

THE MINUTES OF THE EASINGTON COLLIERY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY, 21 JULY 2026

Present: Councillor L. Clarkson (Chair)
Councillors A. Cummings, S. Fergus, I. Foster, D. Fraser,
S. Bishop, C. Smith, M. Vickers.

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors L. Carr, S. W. Fergus

1. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Members were advised that no questions had been submitted for consideration by the meeting.

RESOLVED that this be noted.

2. MEMBERS REPORTS FOR DURHAM COUNTY WARD COUNCILLOR

Parish Members expressed concern that the litter bin that had been erected outside of the new Londis Shop had been removed and replaced further down the street outside an empty shop. This was compounding problems at Londis.

Members were asked to seek the County Councillors support for the bin to be re-sited at Londis.

Members expressed concern that the former Legion building which had been redeveloped for residential was operating without appropriate planning consent. The Clerk advised that following the last Parish Council meeting representations had been made to Durham County Council to determine the status of the application as it appeared that no decision had yet been made. Unfortunately, the Council had not issued any formal response. Members requested the County Ward Members assistance in resolving this issue.

Dog fouling was again cited as being a problem especially around the Colliery Site and on the green areas down Seaside Lane. Members asked for County Councillor support to try and address this problem with a greater Warden presence in the area.

A Members expressed concern that the steps leading from the car park on Seaside Lane were overgrown with vegetation and trees were overhanging the footpath. County Councillor support was sought to have these areas cut back.

Continued parking problems along Seaside Lane/Glebe Terrace were again referenced. The Clerk was asked to determine whether any progress had been made at the County Council for a traffic survey.

Members referred to the distribution of food waste bins, pointing out this was being done in an uncaring manner. Bins were being distributed from the back of a van and thrown onto the street. Members requested the County Councillor support to request that bins be appropriately distributed.

RESOLVED that the Clerk raise these matters with the County Ward Member.

3. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL – WARD MEMBERS REPORT

(i) Ward Members Report

Unfortunately, the County Council Member was unable to attend the meeting and therefore no report was given.

RESOLVED that this be noted.

(ii) **Request for Parish Council to consider developing a Neighbourhood Plan**

The Clerk advised that the County Ward Member had requested the Council consider developing a Neighbourhood Plan with the Village Parish Council. Members advised that the Village Parish Council had recently determined that it would not now be pursuing such a course of action. The Parish Council then considered a briefing note prepared by the Clerk which advised on whether the Parish Council should support the preparation of a Plan for Easington Colliery.

Members **RESOLVED** not to pursue the development of a Plan for Easington Colliery and noted recent developments at the Village Parish Council.

4. **POLICE MATTERS**

The Crime Statistics and Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents Report for the period 20 May to 21 July 2026 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was considered. The report provided statistics on burglary, theft, anti-social behaviour as well as environmental, criminal and vehicle crime damage. Members expressed concern at the number of incidents over the period.

The Report also noted that a drop-in session was being held in the library on 13 August 2026 with the next PACT Meeting being held at the Parish Council Meeting Rooms on 19 September.

RESOLVED that the information contained within the Report be noted.

5. **THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING** of the Parish Council held on 19 May 2026 together with the **NOTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING** also held on 19 May together with the **MINTUES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING** held on 2 June 2026, were confirmed.

6. **REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS MANAGER**

The Work Activity Report in respect of the Cemetery, Welfare Park, Allotment and Open Space areas for the period 20 May to 21 July 2026, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member was considered.

The report highlighted, in addition to operational activity, issues associated with Holme Hill Allotments.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the information given, be noted.
- (ii) the action taken, be endorsed.

7. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

(i) **Allotments Applications – 10 & 31 Holmehill Allotments**

RESOLVED that the application 004/0026 be approved and application 005/0026 be refused following receipt of third-party comments.

(ii) **Holme Hill Allotments**

The Clerk provided a comprehensive verbal report in relation to a number of recent incidents that had occurred at the Holme Hill Allotments. One of the incidents involved a significant Police presence on the site and damage being occasioned to a garden. Other incidents including a tenant burning rubbish which had caused significant fire damage to fencing and a tree but had also melted an unauthorised water pipe in an adjacent garden which had resulted in financial loss to the council.

Appropriate letters had been submitted to tenants and further action was discussed.

Members expressed concern about the activities on this allotment site and authorised the Clerk to terminate the tenancies of the offending parties, where appropriate. Members also requested the Clerk bring a report to a future meeting outlining the legal considerations of effectively no longer managing the Holme Hill Allotment site.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted and the action taken be endorsed with the Clerk authorised to terminate tenancies as appropriate. A further report to be brought back to the Parish Council outlining option for the future management of the Holme Hill site.

8. PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS

Members were advised that no applications or licensing matters had been received by Durham County Council relative to the Colliery area.

RESOLVED that this be noted.

9. 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
463	BACS	Regal Print Ltd	75 th Anniversary Colliery Disaster Leaflets	Admin	£ 90.00	£ 18.00	£ 108.00
464	BACS	GMRS	Heating Repair Parish Hall	Parish Hall	£ 304.00	£ 0.00	£ 304.00
465	BACS	JACS Accountancy Ltd	ONS Survey	Admin	£ 30.00	£ 6.00	£ 36.00
466	BACS	North East Automation Ltd	Bollard Repair/Service	Welfare	£ 420.00	£ 84.00	£ 504.00
407	BACS	Microshade	Software Hosting Fee	Admin	£ 44.95	£ 8.99	£ 53.94
408	DD	Everflow Water	Water All Sites	Wel/Cem/Allot	£ 631.89	£ 0.00	£ 631.89
409	CARD	ATM Withdrawal	Petty Cash 26/05/26	Petty Cash	£ 200.00	£ 0.00	£ 200.00
410	BACS	Church of Ascension	Miners Picnic Donation	S137	£ 237.00	£ 0.00	£ 237.00
411	DD	OneCom Ltd	Telephone/ Broadband	Welf/P.Hall	£ 170.77	£ 34.15	£ 204.92
412	CARD	Pennywise	Consumables	Parish Hall	£ 20.00	£ 0.00	£ 20.00
413	CARD	Park Road Group Ltd	Fuel 02/06/26	Welf/Cem	£ 80.00	£ 16.00	£ 96.00
414	DD	Smartest Energy	Electric Football Changing	Welfare	£ 952.38	£ 47.62	£ 1,000.00
415	DD	Yu Energy Ltd	Electric Cemetery Lodge	Cemetery	£ 41.97	£ 2.10	£ 44.07
416	DD	Yu Energy Ltd	Electric Welfare Bungalow	Welfare	£ 50.78	£ 2.54	£ 53.32
417	DD	Yu Energy Ltd	Electric Welfare Bollard	Welfare	£ 50.81	£ 2.54	£ 53.35
418	DD	Yu Energy	Electric Bowls/Cricket	Welfare	£ 145.88	£ 7.29	£ 153.17

419	BACS	Normans of Billingham	Office Supplies	Admin	£ 74.63	£ 14.93	£ 89.56
420	BACS	Hydrochem Group	Safewater Check May 2026	Welf/Cem	£ 111.10	£ 22.22	£ 133.32
421	BACS	MKM BS (Peterlee) Ltd	Topsoil	Cemetery	£ 168.57	£ 33.71	£ 202.28
422	BACS	Whites Printers	Purchase Order Books	Admin	£ 185.00	£ 37.00	£ 222.00
423	BACS	Durham County Council	Repairs/Van MOT/service	Welf/Cem	£ 478.78	£ 84.16	£ 562.94
424	BACS	John Nixon Ltd	Cricket Roller Hire	Welfare	£ 657.76	£ 131.56	£ 7893.32
425	DD	EE Ltd	Sim Card Charges Bollard	Welfare	£ 19.50	£ 3.90	£ 23.40
426	BACS	ECPC Employees	Wages 12 June 26	Admin	£ 14,314.56	£ 0.00	£ 14,314.56
427	BACS	GMB Union	Union Subscriptions	Admin	£ 83.80	£ 0.00	£ 83.80
428	BACS	JACS Accountancy Ltd	Payroll Services 12 June 26	Admin	£ 103.33	£ 20.67	£ 124.00
429	BACS	DCC Pension Fund	Pension Fund Contributions	Admin	£ 3,324.70	£ 0.00	£ 3,324.70
430	BACS	HMRC	Tax & NI	Admin	£ 5,403.44	£ 0.00	£ 5,403.44
431	DD	Smartest Energy	Gas Parish Hall	Parish Hall	£ 106.86	£ 5.34	£ 112.20
432	DD	Corona Energy	Electric Parish Hall	Parish Hall	£ 52.71	£ 2.63	£ 55.34
433	BACS	Pretty Little Blossoms	75 th Anniversary Coal Disaster – Flowers	Admin	£ 277.40	£ 0.00	£ 277.40
434	BACS	Durham County Council	Trade Waste Contracts 26/27	Welf/Cem	£ 2,154.88	£ 0.00	£ 2,154.88
435	DD	Everflow Water	Water All Sites	Wel/Cem/Allot	£ 1,091.95	£ 0.00	£ 1,091.95
436	CARD	The Family Cobbler	6 x keys	Welfare	£ 20.00	£ 4.00	£ 24.00
437	CARD	Screwfix Peterlee	Lock (for Garage)	Welfare	£ 20.82	£ 4.17	£ 24.99
438	DD	Information Commissioner	ICO Renewal	Admin	£ 47.00	£ 0.00	£ 47.00
439	CARD	Park Road Group Ltd	Fuel 23/26	Welf/Cem	£ 50.77	£ 10.16	£ 60.93
440	BACS	Microshade Ltd	Software Hosting Fee 1 June 2026	Admin	£ 44.95	£ 8.99	£ 53.94
441	BACS	Premier Traffic Mangt Ltd	Road Closure – 75 th Anniversary Colliery Disaster	Admin	£ 982.00	£ 196.40	£ 1,178.40
442	BACS	Play Safety Ltd	Annual ROSPA Inspection 2026	Open Spaces	£ 491.00	£ 98.20	£ 589.20
443	BACS	CS North East Ltd	Annual Service 2 x Kubota R/ons and cobra repairs	Welf/Cem	£ 1,078.39	£ 215.68	£ 1,294.07

444	BACS	A1 Trophies & Engraving	Coal Cutter Sign (Replacement)	Cemetery	£ 75.00	£ 15.00	£ 90.00
445	BACS	GNG Waste Management	Skip Hire (PO 8514)	Welfare	£ 310.00	£ 62.00	£ 372.00
446	BACS	Durham County Council	New Tyre John Deers 2653B	Welfare	£ 105.00	£ 21.00	£ 126.00
447	CARD	Machine Mart	Hose Reel and Hose	Welfare	£ 154.97	£ 31.00	£ 185.97
448	DD	OneCom Ltd	Telephone/ Broadband to 31/5/26	Welf/P.Hall	£ 170.11	£ 34.02	£ 204.13
449	Bank Fee	Coop Bank	Sweep Fee	Admin	£ 30.00	£ 0.00	£ 30.00
450	BACS	CS North East Ltd	New Cobra Roller Mower	Welf/Cem	£ 318.33	£ 63.27	£ 382.00
451	BACS	Hydrochem Group	Safewater Check June 2026	Welf/Cem	£ 111.10	£ 22.22	£ 133.32
452	CARD	Par Patroleum	Diesel	Welfare	£ 1,681.16	£ 336.23	£ 2,017.39
452	DD	Smartest Energy	Electric Football Changing Rooms	Welfare	£ 952.38	£ 47.62	£ 1,000.00
453	DD	Yu Energy Ltd	Electric Cemetery Office 1-30 June 2026	Cemetery	£ 40.04	£ 2.00	£ 42.04
454	DD	Yu Energy Ltd	Electric Welfare Bungalow 1-30 June 2026	Welfare	£ 49.26	£ 2.46	£ 51.72
455	DD	Yu Energy Ltd	Electric Bollard 1-30 June 2026	Welfare	£ 50.04	£ 2.50	£ 52.24
456	DD	Yu Energy	Electric Bowls/Cricket 1-30 June 26	Welfare	£ 129.45	£ 6.47	£ 135.92
457	BACS	ECPC Employees	Wages 10 July 2026	Admin	£ 12,069.97	£ 0.00	£ 12,069.97
458	BACS	JACS Accountancy Ltd	Payroll Services 10 July 2026	Admin	£ 90.42	£ 18.18	£ 108.50
459	BACS	GMB Union	Union Subscriptions	Admin	£ 69.84	£ 0.00	£ 69.84
460	BACS	HMRC	Tax & NI July 2026	Admin	£ 4,493.32	£ 0.00	£ 4,493.32
461	BACS	DCC Pension Fund	Pension Fund Contributions	Admin	£ 2,680.70	£ 0.00	£ 2,680.70
462	BACS	Durham Miners Gala Brochure	¼ Page Gala Brochure Advert	S137	£ 200.00	£ 0.00	£ 200.00
463	DD	Corona Energy	Electricity Parish Hall 1-30 June 2026	Parish Hall	£ 50.39	£ 2.52	£ 52.91
464	DD	EE Ltd	Sim Card Charges Bollard	Welfare	£ 19.50	£ 3.90	£ 23.40
465	BACS	Inst of Cem and Crem Manag't	Annual Subscription 26/27	Admin	£ 110.00	£ 0.00	£ 110.00
466	CARD	Currys Durham	Printer & Ink	Admin	£ 271.51	£ 54.30	£ 325.81

467	DD	Smartest Energy	Gas Parish Hall 1-30 June 2026	Parish Hall	£ 48.58	£ 2.43	£ 51.01
468	DD	Everflow Water	Water All Sites	Wel/Cem/Allot	£ 1,349.37	£ 0.00	£ 1,349.47
469	BACS	Turfcare Ltd	1 tonne Rootzone	Wel/Cem/Allot	£ 150.00	£ 30.00	£ 180.00
470	BACS	MKM BS (Peterlee) Ltd	Sand & Cement	Welfare	£ 17.17	£ 3.43	£ 20.60
471	CARD	Park Road Group Ltd	Fuel 17 July 2026	Cemetery	£ 74.12	£ 14.82	£ 88.94
472	BACS	Hydrochem Group	Safewater Check July 2026	Welf/Cem	£ 111.10	£ 22.22	£ 133.32
473	BACS	Flotek Group Ltd	Software Hosing Fee 1 July 2026	Admin	£ 48.75	£ 9.75	£ 58.50
				Jul-26	£ 60,845.91	£1,930.59	£ 62,776.50

(b) **Request for Financial Assistance – Easington Brownies**

Members gave consideration to a request from the Brownies who were seeking funds towards operational costs associated with running the group.

Members having considered the request **RESOLVED** to make a £25.00 donation.

(c) **Bank Reconciliations**

The Clerk provided Members with the bank reconciliation statements for the periods ending May and June 2026. The balance at the end of both periods was £757,927.05 and £723,858.47 respectively.

RESOLVED that this be noted.

10. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Members were advised that no further correspondence had been received for consideration by the meeting.

RESOLVED that this be noted.

11. **REPORTS/OTHER MATTERS**

(i) **Members – no further items were reported.**

RESOLVED that this be noted.

(ii) **Clerk**

(a) **Councillor S W Fergus – Dispensation**

Members considered a report in relation to Councillor S W Fergus's non-attendance at meetings.

RESOLVED that the report be approved and the dispensation be given until January 2027.

(b) **First Aid Training**

Members were advised that training was required to ensure first aid accredited personnel were present on site.

RESOLVED that the necessary arrangements be made for training to be carried out and the necessary appointments made.

(c) **Football Foundation – Funding Bid Proposal**

Members were advised that following a recent inspection and pitch assessment from the Durham FA opportunities might be available to secure funding from the Football Foundation to secure improved pitch/facilities on the lower pitch at the Welfare Park.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to progress matters with a view to accessing funding to develop the football facilities.

(d) **ROSPA Annual Report**

Members were advised that following the ROSPA Annual Report a number of items had been identified for immediate attention by the Parish Council. Necessary action had been taken to address these and any other matters would also be attended to.

RESOLVED that this be noted.

(e) **Oak Road Neighbourhood Park**

The Clerk advised that a request had been received for reinstatement of the fencing around the football five-a-side pitch at Oak Road. Following an inspection, it was not considered appropriate for this course of action to be carried out. A review of leisure and play provision on the Oak Road site was considered necessary to determine whether the site provided appropriate facilities. In this respect the Pride in Place funding stream was considered a possibility and it was felt that a community consultation exercise around Oak Road Neighbourhood Park might be an appropriate vehicle for this funding initiative.

RESOLVED that the Clerk request Durham County Council's assistance in carrying out a community consultation on Oak Road.

(f) **Pre-season Football Friendlies – Welfare Park**

Members debated the season commencement date and **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Operations Manager to determine when friendly fixtures could take place in the current year.

(g) **Proposed Renewal of Cricket Training Nets**

The Clerk advised that the Cricket Club had asked whether it would be possible to renew the training nets at the cricket training facility. The Clerk had advised that if it was a like-for-like replacement then no authority would be needed and approval would be granted, however, any development work would need further thought and consideration by the Parish Council.

Members were advised that a further report would be submitted in due course if necessary.

RESOLVED that the this be noted.

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

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

13. **STAFFING MATTERS – SICKNESS MONITORING**

(i) **Sickness Monitoring**

The Sickness Monitoring Report was circulated for Members consideration.

RESOLVED that this be noted.

(ii) **Vacant Position of Supervisor**

Members agreed to advertise the current vacancy but rather than advertise a Supervisor position the post to be advertised would be at a grounds person grade . It was also considered appropriate to seek expressions of interest from existing staff for the roles of charge hand at both the Cemetery and Park.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to progress the necessary expressions of interest/application process commencing at the end of August.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN

Date