

STOKESLEY PROBUS CLUB
Minutes of Members Meetings 2024-2025

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Minutes of Members Meeting held on 20/05/2025

Jack Brunton Room at Stokesley Town Hall at 10.00am

Minutes of Meeting

The Chairman opened the meeting with a warm welcome to Members and Guests

1. Apologies: Brian Clarke, Kevin Clifford, John Richardson(HR), John Rhind, John Edwards, Malcolm Beavis, Michael Westgarth-Taylor
2. Guests: Tom Simpson, Peter Lee (Oz)
3. Minutes of last Meeting: 18.3.25 Accepted.
4. Matters arising: There were no matters arising.
5. Committee Reports:

Secretary: Apologies

Treasurer: Chris Lee reported that 28 Members had renewed to date. He expressed a wish for members to renew via bank transfer, if possible, although, obviously, he would still accept cheques. Chris highlighted the need for cheques to be completed precisely due to the Bank Computer rejecting some payments.

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Website Manager: Apologies

Speaker Finder: Chris Griffiths reported that he was just settling into the role and asked members to contact him if they had a subject/speaker that they would like included in the programme for next year

6. Trips: KW gave an update on his dealings with the administration at Castle Howard
7. Member Lunches: Peter Robinson reported back on a very successful lunch at the Royal Oak attended by 21 members on 30th April. He also confirmed that the next Members Lunch would be held at Tocketts Mill on Thursday 5th June at 12.30pm He made a plea for members to let him have their menu choices as soon as possible as take up has been slow.

KW added that following the earlier Committee Meeting there would be a slight change to the organisation of the Christmas lunch. Paul Bruce would now take over the organisation of the event while Chris Griffiths would give a brief Introductory Talk. KW would remain 'master of ceremonies.

KW also confirmed that the Committee were looking at recommendations for the lunch on Wed. 8th October having had suggestions of The Blue Bell at Ingleby Cross and the Black Horse Inn at Swainby, which is currently undergoing renovations.

KW asked members if lunches could be booked on any day of the week.

Graham Howard highlighted the point that some venues are closed on Mondays. (KW/PR noted).

8. A.O.B.

Sponsor for Jasmine Harrison Talk. Following a change in circumstance for the

Sponsor and a few telephones call, KW was able to inform Members that the Sponsor had been David Storry.

Club thanks to the anonymous sponsor were expressed in the Minutes for 21st May 2024

Fun Draw: How to Build a Brain & Left Brain, Right Brain

2 books each for Chris Lee, Norris Wilson, Paul Hayton

Next Meeting: Tuesday 17th June 2025 - Speaker: Colin Hatton - Those were the days

Minutes of Members Meeting held on 17/06/2025

Jack Brunton Room at Stokesley Town Hall at 10.00am

Minutes of Meeting

1. Attendance and apologies: 24 attendees, 12 apologies, 2 guests.
2. Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 20th May 2025: Accepted
3. Matters arising: None
4. **Committee Reports**

Treasurer: Apologies, unable to attend. Collection of subscriptions almost complete.
Two Members paid during the meeting.

Secretary: All in order. No issues to report this month.

Website Manager: Apologies, unable to attend. Website up to date.

Speaker Finder: Speaker appointments for 2026-2027 progressing well.
Suggestions from Members always welcome.

5. **Member Lunches**

Tockett's Mill held on 6th June 2025: Venue and meal enjoyed by all despite fewer attendees than usual. 12 Members and 1 guest.

However, there was some confusion with payment for drinks.

Next lunch will be on Wednesday 8th October 2025. Details will be issued nearer the time.

6. **Trips**

Castle Howard; suggestion from Jim Gannon and Norris Wilson: The Chairman reported that the venue had now opened for the season, but communication was problematic.

The Christmas decorations this year will be themed "The Wizard of Oz".

Group visits not catered for – everyone enters as an individual visitor.

No concessions for members of other organisations (NT, English Heritage, Historic Houses Ass.)

Entry cost not yet fixed, but likely to be around £20. Transport – a full 36 seater coach would cost £20 per person. Full cost of trip estimated at around £40 per person.

Members showed very little interest in this trip. Consequently, this proposal is dropped.

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Princess Alexandra Auditorium (Yarm School Theatre): Suggested by Stephan Barnes & Alwyn Boulby. The Chairman had reviewed upcoming productions, and considered the only suitable show was Madama Butterfly later in the year. Saturday evening performance £40.00pp

Again, there was very little interest, and this proposal is also dropped.

7. Paul Bruce: Suggestions

On 20th May, Paul presented a set of strategies at the Committee Meeting aimed at promoting recruitment for SPC.

The ideas are simply presented as a brainstorming list of proposals for consideration by Members to be adopted, adapted or rejected.

Paul's suggestions, previously emailed to Members, were presented in sequence by the Chairman for discussion within the Meeting:

1. Offer an incentive to current Members to introduce new members to the Club and, once they become fully paid-up Members, the person who introduced them is entitled to a free meal at the next arranged lunch. ***Members showed little enthusiasm for this. Rejected***

2. Offer an incentive to new Members of an introductory free membership period (3, 6, 12 months). ***Idea well received. Members preferred the 3 month option. To be adopted***

3. Women members – I have already discussed this with the Chair but feel this could benefit from being revisited by the Committee. I have attended several clubs in Scotland where women are welcomed – after all, there are professional and businesswomen in this world. ***This led to lively discussion and strong views on both sides of the argument. However, the momentum was clearly with those rejecting the proposal. As Membership levels were currently sufficient to keep subscriptions to a reasonable level, it was considered not essential to introduce such a radical change at this stage. Issue to be considered again at a later date***

4. Consider opening up the talk part of the meetings to the public, including women (for an entrance fee, which would boost funds). This could also potentially boost membership, as people would effectively be getting a “try before you buy” experience. At the end of the talk, the Chair could then thank the public who have attended and ask respectfully that they leave before the meeting commences. ***The consensus was that as the Club was a forum of like-minded retired professionals with an established Club atmosphere, random visits from the public may dilute the ethos. Declined***

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5. Agenda item for each meeting to remind Members that we have an open-door policy for new Members to join. ***Issue currently appears as Item 2 in every Agenda. To be re-worded for emphasis. To be adapted***

6. Flyers strategically placed around Stokesley (notice boards, shops, library, community hub, pubs, cafes etc.) ***This was broadly supported by Members. It was suggested the programme of events be included on such flyers. Details subject to further discussion. Idea to be adopted***

7. Link with Rotary Club? **Members expressed concerns regarding divergent aims, objectives, ethos and identity. Rejected**

8. Recruitment at the petrol pump? ***A bit of a stretch! However, the inventiveness was appreciated. Rejected***

9. Reach out on social media and website. ***Ideas included having a Facebook page. Principle supported. Pending***

10 Engage with large businesses in the area with a view to targeting soon-to-be retired employees. Example – Council, Quorn factory in Stokesley, Thirteen Group – representative of club to liaise with their HR dept. ***It was suggested that area representatives could be appointed to share the work. supported by Members. To be adopted.***

8. AOB

As it was Ron Dalton's Birthday on the day of the meeting, the Chairman presented him with a Birthday Card and Gift.

Fun Draw: The Chairman brought 15 DVD's of classic films (in keeping with Those were the Days). The lucky winners: Keith Bell, Brian Sturrock and John Rhind chose 5 each.

Next Meeting is on Tuesday 15th July 2025 when Caroline Hardy will present, "The Railway That Got the World on Track".

JE 17/6/2025

Minutes of Members Meeting held on 15/07/2025

Jack Brunton Room at Stokesley Town Hall at 10.00am

Mike Irving **1935 - 2025**

The Chairman reported the recent passing of Mike Irving and delivered an obituary in tribute to a popular and well-respected Member who will be much missed.

Minutes of Meeting

1. Attendance and apologies: 30 attendees, 9 apologies, 2 guests.
2. Minutes of previous Meeting held on 17th June 2025: Accepted
3. Matters arising: None
4. Paul Bruce – Recruitment
The Chairman summarised Paul's proposals as presented to and discussed by Members during the previous meeting on 17th June and asked Members to confirm the decisions made.
All decisions were confirmed - for details please refer to previous minutes of meeting. Paul Bruce, the Chairman and Keith Bell to meet after the Business Meeting to discuss 'next steps'.
5. Committee Reports
Treasurer: All matters in order.
Secretary: All matters in order.
Website Manager: Website up to date.
Speaker Finder: Apologies. Programme planning completed for the foreseeable future.
6. Member Lunches
Next lunch date is Wednesday 8th October 2025. No venue yet decided.
7. Trips
Raby Castle. Chris Griffiths visiting today with NT Group. The Chairman will discuss with Chris and make report at the next meeting. It was noted that the castle had recently undergone much alteration and improvement work.
8. AOB
Bob Scott, who is a Committee Member with the Friends of the S&DR informed Members of a series of led walks along the original alignment of the railway. One walk, to be held in September from Eaglescliffe to Stockton will be led by Bob and Members interested are invited to sign up. Leaflets detailing the walks were handed to those interested.

Fun Draw: Continuing the theme of the presentation the Chairman brought three books about Steam Locomotives. The lucky winners were Keith Burton, Jeff Prettyman and Laurie Graham.

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Next Meeting is Tues.19th August 2025 Christine Corbett will present, "Nature and the Archives".

JE 15.7.25

Minutes of Members Meeting held on 19/08/2025

Jack Brunton Room at Stokesley Town Hall at 10.00am

Terry Ratcliffe 1937 - 2025

The Chairman reported the recent passing of Terry Ratcliffe and delivered an obituary in tribute to a popular and well-respected Member who will be much missed.

Minutes of Meeting

1. Attendance and apologies: 25 attendees, 11 apologies, 0 guests.
Two new Members, but unable to attend.
2. Minutes of previous Meeting held on 15th July 2025: Accepted
3. Matters arising: None
4. Paul Bruce – Recruitment
Although Paul was unable to attend, he is very enthusiastic about ensuring the longevity of the Club. In Paul's absence, the Chairman summarised the current status of Paul's suggestions as follows:
 1. Free lunch for Member introducing new Member – *rejected*
 2. Three month introductory offer - *introduced*
 3. Membership for women - *rejected*
 4. Talks open to public - *rejected*
 5. Agenda item to invite prospective new Members – *adopted already*
 6. Flyers – *yes, several iterations have been circulated for comment*
 7. Link up with Rotary - *rejected*
 8. Posters, bills (petrol pumps, etc) - *rejected*
 9. Socia; media presence (Facebook, etc) – *rejected*
 10. Engage with local businesses to target retirees – *to be adopted*

5. Committee Reports

Treasurer: All matters in order. Christmas lunch – checked out Wainstones. Dining Room has no furniture yet, but room larger and looks much improved after renovations. No menu or prices yet available. Date fixed at Tuesday 9th December 2025. **Warning** – when entering car park take great care to avoid kerb as it has sharp metal edging, which resulted in a Member's car suffering a tyre blow out.

Secretary: All matters in order.

Website Manager: Website up to date.

Speaker Finder: Programme planning completed for the foreseeable future.

6. Member Lunches

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Next lunch date is Wednesday 8th October 2025. No venue yet decided.

7. Trips

A day in York – Yorkshire Museum has special exhibition “The Viking Story” with newly displayed objects and many other places of interest. There was a lot of interest, therefore, the Chairman will look at costings and report back.
Durham Cathedral – Entry free, but voluntary £5 donation expected, or £8.50 for group tour of 10+ Entry to tower £11 (very strenuous stair climb), and £6.50 for Magna Carta display.
Members showed no interest, and this idea was dropped.

8. AOB

Stefan Barnes has offered to present talks from his extensive list of subjects. Any Members interested on behalf of local clubs and societies please contact Chris Griffiths for a copy of the list.

Town Hall Steward: Keith Bellamy is leaving. Shane Bint is his replacement.

Fun Draw: The Chairman brought a set of BBC gardening books by Alan Titchmarsh, and a book entitled, “How Worm's Work” published by The Royal Horticultural Society.
The lucky winners were, Graham Barwick and Mike McCamley

Next Meeting is on Tuesday 9th September 2025 when Ted Parker will present, “Greenland Part 2”.

JE 4/9/2025

Minutes of Members Meeting held on 19/09/2025

At Stokesley Methodist Church Hall at 10.00am

The Chairman opened the Meeting with an apology. This was because of the very late notice of a change to the Venue for our Meeting. By a stroke of luck John Edwards was in the Town Hall delivering the Club refreshments late on Monday afternoon ready for Tuesday morning. The Steward informed John that our booking had been transferred to the U3A. John informed the Chairman who, together with the Treasurer, made a considerable effort to book the Methodist Church Hall. Many thanks to all the Members who helped with chairs, tables, blinds and refreshments. The Team effort was brilliant and much appreciated.

1. Attendance and apologies: 22 Members No guests 14 Apologies
Two new Members, but unable to attend due to work commitments.
2. Minutes of previous Meeting held on 19th August 2025 - Accepted
3. Matters arising: None
4. Paul Bruce – Recruitment Posters
Sadly, Paul has submitted apologies for an indefinite period due to family commitments.
We send our 'best wishes' to Paul and Linda.
Paul has also 'stepped down' from the Committee.
The Chairman reviewed the history of Club Posters starting with the first one from 2014 produced by Stefan Barnes and the latest suggestion from Stefan. The current poster, updated over the years, was shown.
Several drafts from Paul were highlighted.
A poster advertising the Club and promoting recruitment is a 'work in progress'.
If a suitable Poster is drafted then Member queries can be answered:
Do we need a Poster?
Where will it be posted?
Jeff Prettyman suggested the use of the Town Hall 'loop' system.
Chris Grigffiths suggested an entry in the Now & Then Magazine. The Chairman to investigate.
5. Committee Reports
Treasurer: All routine matters in order.
Christmas lunch – Tuesday 9th December remains a booking at the Wainstones. Our usual room is larger and looks much improved after renovations. No menu or prices yet available. October is the next target date. It will be important for Members to get their bookings to Chris Lee as quickly as possible.
Secretary: Apologies.
Website Manager: Website up to date.
Speaker Finder: Programme planning completed for the foreseeable future.

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6. Member Lunches – Peter Robinson

Next lunch date is Wednesday 8th October 2025. The Dudley Arms in Ingleby Greenhow has been booked. Pre-orders are not required. Members are invited to attend with guests. The Menu can be found via Peter's link, posted on the website by Brian Clarke and on the Dudley website. Arrive 12.30 pm.

7. Trips:

York-proposed by Chris Griffiths

Following the positive response from Members at the August Meeting the Chairman presented further details on the potential trip to **York**.

The structure of the day will be to have two pick up points: one in Stokesley and one in Gt. Ayton.

A 36-seater Coatham Coach will be booked.

A group booking will be made at The Yorkshire Museum.

Approximate times in the Museum will be 10.00am-12.00noon

A group booking at the Treasurer's House will be made for approximately 1.00pm

There is a 10 minute walk from the Coach Park to the Museum

and a 10 minute walk from the Museum to the Treasurer's House

and a 10 minute walk from the Treasurer's House back to the Coach Park.

We can build in some free time.

Members discussed possible dates: the consensus was to book Wednesday the 29th October.

The Chairman will distribute a Flyer to all Members.

Any Guests Members wish to invite are most welcome.

Approximate cost if the Coach is full: £25.00pp (covers the coach and museum).

Kynren-proposed by Mike Lawrenson

The Chairman presented a detailed account of a potential visit which Members declined.

A further review for a Summer 2026 visit will be considered.

8. AOB

The Chairman held up a Letter, dated 11.9.2012, borrowed from display in the Town Hall entrance. Addressed to Derek Whiting from a Lady-in-Waiting on behalf of the Queen. It expresses thanks for Dereks's photographs of the Ziggurat installed to mark Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee 6.2.2012

The Chairman promoted a flyer from Bob Scott advertising a Cruise on the Teesside Princess, lunch and walk as part of the SDR 200th anniversary celebrations.

Sunday 28th September – boarding from 11.30am

Members and their Guests were invited.

Cruise only £15.00pp Cruise and Lunch £28.00pp The walk is free.

Contact Bob directly 07590491222 bob530tt@gmail.com

The Chairman informed Member-friends of Jack Candlin that his wife Barbara was very poorly.

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Fun Draw: The Chairman brought two sets of DVDs recording the epic journey of Ernest Shackleton traced by a group of Royal Marines. Winners were Graham Howard and Chris Lee

Next Meeting is on Tues. 21st Oct. Tom Richardson: The Tees Wildlife Trust

KW 9.9.25

Minutes of Members Meeting held on 21/10/2025

Minutes of Meeting

1. Attendance and apologies: 29 attendees, 7 apologies, 0 guests.
2. New Member, Tom Simpson, unable to attend.
3. Minutes of previous Meeting held on 9th September 2025: Accepted
4. Matters arising: Membership currently 42. Paul Bruce recently resigned from the Committee and has now had to resign from the Club due to pressure of other commitments.
5. Committee Reports

Treasurer: As Chris Lee was unable to attend, the Chairman delivered a Report.

Christmas Lunch: After checking out numerous venues none were cheaper than the Wainstones. Furthermore, several were fully booked, some had no dedicated room, or had an unconventional menu, and all had add-on charges (as does the Wainstones, but not so extensively). Consequently, the Wainstones was booked for Tuesday 9th December. The basic cost, including gratuity, is £31 for two courses, and £37 for three. There are supplemental costs for some dishes, and for tea/coffee. The menu has been issued by e-mail and includes option boxes for choices. Those Members wishing to attend please return completed forms to Chris Lee together with payment as early as possible. Printed forms were available at the Meeting. Chris would prefer forms returned by e-mail and payment by BACS.

Please inform Chris if you have any preferred seating arrangement.

After Christmas the event will be reviewed and other options can be explored if Members consider it worthwhile.

Secretary: All matters in order.

Website Manager: Website up to date.

Speaker Finder: Programme planning completed for the foreseeable future.

6. Trips

York on Wednesday 29th October 2025. Coach pick up at the Buck Inn, Great Ayton at 9.30 am, and Stokesley Town Hall bus stop at 9.45 am. The coach will arrive and depart from Union Terrace coach park. It is 10 minute walk to the Yorkshire Museum, and 10 minutes to the Treasurer's House for lunch at 1.00 pm. The menu has been circulated. Pre-ordering required – please advise the Chairman of your choices.

Departure time can be decided on the day, but it is anticipated to be around 4.00 pm to 4.30 pm.

Any Members (and guests) wishing to join the trip please inform the Chairman. The cost is £25 pp including coach and museum entry.

Note: Michael Beavis has kindly donated two tickets for entry to York Minster (worth £20 each) and these are available to anyone who is interested.

7. Member Lunches

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Dudley Arms, Ingleby Greenhow, on 8th October 2025. 12 attendees, 4 apologies.

Despite room not being ideal, the event was enjoyed by all.

Lunch programme for 2026

Wednesday 25th February: The Crown, Kirklevington

Tuesday 31st March: Blackwell Ox, Carlton-in-Cleveland (Date to be reviewed)

Thursday 4th June: Tockett's Mill

Wednesday 30th September: Royal Oak, Great Ayton

Tuesday 8th December: Christmas Lunch

Members suggested several other venues for consideration:

The Bay Horse, Greatt Broughton (Bob Scott)

The Falcon, Hilton (Colin Hinton)

Miller and Carter, Nunthorpe (Maj Chuhan & Graham Howard)

The Blue Bell, Ingleby Cross (KW)

The Wheatsheaf, Hutton Rudby (KW)

8. AOB

The Chairman informed Members that Stefan Barnes is to present his inaugural talk as a guest speaker on Monday 27th October 2025 at 7.30pm at Stokesley Town Hall. This illustrated presentation for The Stokesley Society is entitled "One in the eye, or was it ? The Normans in England" and examines life in England pre and post Conquest. Entry £3 including tea/coffee and biscuits. Doors open at 7pm. All are welcome.

Fun Draw: The Chairman brought two copies of "Dynasties", the book that accompanies the BBC television wild life series with David Attenborough. The lucky winners were, Keith Burton, and Jeffrey Richardson.

Next Meeting is on Tuesday 18th November 2025 when Martin Peagam will present, "Hearing Dogs for the Deaf".

JE 22/10/2025

Minutes of Members Meeting held on 18/11/2025

David Storry 1933 – 2025

The Chairman presented a eulogy on the passing of David; a popular, highly-respected and adventurous man. A life well-lived.

Minutes of Meeting

1. Attendance and apologies: 27 attendees, 7 apologies and 2 guests (Alan Crosskill and Ian Taylor: a potential new Member).
2. New Member, Tom Simpson, unable to attend.
3. Minutes of previous Meeting held on 21st October 2025: Accepted
4. Matters arising: Malcolm Britton is very ill in hospital (sadly, he has had leg amputated).
5. Committee Reports

Treasurer: Christmas Lunch – Orders and money flowing in well. The Wainstones Hotel requires payment up front, therefore, all attendees need to make payment to the Treasurer or direct to the Club's bank account by 2nd December 2025. Anyone cancelling after this date will be unable to receive a refund. As The Wainstones has waived cost of coffee & petit fours, the Club has been obliged to agree to these terms.

Since the renovations and addition of the popular cafe extension there is more demand for car parking in a reduced size car park, therefore, it is recommended that attendees arrive early and try to arrange car sharing.

The room is arranged in tables of six. Please advise Chris Lee of any seating preferences.

The default seating will be six names allocated to each table. Attendees are to arrange their own table seating positions.

All to be seated by 1.00 pm for commencement of lunch.

Secretary: All matters in order.

Website Manager: Unable to attend, but Website up to date. Minutes of Meetings and Speaker Notes now in separate folders. Christmas Lunch menu and booking form added. Also, next year's programme is shown.

Speaker Finder: Unable to attend, but programme planning completed for the foreseeable future.

6. Trips

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York on Wednesday 29th October 2025. Overall, a successful trip. The Yorkshire Museum was a pleasant surprise. Lunch at the Treasurer's House, a unique venue, had limited options, but private dining room was appreciated. The flexitime worked well for all. Very heavy traffic when arriving and leaving took up much time.

The two entry tickets for York Minster donated by Michael Beavis are still available to anyone who is interested (worth £20 each).

7. Member Lunches - *Lunch programme for 2026:*

Wednesday 4th March: The Crown, Kirklevington

Thursday 4th June: The Blackwell Ox, Carlton-in-Cleveland

Wednesday 5th August: Tockett's Mill, Guisborough

Wednesday 7th October: The Royal Oak, Great Ayton

Tuesday 8th December: Christmas Lunch

Recommendations for other venues always welcome.

8. AOB

As it was Norris Wilson's 84th birthday on the day of the meeting, the Chairman presented him with a card and a gift (a DK book on Tractors)

This week sees the 30th anniversary of John Rhind's Club membership and in recognition of this the Chairman presented him with a gift (a complete set of Inspector Morse novels)

In appreciation of Maj Chuhan having introduced numerous new Members, key for the continuation and success of the Club, the Chairman presented him with a well-deserved gift (a complete set of Inspector Morse Novels).

Fun Draw: The Chairman brought two copies each of "The Guinness Book of Records"

and "Ripley's Believe it or Not". The lucky winners were:

Stefan Barnes, Ron Dalton, Colin Howard, and Bob Scott.

Next Meeting (both Committee and Business) is on Tuesday 20th January 2026
Raymond Clarke will talk about the work of the North Yorkshire Moors Association.

JE 18.11.25

Minutes of Members Meeting held on 20/01/2026

Richard Rose

1938 – 2025

John Peter Crocker

1934 - 2025

Minutes of Meeting

1. Attendance and apologies: 27 attendees, 7 apologies, 2 Guests
The Chairman welcomed two Guests: Mike Overy and Ian Taylor.

Both were guests of Maj Chuhan.

2. Minutes of previous Meeting held on 18th November 2025: Accepted

3. Matters arising:

Christmas Lunch – A review of the event was presented by the Treasurer followed by a discussion inviting Members' comments.

A separate report prepared by the Chairman addresses these in detail and is appended to these minutes.

Here is a brief summary of the issues:

Price: considered by all as good value.

The food was praised by a large majority but several Members raised specific issues.

Many complaints about the curved dining tables and their arrangement.

Service – the consensus was that it was too slow.

The venue was generally praised.

Car parking – not satisfactory. Insufficient car parking spaces, and parking on public roads not ideal, and caused congestion.

Conclusion: book again for 2026 (Tuesday 8th December), but research other venues Blacksmith's Arms, Treebridge Hotel, Whinstone View, Brass Castle Golf Club.

Members expressed their thanks to Chris Lee for all his hard work in organising the event.

4. Committee Reports

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Treasurer: All in order

Secretary: No matters to report

Website Manager: Website up to date

Speaker Finder: All talks booked for the foreseeable future

5. Member Lunches

Peter Robinson will book the Crown at Kirklevington for Wednesday 4th March 2026. Details will be circulated shortly and will also be shown on the website.

6. Trips

Members were reminded that to follow requests to hold Trips in school term time would mean higher coach costs.

Suggestions for venues were requested.

The Chairman received an invitation for the Club to visit Ampleforth Abbey (last visited in 2013). Chairman to prepare draft costs.

To consider.

The two entry tickets for York Minster donated by Michael Beavis are still available to anyone who is interested (worth £20 each).

7. AOB

The Chairman had received a letter from Martin Peagam and hearing dog, "Inca", thanking Members for their warm welcome, and their generosity in donating £119.70 after Martin's presentation at the 18th November Meeting.

This, together with Martin's fee and travelling expenses, enabled him to donate a total of £179.70 to the Hearing Dog Association charity. A certificate confirming this was also received and will be displayed on the website.

Fun Draw: The Chairman brought two copies of the AA book, "National Parks in Britain", and the lucky winners were: Malcolm Smith and John Rhind

The Chairman presented John Edwards with a giant mind games puzzle book as thanks for donating the quiz, "Name the Play". The winner was Maj Chuan who identified 12 of the hidden plays. He received two Christmas puzzle books.

Next Meeting is on Tuesday 17th February 2026 when Colin Harrison will present his talk, "The RNLI".

JE 20.1.26

Minutes of Members Meeting held on 17/02/2026

Minutes of Meeting

1. Attendance and apologies: 24 attendees, 13 apologies, 1 guest

The Chairman informed Members of the passing of David Bryson on 14th February. Service to follow.

2. Minutes of previous Meeting held on 20th January 2026: Accepted
3. Matters arising: **Committee Member tenures:** Both Brian Clarke (Website Manager) and John Edwards (Secretary) will complete their terms at the AGM in April. Both are willing to stand for election again should no other Members show interest in the roles. Any Members so wishing to stand please inform the Chairman or Secretary.

Christmas Lunch: Following initial discussion during the previous meeting the Chairman and Treasurer presented a summary of Members' comments regarding the lunch at the Wainstones Hotel. There were significant positives and concerns expressed in a diversity of Member comment.

Food and price: Despite several specific concerns the consensus was that these were acceptable. All venues were within £2/£3 of each other. A predicted price rise of 5-10% was quoted at each venue.

Seating: Several members found the curved tables and their arrangement not ideal for conversation.

Service: It was widely considered that it was not the best with long wait times between courses. However, the staff were always courteous and helpful.

Timing: An earlier start time for the meal had considerable support.

Parking: The limited availability of parking was unanimously agreed as problematic. Street parking is not ideal, and residents are complaining. If restrictions are introduced, the problem will be exacerbated.

The Chairman and Treasurer then gave a run down on the alternative venues they had visited:

Whinstone View: Good room, menu more like pub food, very helpful manager, adequate parking, room decorated, good facilities. Overall, would suit our requirements.

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Middlesbrough Golf Club: Very pleasant room with view, limited menu, adequate parking. Probus dates clash with Ladies Day. Overall, not recommended.

Treebridge Hotel: Dowdy venue, not a good impression, unavailable on 8th December 2026. Not recommended.

Blacksmith's Arms: Dark room, seasonal menu only on Christmas Day. Not recommended.

A vote was held and Members supported (by 13 to 5) a return to the Wainstones on 8th December 2026 on a trial basis. As such, the Chairman and the Treasurer will return to the venue to discuss the above concerns with the management as constructive feedback and to gauge whether improvements are likely to be implemented. Following their feedback a decision will be made to confirm booking, or to book at Whinstone View.

4. Committee Reports

Treasurer: All in order.

Secretary: No matters to report.

Website Manager: Unable to attend, but Website up to date.

Speaker Finder: All talks booked for the foreseeable future.

5. Member Lunches

The next lunch is at the Crown at Kirklevington on Wednesday 4th March 2026. Details and menu are shown on the website. Attendees: so far, 10 have confirmed and 5 apologies have been received. As Peter Robinson is on holiday, please contact the Chairman if you wish to attend, or simply turn up on the day.

6. Trips

Currently, no trips are scheduled or are being researched.

The two entry tickets for York Minster donated by Michael Beavis are still available to anyone who is interested (worth £20 each).

7. AOB

The Speaker, Colin Harrison, refused to accept any fee or expenses. John Edwards suggested that a fee be donated to the Runswick and Staithes RNL Station. Bob Scott proposed a figure of £30 in line with other groups. These proposals were agreed by Members with the Chairman to action.

Fun Draw: The Chairman brought two sets of books, "Coastal Britain" and "The Weather Forecast" The lucky winners were: Keith Burton and Robin Stimpson.

STOKESLEY PROBUS CLUB
Minutes of Members Meetings 2024-2025

Next Meeting (both Committee and Business) is on Tuesday 17th March 2026 when Michael Kirke will present his talk, "HMS Beagle, Pilot Diaries 1825 -1830".

JE 17.2.26

Minutes of Members Meeting held on 17/03/2026

Eulogy for Dr David Drysdale Bryson 1928 - 2026

Eulogy for Past Member John Walter Rider 1938 – 2026

Minutes of Meeting

1. Attendance and apologies: 30 attendees, 9 apologies.
2. New Members: Ian Taylor & Jonathan Meredith
Guests: Alan Wynne & Robin Winney
3. Minutes of previous Meeting held on 17th February 2026: Accepted
4. **Matters arising:**

Name Cards: Available to Members at the meeting or to order. Thanks to Stefan Barnes for ordering Card Holders and the printing.

Donation:

Following last month's meeting, £30 was donated to Staithes RNLI Lifeboat Station in lieu of Speaker's fee, which Colin Harrison from the Staithes lifeboat crew refused to accept. Thanks received from the Staithes Station.

5. **AGM** preparation

Constitution:

The Committee reviewed the current Constitution and recommended no change for the coming year.

Committee Member tenures:

Both Brian Clarke (Website Manager) and John Edwards (Secretary) will complete their terms at the AGM in April. Both are willing to stand for election again should no other Members show interest in the roles. No other Members have yet put their names forward.

6. **Christmas Lunch 2026**

Having considered all comments raised during discussion at previous meeting, it has been decided to return to the Wainstones for Christmas Lunch in 2026. Consequently, a booking has been made.

It is noted that a member of the Jet Miner's staff has been appointed as Events Co-ordinator at the Wainstones. This lady's experience may help address concerns regarding service and quality. The Treasurer CL and Chairman KW will arrange to visit the venue for discussions on issues raised.

7. **Members' Lunches**

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Lunch at the Crown at Kirklevington on 4th March 2026 was attended by 11 Members and one guest. 11 apologies were received. Enjoyed by all.

Next lunch to be at the Blackwell Ox, Carlton, on 4th June 2026. Details will be issued.

8. Committee Reports

Treasurer: All accounts in order. Subscriptions proposed to remain unchanged at £35 for year 2026/2027 - AGM Member decision. Payment will be due from the date of the AGM (21st April 2026). Payment by BACS is preferred but cash also accepted. Cheques are troublesome, so please try to avoid paying by this means.

Secretary: No matters to report.

Website Manager: Website up to date.

Speaker Finder: Apologies, unable to attend. All talks booked for the foreseeable future.

9. Trips

Currently, no trips are scheduled or are being researched.

The Chairman looked into a visit to the Alhambra Theatre in Bradford but the tickets alone cost £50, and with transport and a meal the likely total cost would be over £100 per person. Consequently, the idea was dropped.

10. AOB

2026/2027 Programme cards were distributed. Thanks both to Chris Griffiths for arranging the programme, and to Stefan Barnes for printing. It was noted that some cards erroneously show the November 2026 meeting being held on 18th November, and some show the correct date of 17th November. Please note.

Fun Draw: The Chairman brought two sets of the following books: a biography of Admiral Nelson, "The Sword of Albion" and a book and dvd about HMS Victory.

The lucky winners were John Edwards and Kevin Clifford. Stefan Barnes won the re-draw of HMS Victory generously donated back by JE

Next Meeting is the AGM on Tuesday 21st April 2026 when Paul Menzies will present a talk about the history of Stockton.

18/3/2026 JE