THE MINUTES OF THE EASINGTON COLLIERY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2026

Present: Councillor L. Clarkson (Chair)
Councillors M. Vickers, A. Cummings, S. Bishop, S. Fergus, L. Carr, A. Surtees.

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors D. Fraser, W. Smith, C. Smith, I. Foster, 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 COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

(a) **13-14 Seaside Lane South – Kookaburra Veterinary Practice**

Members expressed concern at the modification works which were taking place at the above property. A doorway had been created at the gable end of the property which meant people were likely to enter/exit the premises directly onto the car park entrance. This was considered a public safety concern.

RESOLVED that this be raised with the County Council to determine whether appropriate permissions had been secured.

(b) **Glebe Terrace adjacent to BT Exchange**

A Member reported that a paving slab had been put through a car window resulting in glass from the window being deposited across the highway.

RESOLVED that this be raised with the County Member in the hope that the glass could be removed.

(c) **Pathway at the top end of The Coppice/Clare's Farm**

A Member reported that vegetation was now covering some of the steps at the above location. A request was made to seek the County Councils assistance in cutting back the vegetation.

RESOLVED that the Clerk raise this with the County Ward Member.

(d) **Durham County Council Ward Members Report**

Members were advised that Durham County Councillor Louise Penders was unable to attend the meeting. Councillor Penders had, however, provided a report for Members consideration. This was duly circulated.

RESOLVED that this be noted.

3. **POLICE MATTERS**

The Crime Statistics and Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents Report for the period 21 July to 10 September 2026 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was considered. The Report identified there had been three incidents of theft in the period together with one personal anti-social behaviour complaint and five nuisance complaints. In addition to this there had been eight incidents of criminal damage and seven vehicle damage reports.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

4. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 21 July 2026, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.

5. **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 July to 15 September 2026, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member was considered.

Members in noting the report expressed concern that youths were still trespassing into the main football pitch at night and on weekend. It was noted damage had also been caused at the Cricket Club, the Bowls Pavilion and street lighting throughout the park had been shot out. Whilst action was in hand to have the damage repaired and street lighting replaced there was a concern generally over the increase in damage.

CCTV upgrades were currently being considered and a further would be brought to Members in due course.

RESOLVED that the report of the Operations Manager be noted and the action taken endorsed.

6. **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

(i) **Allotments Applications**

Members were advised that one application had been received since the last meeting. Members were advised that the application for Plot 55 Townfield Hill was appropriately completed and no concerns had been raised in relation to the application.

RESOLVED that the application be approved.

7. **PLANNING ATTERS**

Members were advised that no applications had been received by Durham County Council relative to the Colliery area since the July meeting.

Concern was however expressed at the information received from Durham County Council about the planning application for the former Legion. Despite the planning portal having not been updated notification had been received that the application had been approved some months prior. Concern remained about planning conditions being appropriately discharged and this was now being looked into.

RESOLVED that a further report be awaited.

8. **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
474	BACS	Easington Village Brownies	Financial Assistance	S137	£ 25.00	£ 0.00	£ 25.00
475	Direct Debit	OneCom Ltd	Telephone/ Broadband 31/07/26	Welf/P/Hall	£ 186.01	£ 37.20	£ 223.21
476	BACS	Durham County Council	Grasscutting Contract 26/27	Open Spaces	£ 2,292.15	£ 458.43	£ 2,750.58

477	BACS	Durham County Council	Play Area Repairs (ROSPA identified)	Open Spaces	£ 932.38	£ 186.00	£ 1,118.86
478	BACS	A1 Trophies & Engraving	CCTV Signage	Parish Hall	£ 74.00	£ 14.80	£ 88.80
479	Direct Debit	Corona Energy	Electricity Parish Hall	Parish Hall	£ 38.07	£ 1.90	£ 39.97
480	BACS	DCC Pension Fund	Pension Fund Contributions 07/08/2026	Admin	£ 2,692.39	£ 0.00	£ 2,692.39
481	BACS	JACS Accountancy Services	Payroll Services	Admin	£ 90.41	£ 18.09	£ 108.50
482	BACS	ECPC Employees	Wages 07/08/26	Admin	£ 12,106.06	£ 0.00	£ 12,106.06
483	BACS	HMRC	Tax & NI	Admin	£ 4,515.47	£ 0.00	£ 4,515.47
484	BACS	GMB	Union Subscriptions	Admin	£ 69.84	£ 0.00	£ 69.84
485	BACS	J Bewick	New Entrance Door	Parish Hall	£ 1,710.00	£ 0.00	£ 1,710.00
486	BACS	GNG Waste Management	Skip Hire (PO8534) Welfare	Welfare Park	£ 310.00	£ 62.00	£ 372.00
487	BACS	Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd	Fertiliser	Welfare Park	£ 247.00	£ 49.54	£ 297.24
488	BASC	Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd	Grass Seed/ Liquid Seaweed, Wetting Agent	Welfare Park	£ 440.70	£ 66.34	£ 507.04
489	BACS	Carters Paints	Paints for Miners Memorial/ Cemetery	Cemetery	£ 307.25	£ 61.45	£ 368.70
490	BACS	JCS (NE) Ltd	CCTV/Security Access System	Parish Hall	£ 1,745.04	£ 349.01	£ 2,094.05
491	BACS	Zurich Municipal	Annual Renewal Premium	Admin	£ 14,807.23	£ 0.00	£ 14,807.23
492	BACS	CDALC	Annual Subscription for CDALC/ NALC 26/27	Admin	£ 783.01	£ 0.00	£ 783.01
493	BACS	NEREO	Annual Subscription 26/27	Admin	£ 354.00	£ 0.00	£ 354.00
494	Direct Debit	Smartest Energy	Electric Football Chainging Rooms 01-31/07/26	Welfare Park	£ 952.38	£ 47.62	£ 1,000.00
495	Direct Debit	Yu Energy	Electric Cemetery Office 01-31/07/26	Cemetery	£ 41.39	£ 2.07	£ 43.46
496	Direct Debit	Yu Energy	Electric Bollard 01-31/07/26	Welfare Park	£ 51.56	£ 2.58	£ 54.27
497	Direct Debit	Yu Energy	Electric Welfare Bungalow 01-31/07/26	Welfare Park	£ 52.19	£ 2.61	£ 54.80

498	Direct Debit	Yu Energy	Electric Bowls/ Cricket	Welfare Park	£ 145.50	£ 7.28	£ 152.78
499	Direct Debit	EE Ltd	Sim Card Charges Bollard	Welfare Park	£ 19.50	£ 3.90	£ 23.40
500	CARD	Grounds Mang't Association	Training Course x2	Welfare Park	£ 160.00	£ 0.00	£ 160.00
501	Direct Debit	Corona Energy	Electricity Parish Hall 24-31/07/26	Parish Hall	£ 13.65	£ 0.69	£ 14.34
502	Direct Debit	Smartest Energy	Gas Parish Hall 01-31/07/26	Parish Hall	£ 8.32	£ 0.42	£ 8.74
503	Direct Debit	Everflow Water	Water – Allotment Sites	Allotments	£ 1,542.36	£ 0.00	£ 1,542.36
504	BACS	Flotek Group Ltd	Software Hosing Fee	Admin	£ 44.94	£ 8.99	£ 53.94
505	BACS	MKM BS (Peterlee) Ltd	Fence Boards	Welfare Park	£ 76.15	£ 15.23	£ 91.38
506	BACS	Hydrochem Group Ltd	Safe Water Checks August 26	Welf/Cem	£ 111.10	£ 22.22	£ 133.32
507	Direct Debit	OneCom Ltd	Telephone/ Broadband 31/08/26	Welf/P/Hall	£ 186.02	£ 37.19	£ 223.21
508	CARD	The Range	Copier Paper	Admin	£ 16.62	£ 3.33	£ 19.95
509	BACS	North East Automation	Bollard Maintenance 14/08/26 visit	Welfare Park	£ 280.00	£ 56.00	£ 336.00
510	BACS	Church Commissioners	Ground Rent HolmeHill Allt 29/09/26-24/03/27	Allots	£ 735.00	£ 0.00	£ 735.00
511	BACS	Durham County Council	Summer Bedding Plants and Planter	Cem/Open Sp	£ 2,635.17	£ 527.03	£ 3,162.20
512	BACS	Turfcare Ltd	Rootzone 1 tonne	Welfare Park	£ 150.00	£ 30.00	£ 180.00
513	BACS	ECPC Employees	Wages 04/09/2026	Admin	£ 14,119.78	£ 0.00	£ 14,119.78
514	BACS	DCC Pension Fund	Pension Fund Contributions 04/09/2026	Admin	£ 3,235.69	£ 0.00	£ 3,235.69
515	BACS	HMRC	Tax & NI	Admin	£ 5,940.68	£ 0.00	£ 5,940.68
516	BACS	GMB Union	Union Subscriptions	Admin	£ 69.84	£ 0.00	£ 69.84
517	BACS	JACS Accountancy Services	Payroll Services	Admin	£ 90.42	£ 18.08	£ 108.50
518	BACS	Ground Guards Ltd	Ground Mats	Cemetery	£ 705.00	£ 141.00	£ 846.00
519	BACS	GNG Waste Management	Skip Hire (PO8546) Welfare	Welfare Park	£ 310.00	£ 62.00	£ 372.00
520	Direct Debit	Smartest Energy	Electric Football Changing Rooms 1-31/8/26	Welfare Park	£ 952.38	£ 47.62	£ 1,000.00
521	Direct Debit	Yu Energy	Electric Cemetery	Cemetery	£ 41.27	£ 2.06	£ 43.33

			Office -1-31/08/26				
522	Direct Debit	Yu Energy	Electric Welfare Bungalow 01-31/08/26	Welfare Park	£ 48.07	£ 2.40	£ 50.47
523	Direct Debit	Yu Energy	Electric Bollard 01-31/08/26	Welfare Park	£ 51.87	£ 2.59	£ 54.46
524	Direct Debit	Yu Energy	Electric Bowls/Cricket 1-31/08/26	We;fare {arl	£ 141.46	£ 7.07	£ 148.53
525	CARD	Park Road Group Ltd	Fuel 10/9/26	Welf/Cem	£ 54.71	£ 10.94	£ 65.65
526	Direct Debit	EE Ltd	Sim Card Charges Bollard August	Welfare Park	£ 19.50	£ 3.90	£ 23.40
527	Direct Debit	Corona Energy	Electric Parish Hall 1-31/8/26	Parish Hall	£ 51.62	£ 2.58	£ 54.20
528	BACS	CS North East Ltd	Tree Removal Welfare Park	Welfare Parke	£ 600.00	£ 120.00	£ 720.00
529	BACS	CS North East Ltd	Tree Survey	Open Spaces	£ 396.00	£ 79.20	£ 475.20
530	BACS	Turfcare Ltd	Cricket End of Season Maintenance	Welfare Park	£ 1,325.00	£ 265.00	£ 1,590.00
531	BACS	MKM BS (Petelree) Ltd	Postcrete	Welfare Park	£ 45.00	£ 9.00	£ 54.00
532	BACS	DGE Electrical & Mechanical	Dressing Room Light Replacement	Welfare Park	£ 220.00	£ 0.00	£ 220.00
				Sep-26	**£ 79,366.98**	**£2,845.84**	**£ 82,212.83**

(b) **Request for Financial Assistance**

Members were adivsed no financial assistance requests had been received.

RESOLVED that this be noted.

(c) **Bank Reconciliations**

Members were advised that the bank receoncilations for both July and August had been completed. The balance at the end of both periods was £699,608.14 and £653,005.04 respectively

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 2025/2026. There were no items of concern raised by the Auditor. Accordingly the necessary public notice about the conclusion of audit had been published together with the Auditors Report and Certificate.

RESOLVED that the outcome of the Audit Report be noted.

(e) **Review of Fees and Charges**

The Parish Council were presented with a revised schedule of charges for bowls, cricket, football, allotments/garages and burial fees.

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the fees and charges as presented for the period 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2027.

With the introduction of safety security measures at the Parish Hall and the lack of demand for its it was **RESOLVED** that this facility be withdrawn for public use/hire.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Members were advised that no items of correspondence had been received since publication of the agenda that required council consideration.

RESOLVED that this be noted.

10. **REPORTS/OTHER MATTERS**

(a) **Members**

(i) **Youth Club – Young Persons Award**

Councillor Surtees reported that the Youth Club had been awarded a Young Persons Award by the County Durham Youth Council. This Award had been given following recommendations by users and was seen as a significant positive recognition of the work of the staff, volunteers and users towards the excellent contribution the Youth Club provided to the community of Easington Colliery.

RESOLVED that the Award be noted and the Parish Chair present the Award to the Youth Club with appropriate publicity being afforded to this via the Parish Council website.

(ii) **Cenotaph Inscription**

A Member enquired when the inscription would be added to the Cenotaph.

The Clerk and Operation Manager advised that arrangements had been made for the inscription to be added however, the company who were undertaking the work had not been to provide an exact date when this would be completed.

RESOLVED that the Clerk/Operations Manager make further representation and advise the Member when the inscription was added.

(b) **Clerk**

(i) **First Aid Training**

Members were advised that arrangements were now being made for the Council staff first aid training to be provided once the full staffing cohort was in place.

RESOLVED that this be noted.

(ii) **Football Foundation Funding Bids Update**

Members were advised that the Operations Manager and Clerk had submitted a funding bid to the Football Foundation to secure funds to help with pitch maintenance. This bid had been successful which resulted in £3,000 of funding being provided to the Council over the next four years. In addition to this the Clerk/Operations Manager were about to submit a further Football Foundation bid for machinery that if successful would secure significant new machinery for use by the Parish Council. The Parish Council would be obliged to provide 25% of the total cost with the Foundation providing the remaining 75%. The maximum commitment the Parish Council would be required to make to secure a £50,000 Foundation Grant was £16,688.

Members endorsed the Clerk/Operations Manager's action in progressing the application and provided delegated authority for the staff to work up and submit applications. The Clerk also advised that the Premier League Stadia improvement application for £100,000 was nearing completion and it was hoped it would be submitted in the coming weeks. A further update would be given to the November meeting in respect of all applications.

RESOLVED that this be noted.

(iii) **Oak Road Neighbourhood Park - Review**

The Clerk advised Members that the County Councils lead offer for Pride in Place had confirmed that the Oak Road Neighbourhood Park would be part of a community consultation looking at the future of this park to determine what provision best met community requirements.

RESOLVED that this be noted.

(iv) **Local Government Pay Award 2026/27**

Members were advised that the Pay Award had been agreed at 3.3% which was in accordance with the estimated amount included in the Precept/Budget determination. Accordingly, arrangements had been made for the pay increase to be awarded from 1 April 2026.

RESOLVED that this be noted.

(v) **Bowling Green Works**

Members were advised that Turfcare had withdrawn from the scheme citing staff/other difficulties in fulfilling their obligations under the contract. Members were provided with a detailed report in relation to the circumstances around this and action that had since been taken.

CS North East Limited had provided a quotation similar to that provided by Turfcare and subject to the County Councils approval (under Section 106 conditions) CS North East were proposed to be appointed.

RESOLVED that this be endorsed and the Clerk be authorised to progress works subject to a positive response from Durham County Council.

(vi) **Remembrance Sunday – Event Organisation**

Members were advised that arrangements were in hand for the Remembrance Sunday event scheduled for 8 November 2026. A road closure application had been submitted to Durham County Council; Premier Traffic had been appointed to provide the traffic management and the County Council's Safety Advisory Group had been provided with details of the proposed activities on the day.

Members in noting the arrangements made also agreed for the Operations Manager to acquire poppies to be installed on lamp posts from the Colliery Club to the Church of Ascension along the procession route. Members also agreed a proposal from the Operations Manager to provide commemorative 'Tommy' boards in the Cemetery.

The Clerk advised that a copy of the Remembrance Sunday event poster would be placed on the Council's website advising that this was still subject to confirmation of the road closure order.

RESOLVED that the information be noted and endorsed. The Operations Manager be authorised to progress the poppy and Tommy displays.

11. **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.

12. **STAFFING MATTERS – SICKNESS MONITORING**

(i) **Sickness Monitoring**

The Report of the Clerk in relation to Sickness Monitoring was considered.

RESOLVED that this be noted.

(ii) **Staff Vacancy**

Members were advised that following the invitation for expressions of interest in the post of Chargehand, three applications had been received. Accordingly, it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk/Operations Manager together with Councillors L. Clarkson and L. Carr be authorised to interview staff and appoint to the positions.

13. **HOLMEHILL ALLOTMENTS**

Members were provided with a report from the Clerk which set out the current position regarding the allotment site and the potential for the Parish Council's longer term management to be reassessed. A response was currently awaited from the Church Commissioners which would inform next steps. A further report would be submitted to the November meeting.

RESOLVED that the action taken be endorsed.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN ……

Date ……..