

**Minutes of the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**held THE BEECHES COMMUNITY CENTRE, Birch Court, Tuxford on Thursday  
21 May 2026, commencing 5:45pm**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs J Moorhouse (Chair) G Copley, C Cook, G Frost, and P Wyman. D Hunt (Walks of Life Museum) Reverend A Jones and Youth Provision Leader R Hansford (St Nicholas Church), R Walker (Tuxford Neighbourhood Plan), M Glossop (Tuxford Community Events) and P Shawcross (Forget Me Nots)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Clerk, 5 members of public (excluding those listed above)

**Town Council Report**

Chairman J Moorhouse read out her report.

**Approve Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Town – 17 April 2025** (folio ref 2025/008-009)

**RESOLVED** All in favour that these were accurate - minutes are accepted and signed

**Presentations / Talks from various organisations and / or charities in Tuxford**

***Walks of Life Museum*** - Diane Hunt

Diane provided an update on behalf of Walks of Life Museum and Education Trust. She advised that the organisation had successfully registered as a charity and continues to operate through visitor donations, fundraising and volunteer support, with no direct funding. The museum is open twice weekly (Thursdays and Saturdays) and additionally by arrangement for schools, community groups and educational visits, including university work experience placements.

The museum continues to support local community initiatives and events, provide venue space for local groups, and work in partnership with heritage, tourism and education organisations locally and nationally. An update was provided on the Harrison's House restoration project and associated heritage skills and learning opportunities.

Diane also highlighted the museum's programme of planned events and activities for 2026, including historical talks, open days, school engagement, heritage celebrations and projects recognising local history and notable residents of Tuxford. Continued support for Heritage Week and Remembrance activities was also noted.

***Tuxford Bowls Club*** – Cllr Paul Wyman

The Club has been established for over 70 years and is located off Clark Lane, accessed via a farm track. It currently has around 16 members and is based at its home green in Tuxford.

The Club competes in a Wednesday evening league and also holds regular friendly matches, typically on Thursday evenings, alongside additional fixtures across the local area. Sessions last approximately two hours. The Club also welcomes new players through informal “roll up” sessions and introductory games.

It was noted that the Club is open to all and does not require members to live in Tuxford, with players of varying ages and backgrounds participating, including both men and women. Indoor bowls is also available during the winter months at nearby facilities.

Residents were invited to contact the Club to arrange a visit or try a session

**St Nicholas Church** - Alison Jones (Reverend) and Rachel Hansford (talk about youth provision for young people in Tuxford)

Alison explained they are part of a wider group of churches and have been developing a new, flexible “pioneer” style of church known as the Potting Shed Church, aimed at reaching those who may not normally attend church. The project has moved through several temporary locations, including a barn and outdoor spaces, before relocating into St Nicholas Church, which had previously been closed.

The church building has since been brought back into use, with improvements made to heating and electrical safety. Alongside traditional church use, the building now also operates as a community hub through the Potting Shed initiative, providing an accessible space for conversation, support, and engagement with the community. Activities include youth and children’s work, bereavement support, and community projects, including support for those in poverty and partnership working across a wider church cluster.

Rachel highlighted youth provision, which meets on Wednesday evenings (6.30pm-8.00pm) and has begun to attract young people from Tuxford. The group provides a safe, welcoming space with games, food, and informal Christian content, and is open to all young people in the area.

Discussion on whether funding from the Town Centre Streetscaping budget could be made available towards repairs to the church clock, estimated at approximately £3,000. **ACTION:** To seek Full Council support at the Statutory Meeting to request that Bassetlaw District Council consider the viability of allocating streetscaping funds towards this repair.

**Lady White Charity** - Cllr Christine Cook

The Charity was established in 1858 following the amalgamation of several local charities and is funded through historic land sales and ongoing donations, primarily from the White family, formerly significant landowners in Nottinghamshire and Tuxford. Family members are buried in St Nicholas Church in the White Chapel.

The Charity provides grants to individuals and organisations in Tuxford and West Markham, supporting general charitable purposes including education and training, relief of poverty, religious activities, and support for children and young people, older people, and those with disabilities.

Recent support has included funding for local community events and organisations such as Tuxfest, Tuxford Carnival, Scouts/Beavers, youth football, drama and arts groups, and Tuxford Academy students (including books, arts projects, and equipment). The Charity also supports the annual OAP Christmas party, enjoyed each year by over 60 Tuxford residents.

Grants have also supported apprenticeships, training costs, transport schemes, disability equipment (including wheelchairs), community events, and hardship support during COVID, as well as contributions to local community groups and facilities.

***Tuxford War Memorial*** - Cllr Norman Birkett

He advised that he voluntarily oversees maintenance of the war memorial and war graves, with assistance from the Scouts, and has undertaken repainting of poppies and restoration works.

Following a prolonged process, a faculty was obtained and the war memorial was cleaned and re-lettered in time for VE Day commemorations, funded by the Town Council, Lady White Charity, and private donations.

He reported ongoing maintenance of war graves in the churchyard and cemetery, and coordination of poppy nets and wreaths for Remembrance events, supported by the Town Council, Lady White Charity, volunteers, and the Walks of Life Museum.

The project has involved the creation of thousands of poppies and displays across the town, including nets, silhouettes, and other commemorative installations.

Plans for the current year include the annual Remembrance event on 8 November, expansion of displays (including post box and market square installations), and asked for additional volunteer involvement in setting up commemorative features.

Special thanks were recorded to all volunteers for their time, craftsmanship, and continued support.

***Tuxford Neighbourhood Plan Group*** - Robin Walker

Robin provided an update on behalf of the Tuxford Neighbourhood Plan Group. He advised that work on the Neighbourhood Plan (covering up to approximately 2040) is nearing completion following extensive community engagement, including surveys and meetings.

The draft plan now includes proposed housing site allocations meeting and exceeding housing requirements, a design code to guide future development,

community infrastructure priorities, and a transport evidence base identifying traffic issues and supporting proposals for longer-term relief options.

It was reported that significant work has been undertaken using government funding and volunteer input (“sweat equity”), with no direct cost to residents to date apart from a small, agreed budget contribution from the Town Council. The plan reflects substantial community feedback and is intended to be robust in response to future development pressures, including major growth associated with the Trent Valley “super cluster” development.

The Group expects the plan to progress to finalisation and adoption in the coming year.

Members were advised of the importance of continued engagement with planning authorities to secure appropriate infrastructure, services, and investment while protecting the character of Tuxford.

Two additional speakers joined in.

***Tuxford Community Events*** – Michael Glossop

Michael provided an update on Tuxford Community Events. He explained that the group originally developed following doing Tuxford Christmas market for a two years, with other initiatives and other community activity projects.

Some activities, including a seated exercise class, could not be sustained due to instructor availability.

He reported that “Chatterbox” continues successfully and runs year-round every Monday, providing ongoing community engagement. He also noted his role is largely behind the scenes, supporting organisation, coordination, and securing funding to ensure activities can continue.

***Forget Me Nots*** – Peter Shawcross

Peter provided an update on the “Forget Me Nots” dementia social group. He explained that the group began as a short-term activity with carers present but has since evolved into a volunteer-led social support group. Over time, it has developed into a regular community session where attendees form friendships, share experiences, and provide mutual support.

The group now also welcomes people who may not have a formal dementia diagnosis but are socially isolated, offering meals, entertainment, crafts, and activities. It was noted that professional entertainers are regularly involved, and the group provides an important supportive environment for both attendees and carers.

The session is held on Tuesdays from 12:00pm - 3:00pm, with a meal served at the start and refreshments later in the afternoon. Attendance is limited due to capacity, and the group is currently fully supported by volunteers and external support networks.

Members also noted the wider social benefit of the group, including support for carers and opportunities for additional signposting to services where needed.

There being no further business, the meeting moved to general questions, which were raised and responded to by the various groups and councillors.

Cllr Moorhouse thanked all presenters and attendees for their contributions and engagement. It was noted that this format of Annual Town Meeting is valued and it is hoped it will continue in future years.

The meeting closed at 5:50pm.

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE..... DATE .....

DRAFT