshire Day (1st August 2026).
 13. To approve the schedule of accounts for payment.
 14. To receive agenda items for the 27th May 2026.

LAXTON PARISH COUNCIL

7pm 28th January 2026

PRESENT: Councillors Goulden (Chair), Watson (Deputy Chair), Huntley, Linfoot, Moore, M Yarrow and S Yarrow.

Clerk: Poppy Hunt

01/26 **APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE** – All councillors present.

02/26 **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS** – There were no declarations of interest.

03/26 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – Resolved** – That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 26th November and Wednesday 17th December 2025 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

04/26 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – One representative from Laxton Vicory Hall.

05/26 **ACTION LOG – Agreed** – The clerk reported the following to the council:

- Status of Cotness and Skelton Footbridge – agreed to write to Cllr Aitkin and Kiplin Parish Council.
- Allotment committee – Clerk has written again to tenants regarding this.
- Playground committee – Cllr Watson and Cllr Linfoot to finalise survey and look into further funding.
- Email addresses – to review options.
- Lease of land – land now measured, lease to be finalised with tenant.

06/26 **WARD COUNCILLOR UPDATE** – No update.

07/26 **PARISH COUNCILLOR UPDATE**

- Cllr Watson brought Assertion 10 guidelines to the councils attention. We reviewed options sent by ERYC and ERNLLCA. It seems we are compliant, clerk agreed to contact ERNLLCA to confirm this and check price of current package against alternative options.

08/26 **VICTORY HALL UPDATE** – Two members of the Victory Hall have now undergone the relevant training, becoming accredited members allowing them to hold public events such as Laxton 10k. Grant paperwork was submitted as the council agreed to fund this as they had not received a bonfire grant as in previous years. Further update of other planned events. Building a solid social media presence attracting more individuals into the village including private bookings.

09/26 **CORRESPONDENCE – Resolved** – i) that the following correspondence should be received by the Council:

- i. Safe Communities – Howdenshire Data
- ii. Emergency Planning – Avian Influenza
- iii. ERNLLCA – November Newsletter
- iv. ERNLLCA – Health and Safety Training
- v. ERYC – Confirmation report for damaged bench
- vi. Electoral Service – updated register
- vii. ERYC – precept guidance and confirmation of documents
- viii. ERYC – Email address solutions
- ix. ERNLLCA Email address solutions
- x. ERNLLCA – December Newsletter
- xi. Finding Fitness – Playground grants and funding
- xii. ERNLLCA – January Newsletter

10/26 **TO APPROVE THE SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – Resolved** – The accounts were approved.

11/26 **TO RECEIVE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE 25th MARCH.**

- Discussion around CCTV in the village
- Yorkshire Day – 1st August

12/26 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Resolved**

- Another discussion around potholes and unsafe road surfaces in and around the village. Agreed to encourage more people to report, and report ourselves, Chair to write to Ward Cllrs for updates about the situation.
- Discussion about replacing two trees down Jubilee Avenue kindly funded by a member of the parish. Agreed Cllr Linfoot would choose and purchase two trees that were suitable.

13/26 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING - Resolved** – that the date of the next meeting of the Parish Council would be 7pm on the 25th March.

SIGNED:

DATE:

Laxton Parish Council Action Log

Action	Status	Lead	Update
Check status of the Cotness Footbridge Bridge.	Ongoing	Clerk	ERYC /Landowner update meeting - W/B 21 November 2023. Outcome not yet clear but getting closer.
Check expected repair time of bridge at Skelton footpath.	Ongoing	Clerk	Badger Sett holding up works. 14/10 update - New bridge required, but badger sett underneath the footings and the placement site and so consultation with Natural England required / underway. Clerk asked Kiplin PC whether they have had update.
Review provision of equipment at the Allotment Gardens	Ongoing	Clerk	Letter to be sent.
Councillor Email Addresses	Complete	Clerk	Councillors now have access to their new email addresses.
Convene a playground committee meeting with Councillor Watson as the Parish Council's representative.	Ongoing	Clerk	Cllr Watson and Cllr Linfoot to look into funding & conduct survey to see demand in the parish.
Road Slippage	Ongoing	Clerk	Reported to ERYC, who will endeavor to address in 25/26
To finalise lease for land near allotments	Ongoing	Clerk	Measurements and photographs taken - Clerk to write lease agreement.
Email addresses - new councillors	Ongoing	Clerk	To review options from East Riding
To put together an IT Policy	Ongoing	Clerk	IT Policy complete for councillors to review.

Laxton Parish Council Correspondence Record

18th January 2025 to 14th March 2026

The Clerk will circulate correspondence when considered appropriate. If Councillors would like to see a copy of correspondence that has not be circulated, please notify the Clerk on clerk@laxtonpc.org.uk or contact 07354601672.

From	Purpose of Correspondence
ERNLLCA	Warm Homes Briefing
ERNLLCA	<p style="text-align: center;">Email Adress Compliance Reply:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">As you have the .org account and it is in the councils name then it is compliant already and no need to switch to gov.uk. Gov.uk is just the recommended best practice because only government bodies can get this type of email address. With yours you are already compliant</p>
Street Scene	<p style="text-align: center;">Please find the following response from our Countryside Access Team:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The bridge replacement at Kilpin is postponed indefinitely due to the presence of the active badger sett. We have no timescale for when that might be resolved unfortunately.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cotness Bridge at Laxton is being considered for replacement, but the cost is likely to be significant. There is also an issue at the moment in terms of access due to weather conditions and the substantial size of any replacement bridge. It is therefore likely to be some considerable time before this bridge is replaced.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We are looking at diversion options with our Definitive Maps team, which would take the diverted route through/along Groves Plantation, but this needs further work with the landowners, which is ongoing.</p>

ERNLLCA	Village Halls Conference – Shares with Laxton Victory Hall
NHS	Health Care Messages – shared across all channels
Zurich	Insurance Documents - Renewal
ERNLLCA	February Newsletter
McAfee	Confirmation of policy for antivirus software
ERNLLCA	2026/2027 Training Plan
ERYC	Invoice for Salt Bins

Laxton Parish Council

Accounts for Payment – FEB / MAR 2026

Payments made to be noted

Payee	Details	Total £
Tesco Mobile	Clerk Contract	21
Laxton Victory Hall	Grant	250
Zurich	Insurance	264
Cllr Linfoot	Trees	85.44
ERNLLCA	Playground Training	12
Clerk	McAfee	40.49
ERYC	Salt Bins	66

Receipts to be noted

Payee	Details	Total £
Resident	Trees	85.44

Payments to be Authorised

Payee	Details	Total £
Poppy Hunt	Feb and March	232.60
HMRC	Feb and March	41.20



IT Policy

Laxton Parish Council

1. Purpose

This IT Policy sets out the principles and procedures for the use, management, and security of IT resources owned by Laxton Parish Council. It ensures data integrity, compliance with relevant laws (including GDPR), and supports effective operation of council duties.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- The Parish Clerk/RFO, who is the sole user of council-owned IT equipment.
- All councillors, regarding access to information, communications, and use of their own devices for council business.

3. IT Equipment

- The council owns one laptop, mobile phone and printer used solely by the Clerk/RFO for official business.
- This equipment must be kept secure and protected with strong passwords and encryption.
- No unauthorised software is to be installed, and all software must be kept up to date.
- A regular back up of all data will be completed by the Clerk/RFO to OneDrive.



4. Data Management

- All council documents must be stored in a secure and backed-up system (e.g., encrypted cloud storage or secure local backup).
- Data must be retained and disposed of in accordance with the relevant data protection regulations.

5. Email and Communications

- The Clerk/RFO must use a dedicated parish council email address (e.g. clerk@laxtonpc.gov.uk).
- Councillors are expected to use their dedicated councillor email addresses when corresponding about council business (e.g. councillor.surname@laxtonpc.gov.uk).
- Sensitive data must not be shared via unsecured email or messaging apps.

6. Website Management

- The Clerk is responsible for updating and maintaining the council's website to ensure compliance with accessibility regulations and transparency obligations (e.g., publication of minutes, agendas, financial documents).
- Website content must be accurate, timely, and non-partisan.

7. Security and Access

- The council laptop must be password-protected, and antivirus software should be installed and regularly updated.
- Remote access must be secure, using encrypted connections where necessary.
- The Clerk is responsible for ensuring no unauthorised persons use the council-owned device.
- The Clerk must shut down the computer at the end of every work session.



8. Social Media and Public Communication

- If the council uses social media, posts should be factual, non-political, and in line with the council's Communications Policy.
- The Clerk may post updates on behalf of the council with prior approval where required.

9. Councillor Responsibilities

- Councillors must respect confidentiality and handle all council data in accordance with data protection laws.
- Personal devices used for council business should be protected with a password or PIN and secure from unauthorised access.

10. Breach and Enforcement

- Any suspected breach of this policy must be reported to the Chair of the Council.
- Breaches may result in further investigation and appropriate action, in line with council procedures.

11. Review and Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed every year or earlier if significant changes occur in technology, regulations, or council operations.

Approved by Laxton Parish Council on 25th March 2026.

Minute Reference:

Next Review Due: March 2027

BRIEFING NOTE: WARM HOMES PLAN AND HEAT NETWORK ZONING CONSULTATION RESPONSE

January 2026

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On January 21st 2026 the government published [The Warm Homes Plan](#), described as “the biggest ever public investment to upgrade British homes and cut bills”.

The North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub’s current Memorandum of Understanding with government gives it the objective of supporting with the implementation of the plan, and this briefing note sets some of the key interventions detailed within it.

Targets

By 2030 the plan aims to:

- Triple the number of homes with solar today by deploying panels on the rooftops of up to 3 million more homes.
- Deliver over 450,000 heat pump installations per year.
- Upgrade up to 5 million homes in total
- Double the amount of heat demand met via heat networks by 2035

The Case for Change

The plan begins by affirming the need for action stating: *“Our current dependence on volatile and expensive fossil fuels is bad for energy bills, energy security, fuel poverty and climate change. The solution is cheap, clean power in the home, through solar panels, battery storage, and clean heat, alongside energy efficiency”*

- **Energy insecurity and the cost of living:** The Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 demonstrated how exposed the UK is to international energy price shocks. As 86% of households in England use a natural gas-fired main heating system the impact of the war saw the energy price cap for a typical household rise from just over £1000 in 2021-22 to over £4,000 by the start of 2023. The support issued in response cost £42 billion.
- **Fuel poverty and regional inequality:** 2.7million households live in fuel poverty, including 10.1% of homes in the North East and 14.2% of homes in Yorkshire and the Humber. It is estimated that the NHS spends £900m a year treating illnesses associated with cold and damp housing – and this figure only includes the first year of treatment.
- **Climate Change:** The effects of climate change are being seen in the UK through the increased prevalence of flooding, extreme heat and wildfires.

21% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions are linked to the heating of buildings.

- **Lack of access to home upgrades:** Clean energy technologies like solar panels, domestic batteries and clean heat, alongside targeted energy efficiency improvements, are the best long-term solution to these problems - but for “too many households” home upgrades “are out of reach” due to “high upfront costs and regulatory barriers” as well as a lack of access to informed advice and trusted installers.

The Warm Homes Plan's vision for heating

- Heat pumps will be **“the best and cheapest form of electrified heating for the majority of homes”**.
- Communal clean heating technologies, such as heat networks “can deliver even more efficient electrified heating to consumers. **For those living in denser locations like city centres, the best option is likely to be a heat network”**.
- The vast majority of rural homes are suitable for a heat pump – with 50% of Boiler Upgrade Scheme grants being paid to properties in rural areas and 39% to homes off the gas grid. 96% of these grants were for air source heat pumps. For the minority of rural homes less suitable to heat pumps and consultation exploring alternative heating technologies is open until February 2026. Although retrofitting our heritage and historic buildings will “present challenges” and “specific skills can be needed, and upgrades may need to be adapted to suit the aesthetic to the property, as well as additional permissions in some cases” the report notes that these properties are *“not as difficult to decarbonise as sometimes perceived (and) the majority of homes in this category can be retrofitted without any major issues. For example, 14% of BUS applicants lived in homes built pre 1900, and 6% were in homes built from 1900-1929. The Electrification of Heat Demonstration project also showed that heat pumps can work effectively in UK homes from all historic periods.”*
- The plan also seeks to ensure low-income and middle-income households and those in the private and social rented sectors can access rooftop solar with the government welcoming the additional consumer offers being developed by mayoral strategic authorities and highlights how the Crown

Commercial Service and Great British Energy are testing approaches to aggregating demand for rooftop solar to drive down unit costs for both social housing landlords and the public sector estate.

- Fabric insulation measure “remain a cornerstone of energy efficiency” and this will continue to be delivered through the minimum energy efficiency standards for the private and social rented sectors and through the Warm Homes. The plan notes “some insulation measures, particularly solid wall insulation, have become less viable in recent years following supply chain cost increases. Alternative technologies—such as rooftop solar and home batteries—are likely to offer significantly more cost-effective routes to reducing energy bills and maintaining thermal comfort”.
- Over the course of this Parliament, the government will look to embed the most appropriate and cost-effective passive cooling measures into funding schemes targeting low-income households and social housing

The plan states:

“We will upgrade homes and make support available for every kind of household, deliver significant capital investment across the country in partnership with mayors and local authorities, and focus on electrification as well as energy efficiency for lower bills and energy security”

The offer for consumers

Access to help with home upgrades for all households:

- Universal grant support for households to switch to clean heat through the [Boiler Upgrade Scheme](#), with expanded choice over the range of technologies available.
 - The government is also removing the need for a new Energy Performance Certificate under the Boiler Upgrade Scheme.
- £5bn funding for low- and zero-interest consumer loans, to help more households meet the upfront costs of improving their homes through a range of financing options (including increased mortgages or separate loans)
 - This funding would be made available to lenders.
 - The government will also establish a Strategic Partnership with the green home finance sector to help build and diversify the range of green financing options available from the broader market.

- Government will also work alongside the devolved administrations, mayoral authorities and others on how best to deliver the programme and a call for evidence on the scheme will be launched later this year.
- Potential investments include:
 - Loans or equity for local authorities and housing associations: Targeted finance could unlock large-scale programmes to upgrade homes with solar panels, batteries, heat pumps and insulation, particularly where private finance is less accessible. This could mirror existing government support for local authority housing delivery, enabling councils and housing providers to lead on decarbonisation at scale.
 - Bulk purchasing and aggregated procurement: Investment in collective buying schemes could reduce equipment and installation costs through economies of scale.
 - Developing the Energy-as-a-Service market: Support for subscription-based models, where a third-party provider installs, owns, and operates energy systems on behalf of the customer.
 - Community energy and cooperative models: Investment could support local energy cooperatives or community-led home upgrade schemes, enabling groups of households to share infrastructure such as solar arrays or battery storage, and to benefit collectively from lower costs and improved resilience
- Tailored home upgrade packages for low-income households, including solar, batteries, suitable insulation and clean heat.
 - This includes additional funding for Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund in 2026/27. Further detail about the deployment of low-income homes funding for all tenures in 2027/28 and beyond, as well as the devolution implications for the whole period will be set out in March 2026.
 - From 2027/28 onwards the two Warm Homes funds (WH:SHF and WH:LG) will integrate into a single capital scheme which will shift toward area-based delivery. The plan states: *“We aim to build on the experience of local authorities and other partners, whilst aligning with network needs and capacity. This means looking at how we can best utilise DNOs’ position to coordinate delivery with local authorities and*

align with delivery of Regional Energy Strategy Plans (and) Local Area Energy Plans”

- New energy efficiency standards across both the private and social rented sectors.
 - Landlords will need to upgrade their properties to meet EPC Band C across two metrics by October 2030, unless their property has a valid exemption.
 - BUS grants will remain available to landlords and personal investments can be eligible as an allowable expense and can be tax deductible.
- The installation of certain energy-saving materials will also continue to qualify for the temporary zero rate of VAT until March 31st 2027. 59 Eligible technologies include air source, ground source and water source heat pumps, solar panels and electrical storage batteries in residential accommodation and charity buildings, as well as biomass boilers.

Delivering at scale

A Warm Homes Agency (WHA) will be established to support the delivery of the Warm Homes Plan – working at both a national and local level.

The Warm Homes Agency will consolidate the existing delivery landscape. Salix (an existing non-departmental public body) will close and its functions, alongside some from within DESNZ and relevant roles in Ofgem, will be brought together into a single executive agency.

“Many European countries have adopted more centralised, coordinated delivery models to support both householders and retrofit companies and their workers – via an effective public-private partnership model”

The WHA will have “a critical role” in place-based delivery. The plan states:

“Many strategic and local authorities are already pursuing bold agendas to drive forward the retrofit and decarbonisation of their building stock, delivering warm and affordable homes for communities. The WHA will seek to build on this good practice in local delivery, showcasing excellence and enabling up skilling across all areas. It will play a pivotal role in supporting local partnerships, convening, facilitating and supporting where necessary to build capacity in local government, to enable delivery to be successfully planned and led at a local level.”

The Plan states that Network Operators will “*need to work in close partnership with mayoral strategic authorities and local authorities, as well as other key regional stakeholders. This year, Ofgem intends to consult on approaches that could strengthen the role played by DNOs in enabling and delivering the transition. A strengthened role for DNOs could help ensure a planned, efficient rollout of electrified homes and associated network investments*”

Hydrogen and biomethane

The plan sets out that the government will consult in due course on its assessment of whether hydrogen should have any role in heating homes in the future, but states:

“As hydrogen is not yet a proven technology for home heating, a role would come later and likely be limited.”

The role of Biomethane - currently used to decarbonise heating by blending it into the gas grid – “will evolve over time” but the government intends to encourage its use in high-value end uses, such as industrial process where there are few other options to decarbonise, such as lack of access to hydrogen infrastructure

The government plans to consult on a future biomethane policy framework in Spring 2026, building on the current [Green Gas Support Scheme](#).

The role of district heating

The Warm Homes plan sets a target to more than double the amount of heat demand met via heat networks in England to 7% (27TWh) by 2035 with them expected to provide a fifth of all heat by 2050, noting:

“Heat networks can provide the lowest cost, low-carbon heat for consumers in the right locations. They are an essential part of our path towards lowering bills, decarbonising heat, enhancing energy security and achieving net zero by 2050.”

The Plan has been published alongside [a formal response to the consultation on Heat Network Zoning which states:](#)

- The regulations that will implement the proposals outlined in the HNZ consultation response are currently in development and are expected to be laid in Parliament in spring 2026.

- A heat network zoning authority (HNZA) will be established and will coordinate heat network zoning across England. It will be housed in the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) initially, moving to the Warm Homes Agency once established
- Zone coordination bodies (ZCBs) will coordinate the development of heat networks within specific heat network zones and carry out other local functions. The HNZA will oversee the establishment of zone coordination bodies through a co-design process with local authorities.
- Zoning in England will enable local government to grant exclusive rights to develop a district heat network within previously designated zones, whilst also holding developers accountable for delivery
- To build developer and investor confidence in Heat Networks and Zoning, local government (via the ZCBs) will be able to issue connection notices to certain types of buildings requiring them to connect to a zone's heat network within set timeframes
- In the initial phase buildings will not be required to pay for this connection although in future the government intend to introduce a requirement to pay for this connection as the sector matures and as the costs of heat networks fall
- Domestic buildings, such as single residential houses will not be required to connect in zones. However, pre-existing communally heated domestic will be required to connect.
- Any residential properties which are required to connect in zones will have their connection costs capped at zero
- The appointed zone developer will be required to inform the ZCB of the prices it will offer to consumers in the zone in a pricing schedule. The ZCB will then analyse these prices and be able to reject the appointment if these charges do not represent a good deal for consumers. There will be a role for Ofgem to comment on prices.

Jobs and growth

The plan is expected to support 21,000 additional high-quality jobs throughout the North East and Yorkshire.

The Plan also sets a new target for 70% of heat pumps sold in the UK to be made in the UK, backing domestic manufacturing £90 million in investment grants, tripling the current available support.

The Heat Training Grant will increase to up to £21 million to support existing heating engineers upskill, alongside an £8 million Warm Homes Skills Programme for other qualifications in solar. panels, insulation, and assessment.

£1 billion of funding will be provided to cities and urban areas to invest in heat networks by 2050

Be Wise, Immunise! – Protect yourself and your loved ones this winter

NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) is urging residents to protect themselves and their families by getting vaccinated against flu, COVID-19, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

The ICB's *Winter Wise. Immunised!* Campaign highlights the importance of winter vaccinations in keeping our communities safe and healthy.

Winter viruses spread more easily when we spend time indoors. Flu and COVID-19 can cause serious illness, especially in older adults, pregnant women, and those with long-term health conditions. RSV is a common virus that can be particularly dangerous for babies and older adults.

Vaccination is the best defence. It reduces the severity of symptoms, speeds up recovery, and lowers the risk of hospitalisation. Even if you've had flu or a vaccine before, immunity fades and viruses change each year—so it's vital to stay protected.

Who Should Get Vaccinated?

- **Flu:** Pregnant women, children aged 2–16, people aged 65+, those with long-term health conditions, carers, care home residents, close contacts of immunocompromised individuals, and frontline health and social care workers.
- **COVID-19:** People aged 75+, care home residents, and those who are immunosuppressed (aged six months+).
- **RSV:** Pregnant women (from 28 weeks onwards) and adults aged 75–79 (or turned 80 after 1 September 2024).

Dr Nigel Wells, family GP and NHS Humber and North Yorkshire ICB's Executive Director of Clinical and Professional, said: "The latest data from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) shows Rhinovirus – what many of us would call the common cold – has been on the increase in recent weeks, together with COVID-19, flu and RSV.

"While it's not uncommon to have these illnesses circulating more at this time of year, these viruses can pose an increased risk to people with existing long-term conditions, like heart, kidney or respiratory disease. Pregnant women are more likely to be hospitalised if they catch flu or RSV.

"On 2 January this year, more than 300 local people were seriously ill with flu in our hospitals – the equivalent of 10 full wards – so it's definitely something people should take seriously.

"Vaccination is the best defence."

You can check your eligibility for the free flu and COVID vaccines and find your nearest vaccination centre at <https://humberandnorthyorkshire.org.uk/vaccinated/>





If you are pregnant and have not been offered the RSV vaccine around your 28-week antenatal appointment, contact your maternity service to book.

Alternatively, if you're aged 75–79 (or turned 80 after 1 September 2024), contact your GP surgery to book your RSV vaccination. There's no need to wait for an invitation.



Choose Well - Stay Well

We know that finding the right place to go when you become ill or are injured can be confusing. By selecting the right service for your illness or injury, you're not only looking after your health but using your NHS services responsibly and in a way that helps hardworking staff to treat and care for patients appropriately.

 <p>The poster features a colorful background with vertical stripes in blue, green, yellow, orange, and red. In the top left corner is the 'WINTER Well' logo with a checkmark, and in the top right is the 'NHS' logo. A central white rounded rectangle contains the text 'Unwell? Choose Well'. At the bottom, it says 'Choose Well. Stay Well.'</p>	<p>Let's choose well</p> <p>Get the right care</p> <p>We know that finding the right place to go when you become ill or are injured can be confusing. By selecting the right service for your illness or injury, you're not only looking after your health but using your NHS services responsibly and in a way that helps hardworking staff to treat and care for patients appropriately.</p> <p>Learn more about getting the right support here  Get the right care - Let's Get Better</p> <p>Choose Well. Stay Well</p>
 <p>The poster has a solid blue background. In the top left is the 'WINTER Well' logo with a checkmark, and in the top right is the 'NHS' logo. The text 'Self Care' is prominently displayed above a white house icon inside a circle. At the bottom, it says 'Minor ailments should be treated at home'.</p>	<p>Self-care starts with choosing well</p> <p>Knowing when you can look after yourself, when a pharmacist can help, and when to get advice from your GP makes a real difference.</p> <p>By choosing the right care for your illness or injury, you're looking after your health and helping NHS staff care for those who need it most.</p> <p>Learn more about self-care and getting the right support:  https://letsgetbetter.co.uk/get-the-right-care/self-care/</p> <p>Choose Well. Stay Well</p>



Think Pharmacy first

Your local pharmacy is a quick, easy way to get expert healthcare advice for common illnesses like coughs, colds, aches and pains.

Highly trained pharmacy teams can assess symptoms, offer treatment, and in some cases provide prescription medicines without needing a GP appointment.

You can speak to your pharmacist in confidence, often in a private consultation area, about even the most personal health concerns.

Find out how pharmacies can help:

👉 <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/pharmacies/how-pharmacies-can-help/>

Choose Well. Stay Well



Not sure where to go? Talk before you walk

NHS 111 is here to help if you need medical advice fast but it's not a 999 emergency. Available free, 24/7, you can call NHS 111 or use NHS 111 online.

A trained clinical advisor will assess your symptoms and guide you to the right care, whether that's self-care advice, a pharmacy, an urgent treatment centre, an out-of-hours GP, or another NHS service. They can even book appointments for you when needed.


Call NHS 111 if you:


- Need urgent medical help but it's not an emergency
- Aren't sure where to go or who to contact
- Think you may need urgent care
- Need health advice or reassurance about next steps



If you think you need medical help right now, 111 online can tell you what to do next. [Get help for your symptoms - NHS 111](#)

Choose Well. Stay Well



 <p>The poster is orange with a white border. It features the 'WINTER Well' logo in the top left and the NHS logo in the top right. The text 'GP Practice' is in large white font. Below it is a white icon of a stethoscope inside a circle. At the bottom, it says 'A skilled team of medical professionals providing primary healthcare to patients.'</p>	<p>Your GP surgery is here for you</p> <p>Your local GP surgery offers a wide range of family health services—from advice on staying well and preventing illness, to vaccinations, examinations, treatment and prescriptions. They can also refer you to other health services when specialist care is needed.</p> <p>GP practices have a whole team ready to help, including nurses, advanced nurse practitioners, pharmacists and healthcare assistants. You don't always need to see a GP—the receptionist can help guide you to the right professional for your needs.</p> <p>Many practices offer urgent appointments, evening and weekend services, as well as online booking, repeat prescriptions and online consultations. Remember to keep your appointment or let the surgery know if you need to cancel or change it.</p> <p>Visit GP Surgery - Let's Get Better or your GP practice website to find out what services are available and how to access them.</p> <p>Choose Well. Stay Well</p>
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 <p>The poster is orange with a white border. It features the 'WINTER Well' logo in the top left and the NHS logo in the top right. The text 'Urgent Care' is in large white font. Below it is a white icon of a hand with a bandage inside a circle. At the bottom, it says 'A UTC is a skilled team providing urgent care for non-life-threatening conditions.'</p>	<p>Urgent care, not A&E</p> <p>Urgent Treatment Centres treat children and adults with minor injuries and illnesses that need urgent attention but aren't life- or limb-threatening. They're a good alternative to A&E when you need help quickly but it's not an emergency.</p> <p>If you contact NHS 111, they can assess your symptoms and, if appropriate, book you an appointment at your nearest Urgent Treatment Centre, often saving you time and waiting. They can also advise on other nearby centres if needed.</p> <p>Remember to talk before you walk Call NHS 111 to check the right place to go and get the care you need, sooner.</p> <p>Find details of your local services here Get the right care - Let's Get Better</p> <p>Choose Well. Stay Well</p>
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 <p>WINTER Well NHS</p> <p>A&E or 999</p> <p>An emergency service for serious or life-threatening conditions needing immediate care. For emergencies only.</p>	<p>A&E is for emergencies only</p> <p>Hospital A&E departments are there for serious and life-threatening emergencies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of consciousness • Chest pain • Breathing difficulties • Severe bleeding • Severe allergic reactions • Severe burns or scalds • Signs of a stroke <p>For all other urgent medical help, please talk before you walk. Visit NHS 111 online or call NHS 111 for free to get the right advice and be directed to the right service.</p> <p>Choosing the right care helps you get seen faster—and keeps A&E available for those who need it most.</p> <p>Choose Well. Stay Well</p>
 <p>WINTER Well NHS</p> <p>Mental Health</p> <p>Mental health services provide care and support for emotional, psychological, and wellbeing concerns.</p>	<p>Mental health and wellbeing matter</p> <p>If you're struggling with your mental health or wellbeing, support is available. Mental health challenges can affect many areas of life but you don't have to face them alone.</p> <p>There is both national and local help to support you, whether you're looking for information, self-help tools, or guidance on where to get further support. The NHS website offers trusted advice on mental health and wellbeing, including how to recognise the signs that you or someone else may be struggling.</p> <p>Reaching out is a positive first step. Help is here when you need it.</p> <p>Find information and support for your mental health Mental health - NHS</p> <p>Choose Well. Stay Well</p>




Winter Well

2025/26 seasonal campaign

Each winter, the National Health Service experiences increased pressure due to the circulation of seasonal viruses that can make people very unwell. The materials below are designed to help reduce pressures on the system in Humber and North Yorkshire this winter.

Care with confidence.

Supporting parents and carers of children aged 0–10 with respiratory illnesses, including clear guidance on when and where to seek help, the importance of vaccinations, and appropriate signposting.

 <p>WINTER Well ✓</p> <p>NHS</p> <p>“ When your child's unwell, don't guess. Get trusted advice from Healthier Together.”</p> <p>Louise and Harry</p> <p>Healthier Together</p> <p>Care With Confidence.</p>	<p>Seek help if you're worried. It's natural to feel worried when your child is unwell. The Healthier Together website can help.</p> <p>It's packed with trusted advice from local doctors and nurses, so you'll know what to do, where to go, and when to get extra support - especially during the winter months.</p> <p>Find support here on the Healthier Together website: https://tinyurl.com/79kwdumh</p> <p>Care With Confidence.</p>
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WINTER Well ✓

NHS

“
 Unsure if it's a cold or flu? Many coughs and colds settle on their own in 1–2 weeks.
 ”

Thomas

Healthier Together

Care With Confidence.

Coughs, colds and flu.

Not sure if your child has a cough and cold, or flu?

Blocked or runny noses, sore throats, sneezing and mild fevers are very common in children and usually clear up within 1–2 weeks.

For clear advice on what to do, where to go, and when to get extra support this winter, visit the Healthier Together website:

<https://tinyurl.com/4r4v72jk>

Care With Confidence.



WINTER Well ✓

NHS

“
 Bronchiolitis peaks in winter, but most babies recover well at home.
 ”

Dr V Menon

Healthier Together

Care With Confidence.

Bronchiolitis is a common chest infection in babies and young children. It often starts like a cold but can lead to faster breathing, a cough, and less interest in feeding. Symptoms usually get worse over the first 3–4 days, then gradually improve, and most children recover without treatment.

Some babies, especially very young infants or those with other health needs, may need extra support.

If you're worried at any point, call NHS 111.

Learn more about bronchiolitis and how to care for your child here on the Healthier Together website:

<https://tinyurl.com/mu52vrc7>

Care With Confidence.



WINTER Well ✓

NHS

“
 We don't like being poorly. We had the flu vaccine together.
 ”

Luna & Grace

Healthier Together

Care With Confidence.

Flu vaccine: It's not too late

Children under 5 are more likely to need hospital care if they catch flu. The yearly flu vaccine is the best way to protect them - and the people around them.

It's not too late to get the nasal spray flu vaccine for children.

- ✓ Free for those eligible
- ✓ Quick and easy to get
- ✓ Available at GP practices and pharmacies

Book now at: www.letsgetvaccinated.co.uk

Care With Confidence.

Newsletter



Care With Confidence This Winter

Each winter, the NHS faces increased pressure as seasonal viruses circulate, and more children become unwell. The Healthier Together website offers clear, trusted guidance on common childhood illnesses, when and where to seek help, and where to find the right support.

It's completely natural to feel worried when your child is unwell — but you don't have to figure it out alone. Healthier Together is packed with reliable advice from local doctors and nurses, helping you understand what to do, where to go, and when to get extra help, especially during the busy winter months.

For clear, practical advice to help you care with confidence, visit the Healthier Together website: <https://tinyurl.com/79kwdumh>



It's also not too late for your child to receive the flu vaccine. Check with your GP and find out more here: www.letsgetvaccinated.co.uk



Newsletter February 2026

[Annual town and parish meetings - George is here with his whippet... Again.](#)

Blog by Beck Walsh

 Contact: +44 7769 220 833 (Book a free 30-minute call to see if we can help)  Email: becky@beckywalsh.com

[Council Culture | Enhance Council Skills](#)

Google says Annual Town Meetings in England are mandatory, community-focused assemblies held between March and June. They exist to discuss parish affairs, highlight council activity, and give residents space to raise local issues. That's the theory. In practice, some councils whisper that the meeting is happening, secretly hoping no one turns up. Others roll out cheese, wine, and the subtle scent of bribery to tempt people through the door. If you're reading this, you're probably part of a listening council. Or at least a council that wants to be one. From a communications perspective, the invitation matters more than the agenda. Most councils invite residents to come and hear what the council has been

doing. That makes sense. It feels responsible. It also creates a room full of familiar faces, nodding politely, while everyone else stays at home. It can feel like preaching to the converted. It rarely builds future councillors, volunteers, or fresh voices. So what needs to change? Flip it. There are three reasons people phone into talk-based radio shows.

One. The presenter is wrong and I need to correct them.

Two. I might win a prize.

Three. I want to help.

Having presented on LBC and the BBC, I always tried to avoid option one. But even that urge is usually about helping. Loudly. The same psychology applies to community engagement. If your annual meeting is framed as a broadcast, you'll get spectators. If it's framed as an invitation to contribute, you'll get participants. So design the meeting around contribution. Celebrate the community. Create awards for volunteers, local champions, quiet grafters, youth groups, carers, organisers, and neighbours who make things work. Make this the main course. Let the council be the side dish. Ask for help. Properly. Say it clearly. We need your help to decide priorities for the next year. We need your help shaping how money is spent. We need your help solving this problem. People respond to being needed far more than being informed. Be specific. Not "we welcome feedback" but "we are choosing between three options and want your view tonight." Lower the emotional barrier to entry. People don't avoid meetings because they don't care. They avoid them because they feel awkward, out of place, or worried they won't understand what's going on. Explain what will happen. Explain what won't. Tell them they don't need to speak. Or tell them exactly how they can. Change the format. Less top table. More round tables. Short updates. Clear questions. Visible notes. Let people see their words being captured in real time. Tell stories, not reports. One real story about impact lands harder than ten bullet points from a committee. Close the loop. Nothing kills engagement faster than silence. Show what changed because people showed up. Even if the answer is "we heard you and here's why we can't do that yet." And remember this. Community engagement doesn't start with a survey. It starts with a sense of welcome. That welcome begins long before the annual meeting. It begins when councillors attend other people's meetings. When the council is visible at events. When residents recognise faces, not logos. An open door is not always an invitation. Sometimes you have to step outside and meet people first. That's how you move from George and his whippet to a room that actually reflects the community you serve.



NALC updates



[Can a council chair override a request for voting to be recorded?](#)

We were asked about a scenario where a council chair overrode a councillor's request for votes to be recorded and proposed a motion not to permit it, which was passed. Our advice was that there is no power to do this. The law gives a statutory right for a councillor(s) to request that votes be recorded. Paragraph 13 (2) of Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972 provides that on the requisition of any member of the council, the voting on any question shall be recorded to show whether each member present and voting gave his vote for or against that question. The council chair or indeed a council's standing orders cannot override the right.

[Can a committee accept apologies and approve reasons for absence from a councillor who is not a member of the committee?](#)

We were asked to consider a councillor's qualifying attendance for Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972. The council asked us if apologies approved at a committee of which the councillor was not a member would count. Our view was no. It is for the logical reason

that there is no absence to be approved from a committee if a councillor is not a member of the committee.

[Can a parish or town council use the general power of competence to pay allowances to co-opted members?](#)

A council asked us if it could use the general power of competence to pay a parish basic allowance to co-opted members. Our answer was no. Regulation 25 of the Local Authorities' Members' Allowances (England) Regulations 2003 provides that a local council can pay a parish basic allowance (PBA) for each year to its chair only or to each of its members. Regulation 25 (10) says that for this regulation, any reference to a member is a reference to an elected member of a parish or town council. Section 2 of the Localism Act 2011 says that the use of the general power is subject to pre-commencement limitations or post-commencement limitations expressly applied. In our view, Regulation 25 (10) does amount to such an express limitation. Our [advice note](#) contains our advice on councillors' allowances.

[Can councils carry out maintenance on land not owned by the council?](#)

We are often asked if parish or town councils can carry out works (e.g. to trees or footpaths) on land they do not own or where there is no known owner. The council may have the power to do the works (e.g. general power of competence). Still, the question is often whether it is appropriate to do so. Would the council be holding itself out to take on responsibility generally and be held liable for any issues that arise as a result of repairs or non-repairs? We advise councils in such cases to first speak with their insurers to check if works are within the scope of their insurance policies. Another solution may be funding other reputable local bodies to carry out the works.

[Latest Advice Notes](#)

You can read the latest advice notes via the NALC website. You can sign up to the NALC website and validate your email address to access all topic notes.

[Procurement Procurement](#)

[Planning for local councils](#)

[Free training on completing nomination papers to stand for council](#)

[Advice for Charity Trustees](#)

Legal requests involving charities are common, and often a problem has arisen because of blurred lines between council and charity, or a council not appreciating the limited role of the custodian trustee. Issues also arise when a council is a landowner of charity land subject to a lease. Please refer to the [advice note](#) on basic charity law. Often, a council will need advice as a charity rather than a council. The Charity Commission gave the following advice for trustees.

When making significant decisions for the charity, trustees must:

- Act within their powers.
- Act in good faith and only in the interests of the charity.
- Make sure they are sufficiently informed.
- Take into account all relevant factors and ignore any irrelevant factors.
- Manage conflicts of interest.
- Make decisions that are within the range of decisions that a reasonable trustee body could make.

Martyn's Law - Helpful overviews

- Infographic on [premises scope](#)
- Infographic on [events scope](#)
- [Top tips](#) document
- [one page leaflet](#)
- [animation](#)
- [mythbuster](#) document

NALC Advice note

Support for changes to the SAPPP Practitioners' Guide

A consultation run by The Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Panel (SAPPP) and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) has found wide support for changes to the Practitioners' Guide. If adopted the changes would see greater transparency, clearer guidance and new requirements for internal auditors.

SAPPP should approve the final draft by June 2026. The draft would be subject to a full sector consultation in summer 2026. The final version should be published in early 2027 and be for the 2027–28 financial year.

[Find out more by visiting the SLCC website.](#)

Cyber Security - Free Workshop

The Parish Council Domain Helper Service is offering parish and town councils [free online workshops](#) to strengthen their cyber resilience.



Councils' Preparation Timetable for New Employment Rights starting April 2026.

January – March 2026: Planning & Early Preparation

1. Audit Payroll Systems

- a. Identify all Employees currently below SSP lower earnings limit.
- b. Check payroll systems for SSP, parental leave, and holiday pay calculations that will all be available to Employees from day one of their employment.

2. Update staff terms and conditions in relation to the following:

- a. Family leave (paternity, parental, and shared parental) policies to reflect *dayone rights*.
- b. Grievance and whistleblowing policies to include sexual harassment protections.

3. Information for line managers. Clerks, Councillors and Managers need to be aware that from the 1 April Employees can:

- i. Claim Maternity, Paternity and Shared Parental leave from day one.
- ii. Employees can receive Statutory Sick Pay from day one.
- iii. Employees earning below the National Insurance threshold of £129 can receive sick pay based on 80% of their average weekly earnings.

4. Communication to Staff

- a. Staff need to be given notice of the changes and amendments to their written terms and conditions prior to April.

April 2026: Implementation Month

Objectives: Apply changes in practice and ensure compliance.

Key Dates & Actions:

- 1. 6 April 2026 – Statutory Pay & National Minimum/Living Wage**

- a. Update payroll for SSP, SMP, SPP, and minimum wage increases.
- b. Communicate new rates to staff and ensure payroll accuracy.

2. 1 April 2026 – DayOne Rights Begin

- a. Family leave: Paternity and unpaid parental leave available from first day of employment.
- b. SSP: Payable from the first day of sickness absence; lower earnings limit removed.

3. April 2026 – Fair Work Agency becomes operational

The Fair Work Agency

The Agency will have a number of statutory powers:

- The ability to bring Employment Tribunal claims on behalf of workers – even if they don't want to claim themselves.
- The power to offer legal assistance for employment cases, with the Fair Work Agency's costs potentially recoverable from Employers if the claim succeeds.
- The authority to pursue Employers for unpaid holiday pay and sick pay, and impose financial penalties on top which go straight to the government.

Employers who previously relied on Employee reluctance to claim may now find the Fair Work Agency stepping in instead.

- Entry to Council Premises: FWA officers are authorized to enter any business premises to examine documents, require individuals to produce records, and inspect equipment used for processing or storing information. They also have the authority to seize relevant documents during their investigations.
- Entry to Private Dwellings: Where personnel information is retained at a Clerk or Councillor's home address, FWA officers may enter those private residences. To do so, they must obtain a court warrant, demonstrating reasonable grounds for entry. This measure acknowledges the increasing prevalence of home working and aims to ensure compliance with employment laws in such settings.
- Arrest Powers: Enforcement officers will possess powers comparable to those of the police, including the ability to make arrests during investigations into Employment Law breaches.
- The case studies cover a wide range of themes, including accessing funding sources, taking on assets and services, engaging with combined authorities and metro mayors,

joint working, and the creation of new parish and town councils. The resource will provide inspiration and practical guidance for parish and town councils and county associations navigating devolution and change, and support informed decision-making as responsibilities continue to shift to the most local level of government.

[Read the case studies](#)

TRAINING WITH ERNLLCA 2026/2027

Clerk & Officer membership inclusive core training

Clerk Induction
Clerks Chats
New Clerks' Finance
HR Essentials
Sexual Harrassment at Work
Introduction to Planning

Councillor & Chair membership inclusive core training

Being a Good Councillor Course
Chairs Skills Course
Finance for Councillors
Councillor Data Protection Training
Councillor Social Media Skills Training
HR Essentials
Sexual Harrasment at Work
Introduction to Planning

Enhanced paid for training suitable for Clerks, Councillors and Chairs

Finance, audit & VAT training from Parkinson Partnership 

Data protection and communication training from  **BREAKTHROUGH COMMUNICATIONS**

Human resource, health & safety and first aid training

Planning systems, including heritage assets and planning reforms

Property management and inspection including cemeteries, allotments and playground inspection

Finance and data protection and communication training can be accessed and booked at all times using the following links - [Finance](#) & [data protection and communication](#) – Courses cost £20 for electorate under 2000 and £30 for over 2000 (plus VAT).

Upcoming courses arranged by ERNLLCA are outlined below and can be booked using the links provided or alternatively via [Training & Events](#)

Please note that all core online training is free, however in person courses will carry a charge due to room hire, catering and travel.

COURSE	DESCRIPTION OF TRAINING			DAYS	EVENINGS
Being a good councillor For: New Councillors Refresher	Part 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What councils are and what they do • The role of councillors, Chair & Clerk 	Part 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting agendas & minutes • Good meeting procedures & decision making 	Part 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective relationships within the council • Dealing with difficulties • Community engagement 	Part 1 – 27.01.27 – 10am Part 2 – 03.02.27 – 10am Part 3 – 10.02.27 – 10am	Part 1 – 09.06.26 - 6.30pm Part 2 – 16.06.26 - 6.30pm Part 3 – 23.06.26 - 6.30pm Part 1 – 17.09.26 - 6.30pm Part 2 – 24.09.26 - 6.30pm Part 3 – 01.10.26 - 6.30pm
Chairs skills For: Chairs Vice Chairs Future Chairs	Part 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role & functions of the Chair • Legislation & decision making structure 		Part 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing public participation • Dealing with contentious issues and handling difficulties 	Part 1 – 10.03.27 – 10am Part 2 – 17.03.27 – 10am	Part 1 – 02.07.26 - 6.30pm Part 2 – 09.07.26 - 6.30pm Part 1 – 13.10.26 - 6.30pm Part 2 – 20.10.26 - 6.30pm
Clerks Induction For: New clerks Refresher	Part 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What councils are and what they do • The role of councillors, Chair & Clerk • Statutory position of Proper Officer & RFO 		Part 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duties & powers • Meeting summons and agendas • Core documents • Effective decision making • Minute taking, approval & retention 	Part 1 – 28.04.26 - 10am Part 2 – 29.04.26 - 10am Part 1 – 21.04.27 10.30am Part 2 – 28.04.27 10.30am	Part 1 – 03.11.26 - 6.30pm Part 2 – 10.11.26 - 6.30pm
Aubergine Webinars FREE Officers Councillors	Tips & Tricks – Councils website for community engagement 24.03.25 – 10.15am	Make your council documents accessible MS Word 13.05.26 – 1.45pm	What a Council should publish on its website 16.07.26 – 10.15am	Web Accessibility Rules – WCAG 2.2AA Refresher 18.09.26 – 10.15am	

Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Work For: Officers Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The different types of harassment & protection from discrimination under UK Law • Difference between bullying, harassment and banter • Examples of sexual harassment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles and responsibilities in promoting a safe work environment • Raising concerns • Question and answer 	FREE training provided by Worknest Online via Teams	Thursday 18th June
Play Area Inspections For: Officers Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The benefits of play • Injuries occurring on playgrounds • Legal responsibilities • Inspection techniques 	Please wear suitable clothing and footwear as this will include physical inspections of play parks Location: Waters Edge, Barton upon Humber	£110 plus VAT without exam £260 plus VAT with exam Lunch and refreshments included	Tuesday 7th July
Cemetery Operations Compliance For: Officers, Ctte Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal framework • Registers and records • Grave digging • Memorials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burial depth/shallow graves • Exhumation • Exclusive Rights of Burial • Maintenance & Open Churchyards 	£80 plus VAT per person Only 15 places available	Tue 14th and Wed 15th July 9.30am - 12.30pm

Conference proposed 29th September 2026 in the South Bank. Details coming soon.

AGM 22nd October 2026 7pm via zoom. Information and details to be released nearer to the date.