



**Minutes of a meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council held on Tuesday 4 March 2025
at East Bedlington Community Centre**

PRESENT:

Councillor Bill Crosby
Councillor Dawn Crosby
Councillor Keith Grimes (Chairman)
Councillor Paul Hedley
Councillor Keith Scantlebury
Councillor Allan Stewart
Councillor Jayne Todd
Councillor Grant Ward
Councillor Rebecca Wilczek

In attendance:

Jenny Tindale – Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

		ACTION
	The Chairman opened the meeting and reminded everyone present that it was the last full meeting of the current council. He thanked fellow members for their support and officers Ron Thornton, Jenny Tindale, Tina Rowell and Andrew Thornton for their help during the 4 year period. For those members standing for re-election he wished success in their campaigns and for those retiring from office he wished them well moving forward.	
	PUBLIC SESSION There were no questions raised.	
CO85/24	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were noted from Councillor John Batey. (approved absence) RESOLVED: (i) The apologies be noted.	Clerk
CO86/24	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING The minutes of the meeting held on 14 January had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting. RESOLVED: That; (i) The minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting held on 14 January 2025 be signed as a true record.	

CO87/24	<p>Clerk & Officers Update</p> <p>A written report was circulated. The Clerk expanded on all matters raised with particular attention given to project delivery and elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) ‘A’ pit memorial Steelwork had been delivered for the Bedlington ‘A’ pit memorial. The Clerk had requested that the template be drawn by week ending 14 March to allow the work to be approved prior to the Clerks leave. It was unlikely that the work would be completed before the end of April. ii) QE II Memorial Garden - Members were canvassed as to whether or not they wanted the fence painted. The Clerk felt that the planting area needed to be extended and an additional feature added to the back fence. Members discussed adding David Austin roses. It was noted that the tree is very small. Members suggested trying to source a larger tree. It was agreed that the carousel planter did not fit in with the new layout and needs to be relocated. Members further discounted a suggestion to locate the remaining Miners tub on the site. iii) Heritage Gardens Play area – the play equipment is installed additional signage needs to be attached. Notification has been received of a successful application to the S106 Housebuilder Fund which brings the project in slightly under budget. The play area will be officially opened by Councillor Rebecca Wilczek on Tuesday 11 March at 10.30am. iv) Elections – The election will be officially called on 20 March and Purdah will begin from this point onwards until after the election., Due to the boundary changes the make up of the Parish Council has changed. East Bedlington Parish is now made up of the wards Sleekburn and East Bedlington. There will be 4 members for Sleekburn Ward and 7 for East Bedlington ward. Application forms are available from the Parish Office. The elections team recommend that all applications are pre-checked by them before submission as applications containing errors will be void. No applications can be accepted after the cut off date. v) A meeting had been held with 24/7 Business Support Services to explore how the data storage and retention can be better handled and cost of provision and maintenance can be rationalised going forward. The two options involved on site storage or cloud based storage which is offsite and offered greater protection and flexibility. <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That;</p>	
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	<p>(i) The Clerk and Officer Report be noted.</p> <p>(ii) A face to face meeting be organised with Battery Energy Storage Systems.</p>	
CO88/24	<p>DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION</p> <p>There were no disclosures or requests.</p>	
CO89/24	<p>POLICE REPORT</p> <p>The Clerk referred to a letter submitted by the Neighbourhood Inspector explaining non attendance at meetings. A written report had not been received.</p>	
CO90/24	<p>NCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS</p> <p>There were no written reports submitted</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the reports be noted</p>	
CO91/24	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the correspondence be noted.</p>	
CO92/24	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>Members considered the planning determinations and applications circulated prior to the meeting. There were no contentious applications.</p> <p>The Clerk updated on a site visit held on the proposed site for the Databank in Cambois. She had raised the Council's concerns regarding a play area on the former Northfield site and the potential to upgrade the existing public rights of way.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That;</p> <p>The planning applications and determinations be noted.</p>	
CO93/24	<p>FINANCE REPORT</p> <p>The Chairman presented the suite of reports:</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the,</p> <p>(i) Schedule of receipts and payments be approved.</p> <p>(ii) Cleared balances as of 28 February 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current account of £16,462.27 • Deposit account £00.12 • CCLA Investment account £250,000 be noted. <p>(iii) Budget report be noted.</p> <p>(iv) Detailed Income and expenditure for the month ended 28 February 2025 be noted.</p> <p>(v) Balance Sheet for the month ended 28 February 2025 be noted.</p>	

CO94/24	<p>WORKING GROUPS</p> <p>Minutes of the working groups held since the last full council meeting were circulated for information. A member raised the issues identified in Jennings Field Teen Play Area. The Clerk advised that the solution to the matter is to replace the gate at a cost of circa £1000.</p> <p>Members were informed that suitable cleaning companies were being pursued to deep clean the bus shelters, a quote of £4,000 had been received to date.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That;</p> <p>(i) The minutes of the Services Working Group held 18 February 2025 be received.</p> <p>(ii) The Clerk be authorised to arrange a replacement gate to the Jennings Field Teen Play area at a cost of circa £1000.</p>	
CO95/24	<p>MATTERS FOR DECISION</p> <p>RESOLVED: Members resolved that:</p> <p>(i) The Council participate in a 3 day Multi Agency Week of Action</p> <p>(ii) The Council installs an additional free-standing bin in East Sleekburn Village.</p> <p>(iii) The Council supports the Safety of Lithium -ion batteries Campaign and requests the Member of Parliament for Blyth and Ashington Constituency to speak during the second reading debate highlighting the importance of the issue for greater safety measures.</p> <p>(iv) The Council supports a graffiti project in the A1147 underpass to be facilitate by Northumberland Pride and financially supported from Councillor Alex Wallace's MLIS.</p>	
CO96/24	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Annual Meeting of the Parish (Assembly) Tuesday 22 April 2025 at 6.00pm</p> <p>Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 13 May 2025 at 6.00pm Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 13 May 2025 at 6.30pm</p>	

Signed: **Chairman** **Date:**