

Cantley with Branton Parish Meeting – 6th May 2026 at 6pm

Chairman's Report 2025/26

Within the Parish Council, there have been a number of changes, with some Members leaving due to personal circumstances and new Councillors joining. May 2025 was an election year; however, Cantley with Branton Parish Council's election was uncontested, so no election took place. One vacancy on the Parish Council was filled by co-opting Councillor Rebecca Boyd, who is already proving to be a valuable asset.

Thank you to every member of the Parish Council who has attended our meetings and external engagements in support of the Council over the last year. All councillors give their time voluntarily, with the best interests of the parish and its residents at the heart of every decision.

My thanks also go to the Clerk and the Handyman for their excellent work throughout the year in maintaining the high standards set in previous years.

The Parish Council has continued to maintain the high standards expected across the parish, including grass cutting, bin collections, hedge cutting, gardening, general maintenance, and safety inspections of parish areas, Kilham Hall Park, and other Parish Council property. Below is a summary of some of the work undertaken over the past 12 months.

Manor Farm / Warren Park Estate

Many residents may not be aware that the new development at Manor Farm falls within our parish boundary. Contact has been made with Persimmon to request space for monthly drop-in sessions for the Clerk and Members; however, no suitable location is currently available. The Parish Council has attended City of Doncaster Council (CDC) engagement events on the estate and will continue to do so.

A location has been identified for an electrical column and Christmas tree, with preparatory work underway. The Parish Council continues to seek a suitable location for a defibrillator. Funding has also been allocated in the 2026/2027 budget for a CCTV column and camera at the entrance to Warren Park Estate.

Kilham Hall

The Parish Council continues to work closely with the Kilham Hall Management Committee and thanks them for their ongoing efforts to improve services and facilities.

Kilham Hall Playing Field

The Gardener continues to deliver high-quality work, keeping the park and playing field in excellent condition. The Clerk coordinates an annual external inspection to ensure safety compliance. The Gardener has also completed training to carry out regular inspections and minor repairs. During 2025/2026, the play equipment was refurbished and repainted in a bright new colour scheme.

MUGA

All snagging issues were completed in 2025, and a bike rack was installed. The MUGA continues to be well used by residents, including for netball bookings.

Land at the top of Brockholes Lane / Doncaster Road

The Parish Council has taken steps to maintain this area of land, which is owned by City of Doncaster Council and had become overgrown in recent years. A licence was secured to allow the Parish Council to manage the site.

Work began in March 2026 to clear overgrown foliage and restore the space. New planting has transformed the area into an attractive and welcoming environment. At the time of writing, confirmation was awaited regarding completion of paving works and the repositioning of the existing bench, along with the installation of a newly donated bench to create a more peaceful seating area.

The Parish Council would like to thank all volunteers and contributors, including local residents, community groups, and businesses, for their generous donations of time, materials, and funding which include:

- Local residents who donated plants/shrubs/trees in memory of loved ones
- Local resident, Andy Saxton, who had a collection with neighbours and other residents and raised £240 to spend in B&Q on plants
- £300 donation (put behind the till at Branton Garden Centre) from Thorne Rural Lions
- Neighbouring residents who donated £100
- Local residents who saw the work being carried out and donated plants/shrubs
- Branton Garden Centre who contributed some plants
- Local resident, Julie Hanson, who donated a new bench
- Local gardener, Keith Thrower, who helped with tip runs and donated Top Soil
- J&A Raw for the Paws Pet Shop who donated £100 which was spent on bark
- Arper Quality Products who donated £100 towards the cost of laying the path
- Spinks Builders Merchants who donated the slabs and products needed to lay the path
- Ward Councillors for a Grant of £500 from their budget towards the cost of skip hire
- Middletons Skips for reducing the rate of skip hire
- City of Doncaster Council for donating fruit trees and plants
- Local residents who continue to volunteer to water the newly established plants/shrubs/trees/seed
- Local residents who have said the Parish Council can use their outside taps to water

Community Skip

A community skip was welcomed by residents. Thanks are extended to CDC and the Ward Councillors for providing and supporting this initiative.

Branton Litter Pick Group

The group continues to meet regularly and makes a significant contribution to the village's cleanliness. New dates will be announced in due course. Signage has been requested from CDC for Gatewood Lane due to safety concerns. The group also supported the Great British Spring Clean. Our thanks go to all volunteers involved.

Road Safety

Although a previous Community Speed Watch initiative did not progress in Branton, Ward Councillors are now working to establish a Finningley Ward scheme involving neighbouring villages. Several residents have completed training, and feedback is awaited.

Police Drop-in Sessions

Drop-in sessions continue every six weeks; however, attendance has been low. Increased community engagement is important to maintain effective dialogue with local police.

Post Box Toppers

Thanks go to local resident Louise Taylor for creating and donating seasonal post box toppers, which are enjoyed by many in the community. Louise is currently working on a summer topper.

Poppy Display

The Armistice Day displays were both striking and moving, receiving many positive comments. Additional poppies have enabled a new display on Doncaster Road, and residents continue to contribute handmade items. Thanks go to all volunteers, as well as the Clerk and Handyman, for their work in creating and installing the displays.

Christmas Festivities

All three parish Christmas trees were illuminated, along with two at Old Cantley Roundabout. A carol service was arranged at Glen Road but was moved indoors to the Three Horseshoes Public House due to inclement weather, accompanied by Armthorpe Elmfield Brass Band. The Parish Council also supported the Kilham Hall Management Committee's Christmas pantomime "Scrooge", which was a sell-out success. A donation was again made to Thorne Rural Lions for the Santa Sleigh visit.

New gov.uk Email Addresses and Website

In 2025, the Clerk and Councillors adopted gov.uk email addresses, and in 2026 a new gov.uk website was launched to enhance professionalism, data security, and compliance. The website can be found at cantleywithbrantonparish.gov.uk.

CWBPC Facebook Page

The Parish Council's Facebook page continues to be an effective communication tool. Thanks go to the Clerk for keeping it regularly updated.

The Parish Council looks forward to continuing its work in the coming year and thanks all residents, volunteers, and partners for their ongoing support.

Kind regards

Neville Williams
Chairman
Cantley with Branton Parish Council