



Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at 7.00 pm,  
Community Parish Room, 1 Monteith Close, West Auckland DL14 9UB

**Present:** Cllr K Guest, Chairperson  
Cllr K Bolton  
Cllr J Curl  
Cllr E Farrer, Vice Chairperson  
Cllr N Foster  
Cllr T Horsman  
Cllr J Pattison  
Cllr N Simpson

A minute's silence was held in respect of recently deceased Colin Mairs, a well-respected previous Chairman and member of the Parish Council.

**26.51 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Roberts, Cllr Robinson, Cllr Stott & Cllr Swainston.

**26.52 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no expressions of interest received.

**26.53 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed accordingly.

**26.54 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

- A resident requested Parish Council assistance with the state of the Pant. The grass is becoming overgrown. DCC are cutting the grass but the area is otherwise neglected and have not maintained the flower bed as previously agreed. It was resolved that the relevant team at DCC be approached to request it being edged as grass is growing between paving and generally cleared up. Clerk to request input from DCC initially and seek private contractor if no action is offered by DCC.
- Introducing Moving Together Bishop Auckland – Michelle Scott

Michelle attended the meeting to provide an overview of Moving Together Bishop Auckland initiative funded by Sport England. The project is currently engaging with communities to establish what residents see as needed for their area. The Parish Council were invited to provide input and attend a networking meeting at Woodhouse Close Community Church on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 10.30 am.

Chairman's Signature..... Date.....

## 26.55 TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- It was reported that one of the sixteen pine trees planted at the cemetery has been cut down.
- A bollard removed from The Well doorway has been re-sited.
- It was reported that the Edith Terrace pathway is overgrown and requires attention. Clerk to raise a request with DCC.
- The Darlington Skip Hire skip and surrounding barrier fencing on Front Street continues to be a serious hazard. Clerk to report again to DCC.
- The fence at Monteith Parish Room requires new posts and will be repaired by Cllr Simpson.
- It was emphasised that David Walls should to be contacted with a request to remove the shed he has on Parish Council land at Darlington Road.
- The Front Street junction at Morrisons corner is in a poor state and a request is to be made to DCC. Clerk to report to DCC.
- It was advised that various options for pigeon men's storage has been considered and feedback from them on quotes for containers is awaited. This item will continue to the next agenda.
- The property on the corner of Front Street/Station Road continues to decay. Clerk to report to DCC.
- It was confirmed that DCC have issued a 28-day notice for the removal of a clothes bank owned by an unknown company which has been sited on Darlington Road in recent months.

## 26.56 CLERK'S TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE/ENDORISING OF INVOICE CHEQUES

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

	Income	Expenses
BT wifi		£40.74
Printer and cartridges		£261.64
Clock		£32.99
Eon Next		£39.78
Eon Next		£50.84
WAMCA front wall bricks James Burrell		£3,570.00
Memorial Hall - contribution towards bricks	£2,975.00	
Domestic - Lynne Lord		£88.00
Telephone & broadband		£30.00
Anglian Water		£97.74
Website - LJ Digital Media		£105.00
Flowers for Heather Mairs		£54.75
Eon Next		£45.92
Eon Next		£40.56

Chairman's Signature..... Date.....

- i. The Parish Council’s response to the recent valuation from DCC for the open space on Darlington Road opposite the Memmorial Hall.

Following consideration it was resolved that the Parish Council believe the cost of £70,000 to be excessive and will not pursue purchase of the land further. Clerk to notify DCC.

**26.57 To RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

- To consider meeting with Etherley Parish Council future bypass united front.

As there has been no further response from Etherley Parish Council, the Clerk will request an update from Etherley PC Clerk. Cllrs Nathan, Karen, Neil, Jean & Kelly expressed an interest in participating with a working group.

**26.58 To RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

There were no financial items for consideration.

**26.59 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES**

There were no plans for consideration.

**26.60 To RECEIVE AGENDA ITEM FOR MONDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2026 MEETING**

- To consider a possible location for the pigeon men’s shed to store baskets.
- To consider a suitable remembrance for previous Chairman, Colin Mairs

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....