

Oldstead Annual Village Meeting

7.00 pm 27th May 2026 Oldstead Hall

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Stephen Cain.

Cllr Cain welcomed the following 26 residents and guests to the meeting:

Shiela Gillham, Jane Cain, Gill Williams, Neil and Nic Emsley, Kath Bricklebank, Andy Jones, Jacqui and Bill Withnell, Roger and Jo Tarling, Martin and Andrea Barnes, Tom Kevill, Audrey Wetherill, Chris and Claire Burrows, Catherine Breadner, Denise Marshall, Alison Menage, Richard Menage, Anne Banks, Tom Banks, Sarah Banks, Sue Pember, Jane MacDonald.

The meeting was also attended by Cllr. John Williams, Chair of the Parish Council Cllr Christine Bradley and Parish Clerk Mike Bradley.

He also welcomed the guest speaker Mr Tom Banks a well-known local farmer talking about “My Memories of a Lifetime in Oldstead”

2.0 Apologies

Apologies were received from Tony Gillham, Angus Hudson and Deborah Whitwell.

3.0 Approval of the Minutes of last meeting 28th May 2025

Minutes of the last meeting had previously been circulated to residents and the minutes were approved as a true record.

4.0 Matters Arising

4.1 CPR and Defibrillator Training

Cllr Bradley will organise a further training session later in the year. Although many of the residents present had attended a training course earlier, she urged residents to continue to attend as they would “pick-up” useful tips on first aid and use of the defibrillator.

Cllr Bradley also made available Emergency Planning leaflets to those present.

4.2 Dark Skies Reserve

Cllr Bradley spoke briefly about Dark Skies suggesting that both Byland/Wass and Oldstead should attain certification/plaque. Whilst the certification process commences with a village audit, none of the requirements were onerous. The residents present voted unanimously to proceed. **Action:** Cllr Bradley to commence certification process.

4.3 Potholes and other highway issues

Most major holes in the village have now been fixed and white lines at the intersection of the White Horse Bank and the Oldstead/Kilburn Road have been repainted.

Residents noted that a major pothole had not been repaired close to Byland Abbey on the Oldstead road. **Action:** Parish Clerk to notify Highways via website.

Highways have strimmed the grass around the Memorial in Oldstead for the first time in memory. A check with Highways Area 4 confirmed that they are supposed to cut grass 2-3 times a year.

Broken boards on the Boardwalk around the Badger Path need repairing. Contact North York Moors National Park who may supply materials for repairs to public footpaths. **Action:** Cllr Cain/Williams to identify and speak to land owner.

4.4 Oldstead Village Tidy-up

The meeting agreed to utilise the Oldstead Village WhatsApp system to organise Tidy-up and litter pick throughout the year. **Action:** Cllr Williams.

5.0 Millennium Fund Balance

The Millennium Fund Balance currently stands at £662.72.

6.0 Planning Applications

No planning applications in the village over the past year.

7.0 Oldstead Biennale 2027

Mr and Mrs Burrows have kindly agreed to host the event for 2027.

8.0 Any other business

No further business discussed.

9.0 Guest Speaker – Mr Tom Banks “My Memories of a Lifetime in Oldstead

Tom Banks has lived in Oldstead his whole life and presented an interesting and humorous vision of his life growing up and noting a number of changes that have occurred in Oldstead.

Tom was born in 1957 and like his father Tom before him he always wanted to be a farmer, graduating from Askham Bryan Agricultural College, York and now running Oldstead Grange Farm.

Tom and his son Tommy Banks have been associated with the Black Swan for the past 20 years and have turned it into a thriving restaurant.

Oldstead lies in a “Rift Valley” and the area between Oldstead and Kilburn was formed by glaciation making it a perfect place for Dairy Farming. The climate in Oldstead is benign with no fog and little snow and ice unlike other parts of the North Yorkshire Moors and the Vale of York.

Demographic changes in Oldstead over the years have seen the number of children reduce making the village now a popular destination for people yearning for a quieter life.

The principle change in farming over the years has been the significant reduction in smaller Dairy Farms although the heritage continues at Wildon Grange which has over 1000 dairy cows.

Tom continued his talk with a number of interesting and amusing stories about the residents of Oldstead over the years.

An excellent talk which was warmly received by those present.

10.0 Vote of Thanks

Cllr Williams thanked Tom Banks for attending the meeting.

Refreshments were then served.

11.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 26th May 2027.