

## THE MINUTES OF THE EASINGTON COLLIERY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2025

Present: Councillor L. Clarkson (Chair)  
Councillors A. J. Cummings, L. Carr, A. Surtees,  
S. Fergus, D. Fraser, S. Bishop

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors S. W. Fergus, I. Foster,  
W. Smith.

### 1. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No questions were raised for consideration by the meeting.

**RESOLVED** that this be noted.

### 2. MEMBERS REPORTS/OTHER MATTERS

#### (i) County Durham Association of Local Councils Meeting

Councillor D. Fraser provided a comprehensive report back on a recent CDALC meeting held at Shildon.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

#### (ii) Seaside Lane

A Member referenced the untidy condition of Seaside Lane (front and rear) due to the amount of litter, detritus and food waste that was present. A question was raised as to whether more bins were required.

**RESOLVED** that this be referred to Durham County Council with a request for consideration be given to both a clean-up and additional bins.

#### (iii) Remembrance Sunday – Parish Wreath

It was referenced that a member of the public had enquired whether the Parish Council laid a wreath as part of the Remembrance Sunday Service. The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council did always lay a wreath and this task was undertaken by the Chair to the Parish Council.

**RESOLVED** that this information be conveyed to the enquirer by the Councillor concerned.

### 3. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL – WARD MEMBERS REPORT

Members expressed disappointment that the County Council Ward Member(s), despite advising that they would attempt to attend all Parish Council meetings, were not present at this evening's meeting, especially given the announcement that the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme grant allocation was likely to be withdrawn in 2026/27. The reduction of this grant was likely to affect the most vulnerable and needy across County Durham. The lack of attendance by County Ward Members meant it was not possible to discuss this prior to budget setting.

The Parish Clerk was requested to seek the County Ward Members support for the grant not to be withdrawn, especially given recent announcements that over £100m of savings had been achieved in the first six months of the new administration's tenure. Given those savings it was felt that it would be a relatively small ask to retain the Reduction Scheme grant allocation in future years.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk make the necessary representations.

4. **POLICE MATTERS**

The Crime Statistics and Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents Report for the period 16 September to 15 November 2025 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was considered.

The Report identified there had been the following reported incidents:

- Burglary - 1
- Theft – 6+
- Anti-social behaviour- personal – 3/nuisance – 4/environmental - 1
- Criminal damage -10
- Vehicle crime - 6

The Report also advised of ongoing environmental issues around Ascot and Ashton Street.

**RESOLVED** that the information given be noted.

5. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 16 September 2025, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.

**Matters Arising**

(i) **Oak Road Park**

The Clerk reported that due to the relatively low value associated with repairing the Oak Road Park fencing/seating it was not proposed to submit an insurance claim.

**RESOLVED** that this position be supported by Members.

(ii) **Care Homes**

A Member enquired whether Birchwood Care Home had changed its name to Redwood as referenced in Minute Number 10(v) of the minutes.

Members debated this and were of the opinion that the Care Homes were still Ashwood and Birchwood.

**RESOLVED** that this be noted.

6. **THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** of their meeting held on 22 October 2025, a copy of which had been circulated, were adopted with the following being agreed:

- (i) In regard to the proposed remedial works to the Welfare Park Bowling Green the Chair and Vice-Chair be authorised to determine whether to proceed with the works upon receipt of a report back from the Clerk on the meeting with the Bowls Club to be held on 21 November 2025.
- (ii) In regard to the Welfare Park football ground funding bid the proposals as outlined, be endorsed.
- (iii) Concerning the Investment Strategy approach, a further report be awaited from the Clerk.

7. **REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS MANAGER**

The Work Activity Report in respect of the Cemetery, Welfare Park, Allotment and Open Space areas for the period 16 September to 18 November 2025, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member was considered.

A Councillor reported that a member of the public had enquired why lampposts throughout the colliery did not have Remembrance Day memorabilia attached as per other parishes. Members reported that the procession route was appropriately marked with Remembrance Day commemorative plaques etc and this was considered appropriate.

**RESOLVED** that the Report be noted.

**8. ALLOTMENT APPLICATIONS**

Members were advised that one application for an allotment had been received since the last meeting. The application was from SB of 17 SP for Townfield Hill Allotment No 46.

**RESOLVED** that the application be approved.

**9. PLANNING MATTERS**

Members were advised that since the last meeting one planning application relative to the Colliery area had been submitted to Durham County Council. In order to ensure that a consultation response was provided by the Parish Council within the relevant time frame for response, the Clerk had liaised with the Chair to the Parish Council regarding the proposal for a single dwelling at Paradise Farm.

It had been determined that the Parish Council register an objection to the planning application based on a number of material planning considerations and the proliferation of traffic though the Parish Council owned Welfare Park.

**RESOLVED** that the submission be endorsed.

**10. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(a) **Paysheet**

**RESOLVED** that payment in respect of the following accounts be endorsed:

Ref	Payment Method	Amount	Description	Accounts Ledger	Amount (Ex VAT)	VAT	Total Paid
209	Card	Toolstation Peterlee	Angle Grinder/Blade/Wire Brush	Welfare	£ 85.76	£ 17.16	£ 102.82
210	Card	Toolstation Peterlee	Galv. Paint and Taps	Welfare/Allots	£ 55.34	£ 11.07	£ 66.41
211	Direct Debit	Everflow Water	Water Consumption All sites	Welf/Cem/Allots	£ 553.94	£ 0.00	£ 553.94
212	Card	Southside Service Station	Fuel 17 Sept 2025	Welf/Cem	£ 44.63	£ 8.93	£ 53.56
213	Card	Screwfix Peterlee	Short Arm Hex Key Set	Welfare	£ 6.07	£ 1.22	£ 7.29
214	Card	ATM Withdrawal	Petty Cash 29 Sept 25	Petty Cash	£ 200.00	£ 0.00	£ 200.00
215	BACS	Eas. Coll. Primary Sch PTA	Donation towards Halloween Party	S137	£ 100.00	£ 0.00	£ 100.00
216	Direct Debit	OneCom Ltd	Telephone/Broadband	Welf/P.Hall	£ 158.52	£ 31.70	£ 109.22
217	BACS	ECPC Employees	Wages 3 October 2025	Admin	£ 13,856.06	£ 0.00	£ 13,856.06
218	BACS	Prudential	AVC Contribution	Admin	£ 25.64	£ 0.00	£ 25.64
219	BACS	GMB Union	Union Contributions	Admin	£ 83.80	£ 0.00	£ 83.80
220	BACS	JACS Accountancy Ltd	Payroll Services	Admin	£ 100.00	£ 20.00	£ 120.00
221	BACS	DCC Pension Fund	Pension Fund Contributions	Admin	£ 3,817.82	£ 0.00	£ 3,817.82
222	BACS	HMRC	Tax & NI	Admin	£ 5,114.09	£ 0.00	£ 5,114.09

223	Bank	Coop Bank	Sweep Fee/ Commission	Admin	£ 30.00	£ 0.00	£ 30.00
224	Direct Debit	Smartest Energy	Electric Football Changing Rooms	Welfare	£ 809.52	£ 40.48	£ 850.00
225	BACS	A1 Ecology	Bat Survey No. 3 and Final Report	Cemetery	£ 610.00	£ 122.00	£ 732.00
226	Direct Debit	Yu Energy	Electric - Cemetery Office	Cemetery	£ 35.96	£ 1.80	£ 37.76
227	Direct Debit	Yu Energy	Electric – Welfare Park Bungalow	Welfare	£ 45.81	£ 2.29	£ 48.10
228	Direct Debit	Yu Energy	Electric – Bowls Pavilion	Welfare	£ 117.86	£ 5.89	£ 123.75
229	Direct Debit	EE Ltd	Sim Card Charges Bollard	Welfare	£ 15.74	£ 3.15	£ 18.89
230	Direct Debit	YU Energy	Electric – Bollard	Welfare	£ 43.42	£ 2.17	£ 45.59
231	Direct Debit	Corona Energy	Electric Parish Hall	Parish Hall	£ 48.20	£ 2.41	£ 50.61
232	Direct Debit	Smartest Energy	Gas Parish Hall	Parish Hall	£ 86.76	£ 4.34	£ 91.10
233	BACS	Microshade	Software Hosting Fee	Admin	£ 33.20	£ 6.64	£ 39.84
234	BACS	Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd	Herbicide	Welf/Cem	£ 92.00	£ 18.40	£ 110.40
235	BACS	North East Automation	22/09/25 Call Out following Bollard Impact	Welfare	£ 134.00	£ 26.80	£ 160.80
236	BACS	Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd	Maintenance Cricket, Bowls and Part Football	Welfare	£ 1,693.70	£ 93.38	£ 1,787.08
237	BACS	Turfcare Ltd	Scarifier and Hollow Tine	Welfare	£ 1,000.00	£ 200.00	£ 1,000.00
238	BACS	Turfcare Ltd	Maintenance Works Loam, Top Dressing	Welfare	£ 2,725.00	£ 545.00	£ 3,270.00
239	BACS	Normans of Bilingham	Office Supplies	Admin	£ 95.70	£ 19.14	£ 114.84
240	BACS	Hydrochem Ltd	Safewater Checks September	Welf/Cem	£ 106.66	£ 21.33	£ 127.99
241	BACS	Hutton Fire Protection Ltd	Annual Fire Extinguisher Service	Welf/Parish Hall	£ 165.00	£ 33.00	£ 198.00
242	Direct Debit	Everflow Water	Water Consumption All Sites (inv 9/10)	Welf/Cem/ Allots	£ 424.29	£ 0.00	£ 424.29
243	BACS	Hydrochem Ltd	Safewater Checks October	Welf/Cem	£ 106.66	£ 21.33	£ 127.99
244	BACS	GNG Waste Management	Hire of Skips	Welfare	£ 620.00	£ 124.00	£ 744.00
245	BACS	Microshade	Software Hosting Fee 1- 31 October	Admin	£ 33.20	£ 6.64	£ 39.84

246	BACS	Border Tank Services	New Meter to Fuel Bund	Welf/Cem	£ 645.00	£ 129.00	£ 774.00
247	Card	Park Road Group Ltd	Fuel 17 Sept 2025	Welf/Cem	£ 43.88	£ 8.78	£ 52.66
248	BACS	Easington Social Welfare Centre	Halloween Party 2025	S137	£ 1,500.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,500.00
249	BACS	Gordon Thornton Architect	Services related to Cemetery House	Capital	£ 2,360.00	£ 0.00	£ 2,360.00
250	BACS	ECPC Employees	Wages 31 October 2025	Admin	£ 13,721.35	£ 0.00	£ 13,721.35
251	BACS	Prudential	AVC Contribution	Admin	£ 25.64	£ 0.00	£ 25.64
252	BACS	GMB Union	Union Contributions	Admin	£ 82.12	£ 0.00	£ 82.12
253	BACS	JACS Accountancy Ltd	Payroll Services	Admin	£ 100.00	£ 20.00	£ 120.00
254	BACS	DCC Pension Fund	Pension Fund Contributions	Admin	£ 3,765.34	£ 0.00	£ 3,765.34
255	BACS	HMRC	Tax & NI	Admin	£ 5,029.80	£ 0.00	£ 5,029.80
256	Direct Debit	OneCom Ltd	Telephone/Broadband	Welf/P.Hall	£ 146.57	£ 29.31	£ 175.88
257	Direct Debit	Smartest Energy	Electric - Football Changing Rooms	Welfare	£ 809.52	£ 40.48	£ 850.00
258	Direct Debit	Yu Energy	Electric – Cemetery Office 1-31 October 25	Cemetery	£ 37.71	£ 1.89	£ 39.60
259	Direct Debit	Yu Energy	Electric – Welfare Park Bungalow 1-31 October 25	Welfare	£ 45.26	£ 2.26	£ 47.52
260	Direct Debit	Yu Energy	Electric – Bowls Pavilion 1-31 October 25	Welfare	£ 182.42	£ 9.12	£ 191.54
261	Direct Debit	EE Ltd	Sim Card Charges Bollard 09/11/25	Welfare	£ 15.74	£ 3.15	£ 18.89
262	BACS	Normans of Billingham	Consumable Goods	Welf/Cem/P.Hall	£ 179.82	£ 35.96	£ 215.76
263	BACS	GNG Waste Management	Skip Hire 8428	Welfare	£ 310.00	£ 62.00	£ 372.00
264	BACS	Lavelec Electrical Services	Test and Repair Water/Boiler Heater Football Club	Welfare	£ 355.00	£ 71.10	£ 426.00
265	BACS	Premier Traffic Mangt Ltd	Remembrance Day Traffic Management	Admin	£ 880.00	£ 176.00	£ 1,056.00
266	Card	Workwear Express Ltd	Gloves	Welf/Cem	£ 35.63	£ 7.73	£ 43.96
267	Direct Debit	Yu Energy	Electric – Bollard 1-31 October 25	Welfare	£ 39.89	£ 1.99	£ 40.79

268	Card	Screwfix Peterlee	Wheelbarrow Wheel	Welfare	£ 20.82	£ 4.16	£ 24.98
269	Card	Toolstation Peterlee	Galvanised Paint	Welfare	£ 29.95	£ 5.99	£ 35.94
270	Direct Debit	Smartest Energy	Gas Parish Hall 1-13 October 25	Parish Hall	£ 155.06	£ 7.75	£ 162.81
271	Direct Debit	Corona Energy	Electric Parish Hall 1-31 October 25	Parish Hall	£ 52.48	£ 2.62	£ 55.10
272	Direct Debit	Everflow Water	Water – All Sites	Welf/Cem/ Allots	£ 175.99	£ 0.00	£ 175.99
273	BACS	Microshade	Software Hosting Fee 1-30 November 25	Admin	£ 33.20	£ 6.64	£ 39.84
274	BACS	Lavelec Electrical Services	Replacement Wall Heater Changing Rooms	Welfare	£ 805.00	£ 161.00	£ 966.00
275	Card	Lookers Ford	New Ignition & Tyres	Welf/Cem	£ 645.23	£ 129.05	£ 774.28
276	BACS	Pena Pat Testing	Annual Portable Appliance Testing	Welf/Cem	£ 161.00	£ 0.00	£ 161.00
				<b>Nov-25</b>	<b>£ 65,717.80</b>	<b>£2,316.54</b>	<b>£ 68,034.13</b>

(b) **Requests for Financial Assistance**

The Clerk reported receipt of three requests for financial assistance as follows:

- (i) Rutherford House Residents – Request for donation towards Christmas Lunch
- (ii) Donnini House – Ladies Bingo Club – Request for assistance towards elderly residents Christmas Party
- (iii) Easington Colliery Community Golden Years Group – Towards Christmas Activities

**RESOLVED** that all three applications be supported in the sum of £100.00 each.

(c) **Bank Reconciliations**

The Clerk tabled bank reconciliations for September and October 2025 which showed the following balances as per the cash book:

30 September - £561,706.58  
31 October - £732,762.52

**RESOLVED** that this be noted.

(d) **Conclusion of External Audit**

Members were advised that the External Auditor had now provided their Report and Certificate for 2024/25. There were no major items of concern raised by the auditor. A few minor items had been raised and the Clerk outlined these to Members. The Clerk also confirmed that representation had been made to the auditor expressing disappointment these items had been raised. The Clerk was of the opinion these were not justifiable items to be raised. Members considered the points raised by the auditor and the Clerk's response and were satisfied with the representations made.

The Clerk also advised that the necessary public notice about the Conclusion of Audit had been published.

**RESOLVED** that both the Audit Report and Clerk's action be noted.

## 11. CORRESPONDENCE

### (a) **Former Colliery School Site – Residential Development Proposal**

Members considered a consultation document provided by Durham County Council regarding residential development proposals on the former Easington Colliery Schools site.

Members fully supported the regeneration that would be brought about by this development but voiced concern at the mix of housing proposed. It was felt the site was better suited to bungalow development than that currently proposed.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk respond to the consultation by the deadline of 27 November expressing support for residential development but requesting that consideration be given to greater numbers of bungalow development.

### (b) **AP Coaching**

Members considered a request from Andrew Probert who was looking to run a football coaching business at the Welfare Park.

**RESOLVED** that the request be declined as it was not considered appropriate for the park to be used for commercial purposes by a third party. The applicant be informed accordingly.

## 12. COMPLAINTS/REPORTS/OTHER MATTERS

### (a) **Clerk**

#### (i) **Halloween Party**

The Clerk requested feedback from Members on the recent Halloween Party. The Clerk also provided correspondence from the Trustees of the Social Welfare Centre confirming the event had been a successful one. The Trustees had also provided a breakdown of event costs.

Members concurred that the event had been a success and received the cost information given.

**RESOLVED** that this be noted.

#### (ii) **Remembrance Sunday - Feedback**

Members reported on another very successful Remembrance Sunday event. The road closure had been a success, and the procession/service had been well attended.

Councillor Alan Cummings, on behalf of the Banner Committee, advised that thanks had been extended to all especially the Parish Council, Church and the Brass Band for another successful event.

**RESOLVED** that this be noted.

#### (iii) **Cemetery House – Application to demolish and new-build planning application**

Members were advised that Durham County Council had given consent to demolish the Cemetery House and had also granted planning permission for the Parish Council's new build proposal. Gordon Thornton, Architect, had therefore been asked to prepare detailed plans for submission to Building Control.

**RESOLVED** that this be noted and further reports be awaited.

13. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds personal and/or confidential information would be disclosed.

14. **STAFFING MATTERS**

(a) **Sickness Monitoring**

Members were provided with a report on current sickness levels.

**RESOLVED** that this be noted.

(b) **The Minutes of the Staffing Committee** of their meeting held on 15 October 2025, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.

**RESOLVED** that this be noted.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN .....

Date .....