

COLLINGHAM WITH LINTON PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026



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INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report provides an overview of the work undertaken by Collingham with Linton Parish Council during the municipal year May 2025 to April 2026. It reflects a year of both challenges and progress, alongside a continued commitment to serving the residents of Collingham and Linton.

During this period, the Council has focused on its core responsibilities, including the management of parish assets, consideration of planning matters, maintenance of open spaces, and representation of local issues to Leeds City Council and partner organisations. Work has also continued to strengthen governance, improve internal processes, and ensure transparent and effective decision-making.

The Council remains committed to maintaining and improving the parish and ensuring that residents' views are heard and considered. Despite challenges, the Council has continued to deliver its responsibilities through the support of councillors, staff, and partners.

Looking ahead, the Council will focus on delivering key projects, maintaining parish facilities, and strengthening engagement with residents. It remains committed to being open, accessible, and responsive to the needs of the community.

Collingham with Linton Parish Council remains dedicated to maintaining a strong, well-managed, and vibrant parish for the benefit of all residents.





WHAT WE DO

Collingham with Linton Parish Council operates as the first tier of local government, representing the local community and acting as an important voice on issues that directly affect residents. While it does not have the same powers as principal authorities such as Leeds City Council, it plays a key role in ensuring that local views are heard and considered at higher levels of decision-making.

The Council exists to support, represent and work collaboratively with the community to help maintain and improve the parish. Councillors meet regularly to consider local matters and make decisions on behalf of residents, ensuring that community interests are reflected in all areas of their work.

A key part of the Council's role is the management and maintenance of parish-owned land and facilities, including Beck Wood, Glebe Field, the Jubilee Playground and other assets across the parish. These spaces are maintained for the benefit of residents and form an important part of local community life.

The Council is also a statutory consultee on planning applications, meaning it reviews and provides comments on development proposals within the parish based on local knowledge, policy considerations and the potential impact on the community and local character.

In addition, the Council works closely with Leeds City Council, the Police and other partner agencies to address local issues such as highways concerns, community safety and environmental matters. It also provides support to local organisations through a small grants process and encourages community engagement through meetings, consultations and local initiatives.

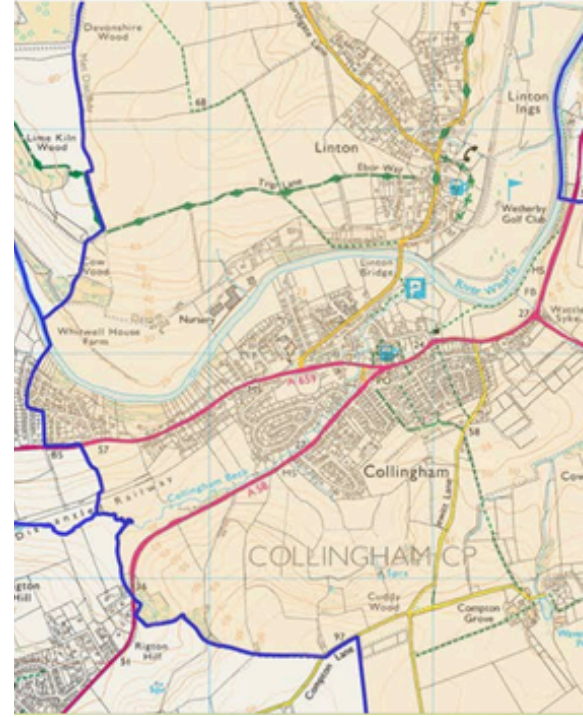
Funded through the local precept, Council resources are reinvested directly into the parish, supporting services, maintaining assets and delivering improvements that benefit the community as a whole.

PLANNING MATTERS

The Parish Council continues to play an important role in the planning process as a statutory consultee. While final decisions on planning applications are made by Leeds City Council, the Parish Council provides local input based on its knowledge of the area and the views of residents.

During the past year, the Council has considered a wide range of planning applications, including residential developments and proposals affecting infrastructure, green spaces and the character of the parish. Particular attention has been given to ensuring that development is appropriate in scale and design and that it respects the existing character of Collingham and Linton.

The Council also participated in the Local Leeds Plan consultation process, ensuring that residents' views were formally submitted and considered as part of wider strategic planning discussions. In doing so, the Council highlighted the importance and continuing relevance of the Neighbourhood Plan, recognising its role in shaping future development and ensuring that planning decisions reflect local priorities and community aspirations.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Collingham with Linton Parish Council meets regularly throughout the year to discuss parish matters, consider planning applications, and make decisions on behalf of the community. Meetings are open to the public and residents are welcome to attend.

The following meetings are scheduled for 2026:

- Monday 6 July 2026
- Monday 7 September 2026
- Monday 5 October 2026
- Monday 2 November 2026
- Monday 7 December 2026

Meetings commence at 7pm and are held in Collingham Memorial Hall unless otherwise stated

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Council is committed to maintaining strong communication with residents and improving engagement wherever possible. Information is shared through a range of channels including the Council website, social media updates, parish magazine contributions and direct correspondence.

Councillors also maintain links with local organisations and community groups in order to ensure that information is shared effectively and that community concerns are heard and addressed. The Council continues to support local initiatives and encourages residents to engage with Council meetings, consultations and community activities.

Work is also ongoing to strengthen communication methods and ensure that information is clear, accessible and timely.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Council has continued to support a range of community events throughout the year, including Remembrance services in both Collingham and Linton, which remain important occasions in the parish calendar.

A significant milestone during the year was the completion of the Glebe Field mortgage repayment, marking the end of a 25-year commitment. This achievement was recognised through a community celebration event held in partnership with local organisations, reflecting the importance of Glebe Field as a long-term community asset

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Parish Council is responsible for ensuring that public funds are managed responsibly, transparently and in accordance with statutory requirements. Financial management remains a key area of focus, with regular reporting and independent audit processes in place to ensure accountability.

During the 2025–2026 year, the Council undertook a comprehensive review of its financial position and future commitments. Members of the public may recall that in January 2023 the Council reduced its precept from £95,000 to £50,000 in response to reduced anticipated expenditure and the temporary availability of alternative funding sources such as Community Infrastructure Levy contributions.

Following a detailed review of ongoing and future financial requirements, the Council resolved to reinstate the precept to £95,000 for the 2026–2027 financial year. This adjustment represents a return to previous funding levels necessary to maintain services, manage assets and deliver planned improvements across the parish. It is not an increase beyond historic levels but a restoration of sustainable funding to support long-term requirements.

The Council remains committed to ensuring value for money in all areas of expenditure and maintaining transparency in financial decision-making.

All financial information, including the annual budget, accounts, and related financial documents, is available on the Parish Council website.

During the year, the Council awarded financial grants to a number of local organisations to support community activity and help sustain groups that play an important role in village life.

Funding included a grant of £5,800 to Collingham Bowling Club towards surface improvements adjacent to the green, £500 to the Collingham Retired Men's Forum to support the development of IT facilities, and £13,482 to Linton Memorial Hall towards its drainage improvement project.

These awards reflect the Council's ongoing commitment to supporting local organisations and investing in facilities that benefit the wider community.

MILLBECK GINNEL

The condition of Millbeck Ginnel has been one of the most significant infrastructure issues facing the Council during the year. The footpath and associated retaining structure suffered deterioration and partial collapse, requiring urgent attention due to public safety concerns.

The issue was identified and reported at an early stage, and engineering consultants were engaged to assess the situation and provide recommendations. Following their initial involvement, temporary safety measures were implemented to secure the area while longer-term options were considered.

Progress on the project was unfortunately affected during the period when the Council was inquorate, as formal decision-making was temporarily suspended. Following the reinstatement of the Council, further engagement with consultants has taken place, allowing new members to fully understand the technical issues, historical background and potential solutions available.



A dedicated working group has now been established to progress the matter as a priority. The Council will continue to work with engineers and relevant authorities to move the project forward and will provide regular updates to the community as the work progresses.

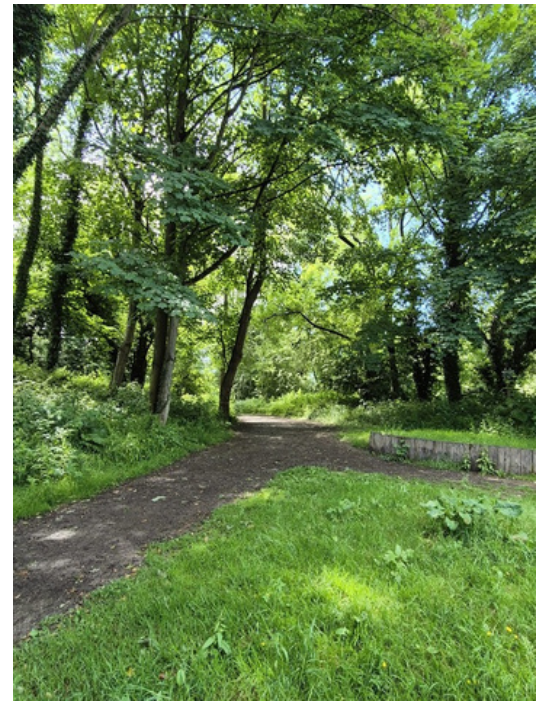
Information about the Collingham with Linton Parish Council can be found on its website at www.collinghamlintonparishcouncil.gov.uk. The website provides details about Parish Council meeting dates, along with agendas and minutes, as well as the latest news, local issues, and information relevant to the community.

Residents are also encouraged to follow the Parish Council on Facebook to stay up to date with announcements, events, and community updates.

BECK WOOD

Beck Wood continues to be one of the most important natural spaces within the parish and is widely valued by residents as a place for recreation, wildlife and quiet enjoyment.

During the past year, the Council has continued to develop its approach to long-term management of the woodland. Engagement with the Forestry Commission has taken place with a view to establishing a structured maintenance and management plan for the future. This work will help ensure that Beck Wood is managed sustainably and remains accessible and safe for future generations.



The Council has also responded to a number of operational challenges during the year, including incidents of vandalism and issues relating to access and site management. Measures have been taken to improve security and protect Council-owned assets within the woodland.

Looking ahead, the Council is keen to re-establish the “Friends of Beck Wood” group and would welcome involvement from residents who are interested in supporting the care and development of this important local environment.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Council continues to work with partner agencies to address concerns relating to speeding traffic, anti-social behaviour and vandalism within the parish. While enforcement responsibilities rest with other authorities, the Council actively raises these issues at meetings with the Police and other agencies, including PACT meetings.

Unfortunately, a number of incidents of vandalism have occurred during the year, resulting in damage to parish property. In response, additional security measures have been introduced at Beck Wood and further improvements continue to be explored.

COUNCILLORS & STAFF

The Parish Council is made up of elected members who give their time voluntarily to represent the interests of the local community. During the 2025–2026 council year, the membership comprised Councillor Anthea Powell as Chair, Councillor Lorna Murdoch as Vice Chair, and Councillors Patrick Wright, Paul Kerfoot, Ian Lock-Edmund and Mike Johnson.

The Council acts as the decision-making body for parish matters, working to address local issues and ensure that residents' views are taken into account. Councillors bring a range of experience and local knowledge and have demonstrated their commitment throughout the year through attendance at meetings, support for local initiatives, and engagement with residents.

The Council is supported by its Clerk, Becky Crabtree, who is responsible for the day-to-day administration of Council business, ensuring compliance with statutory requirements and supporting the implementation of Council decisions.

The past year has seen significant change for the Council. At one stage during the autumn, it became inquorate following a number of councillor resignations, resulting in a period where formal decision-making was not possible. Despite this, efforts continued to maintain essential communication and liaison with partner organisations.

The Council is grateful to those who supported it during this period, including Ward Councillors and members of the Council who helped restore stability and enable the Council to return to full function.

In February 2026, a new Clerk was appointed during a period of significant administrative pressure, including urgent financial deadlines and the need to rebuild systems and procedures. Despite these challenges, the Clerk has made a valuable contribution to improving governance and supporting the Council's recovery and ongoing development.

The Council also thanks members of the public, former councillors and external partners who provided support, guidance and encouragement throughout this transitional period.

ASSET MAINTENANCE & OPEN SPACES

The Parish Council is responsible for a range of public spaces and community assets which are highly valued by residents. These include Beck Wood, Glebe Field, the Jubilee Playground, the Telephone Box Libraries and various items of street furniture such as benches and signage.

Throughout the year, the Council has overseen ongoing maintenance and improvement works across these sites. This has included routine inspections, grounds maintenance, vegetation control, repair works and the management of safety requirements. Considerable attention has been given to ensuring that assets are properly maintained, compliant with regulations and recorded accurately within the Council's asset register.

A particular highlight has been the continued success of the village Telephone Box Library and Little Library which were refurbished through the dedicated efforts of former councillors and continue to serve as well-used community resources.

The Council remains committed to ensuring that all parish assets are maintained to a high standard and continue to provide value to the community.

Please note: Leeds City Council is responsible for the maintenance of its own land, including grass cutting, hedge trimming and other associated grounds maintenance. Further information about these services can be found on the Leeds City Council website.

