

Yapham cum Meltonby Parish Council [www.yaphamcummeltonby.co.uk](http://www.yaphamcummeltonby.co.uk)

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Minutes of the Annual Parish (APM) meeting of Yapham cum Meltonby Parish Council

on 9th May 2023 in Yapham Village Hall at 6.45pm

1. Present: Cllr Arnold, Cllr Bradley (chair), Cllr Gray, Cllr L Hammond, Cllr M Hammond, Cllr Thompson, Clerk, Ken Moverly (Village Hall Committee), Rev. Mark Poole (St Martin’s Church) and one member of the public.
2. Cllr Bradley welcomed everyone to the meeting.
3. The minutes of the APM 2022 were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Cllr L Hammond and seconded by Cllr Arnold.
4. Report from the Village Hall Committee, read by Ken Moverley:

“We have had the village hall painted and maintenance work done with a new hive to control the heating. Village Hall bookings are recovering nicely, after the pandemic, even though we have had to increase the hourly rate, by £1, to £11,50 an hour. The band comes every Wednesday to practise for two hours, and we are wondering if they can be persuaded to provide an evening of music in the hall. Bridge Club takes place every for four hours, Whist Club once a fortnight for two hours and University of third Age (U3A) alternate Fridays for two hours, to play music. They began with five members and more recently reached 21 members. Two hours a month is taken by the parish council and there are other U3A events along with the occasional child’s party. Sally is our monthly cleaner and we have a new member in Erland Moody”

1. St Martin’s Church: Reverend Mark Poole attended the meeting to introduce himself in person, as the new contact and custodian. Council welcomed him to the parish:

“I am delighted to be appointed as your new vicar, and I have now been in post for two months. The appointment is as an interim Priest-in-Charge of the Barmby Moor Group of Churches for a period of three years. There are five churches in the group, serving the parishes of Yapham, Fangfoss, Barmby Moor (where I live) Allerthorpe and Thornton. At the end of this term, the diocese of York will make a decision as to whether the appointment is to be extended, and if so, for how long.

The post comes with significant challenges, including generating growth. This encompasses growth in the numbers of parishioners supporting the work and mission of the church, and growth in income in order to be able to sustain the shared cost of having a stipendiary priest across the benefice. Currently, this cost is not met however, the diocese has granted permission for an interim Priest-in-Charge until 2026.

St Martin’s church faces additional challenges in that the building requires urgent structural work to prevent further movement and deterioration. This has begun under the expertise and generosity of David Millican, a licensed Lay Minister to the Market Weighton benefice of churches. David helped conduct services at St Martin’s during the interregnum, and has thus become involved in the building project bringing professional expertise to the project. He is ably supported by Ann Pearson, church treasurer and other Parochial Church Council members. I am indebted to them all for their dedication and commitment, and for the warmth of their welcome as I join and lead the team at St Martin’s and across the benefice.

Exploratory work on the building has begun, and in addition, the stained glass window has been carefully removed and preserved until it can once again be restored to its former glory. It is anticipated that the work required will be in excess of £300,000. We will be seeking the support of interested organisations along with fund-raising and applying for grants to raise sufficient funds.

I am passionate about rural ministry, and I am fully committed to keeping the church open and serving the parishioners in the years to come in the beautiful parish of Yapham-cum-Meltonby. I am very keen to break down unhelpful stereotypes about Church, Christianity and faith, and believe that partnering with other community groups is one way of doing this effectively. Community life is very important to me, and I believe church can make a unique contribution to the spiritual well-being of the parishes we seek to serve. I encourage parishioners to support us where they can.

I have been delighted to have been invited to the Parish Council meeting, and look forward to supporting the council wherever I can.”

1. Questions and comments from parish residents: The one member of the public had no questions.

Meeting closed at 7.05pm