

Community Matters Forum

Summary Minutes of Meeting | Wednesday 8 July 2026 | Shephard Room | 6.45pm–7.40pm

1. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

Discussion summary

- The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed.
- Updates were received on the distribution of public summary minutes, the Visitor to Worshipper Pathway, the selected local charity partnerships and participation in the safeguarding focus group.

Decisions

- The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Actions

- The Co-Chairs will follow up the distribution of public summary minutes.

2. Community Events

Discussion summary

- Minster Island Discs and the Community Cream Tea were both well attended.
- Sound difficulties at Minster Island Discs will need to be addressed if the format is repeated.
- The Forum considered level access and ventilation issues arising from the Cream Tea and the wider use of the summer marquee.
- Planning for the annual Ceilidh on 25 September is progressing. Tickets will be available online and at the Minster front desk.

Decisions

- Future Minster Island Discs events will require improved sound provision.
- Ticketed community events will, where practicable, use online booking and front-desk sales.

Actions

- Feedback on level access and marquee ventilation will be passed to those responsible for the wider summer event arrangements.

3. Community Matters Gathering – 4 October

Discussion summary

- The Forum considered content for the next Community Matters Gathering and will check whether Harvest Sunday affects the timing.
- Proposed themes included a presentation from one of the supported charities, thanks to the community for its support of events, the Minster's Vision and Strategy for 2030, community participation in the 2027 anniversary year, and the community's role in sustaining the Minster's A Rocha Gold Award.
- The Gathering may also provide an opportunity to share a confirmed calendar of 2027 events.

Actions

- The Co-Chairs will check the timing of the Gathering and develop the programme, including exploring a presentation from one of the supported charities.

4. Deanery Synod Representation

Discussion summary

- Hugo Janacek and Elizabeth Pywell have been approved by Chapter to fill the remaining Deanery Synod vacancies and will join Conal Gregory as the Minster's representatives.
- They are expected to attend the September CMF meeting.

5. Skills, Knowledge and Co-options

Discussion summary

- The Forum considered how best to identify areas in which its membership could be strengthened.
- Members were encouraged to suggest people from the wider community who could bring strength, commitment and useful experience to the Forum.

- Ehren Mierau, Stephanie Horn and Jacob Horn are current co-opted members. Stephanie Horn and Jacob Horn confirmed that they wished to continue.

Decisions

- Stephanie Horn and Jacob Horn will continue as co-opted members.

Actions

- Members will suggest potential future co-optees to the Co-Chairs.

Post-meeting clarification

- Following the meeting, the Co-Chairs confirmed that the CMF Terms of Reference require a skills and knowledge audit and an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion assessment at the prescribed annual points. The required exercise will therefore be arranged and used to inform consideration of future co-options.

6. Looking Ahead to 2027

Discussion summary

- The Forum considered the community programme for 2027. The annual Cream Tea and Ceilidh will continue, with an additional community event being explored for May.
- Ideas included using diocesan discipleship resources, a community pilgrimage at another Yorkshire site, activity involving the Minster Collections, and opportunities for the community to participate closely in the anniversary programme and related installations.

Decisions

- The Cream Tea and Ceilidh will remain part of the 2027 programme, alongside exploration of an additional May event and anniversary-related activity.

Actions

- A member will share relevant diocesan discipleship materials with the Co-Chairs when available.

7. May 2027 Community Event

Discussion summary

- There was support for considering another Minster Island Discs event, with improved sound arrangements.
- The Forum also considered refreshments, a modest ticket charge and the possibility of interviewing someone from beyond the clergy.

Decisions

- No final decision was taken. Minster Island Discs will remain the leading option for further planning.

Future Meeting Dates

Discussion summary

- Wednesday 9 September and Wednesday 11 November 2026.
- Further meeting dates will be circulated by email.