

## EAST BEDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD on 13 MAY 2025 AT EAST BEDLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

**PRESENT:** Councillors Keith Grimes (Chairman), Dawn Crosby, Rebecca Wilczek, Paul Hedley, Allan Stewart, Keith Scantlebury, Grant Ward, Caroline Rogers, Roger Spriddell  
**Mary Murphy (part)**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Jenny Tindale (Clerk & RFO)  
Tina Rowell (Assistant Clerk).

<b>CO01/25</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> The Chairman opened the meeting, and apologies were noted from Councillor Len Smith (holiday).
<b>CO02/25</b>	<b>RESOLVED:</b> <b>That the apologies be accepted.</b> <b>DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS &amp; REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION</b>  There were no disclosures of requests for dispensation.
<b>CO03/25</b>	<b>ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL 2025/2026 SO12a</b>  A nomination was made for Councillor Keith Grimes by Councillor Rebecca Wilczek and seconded by Councillor Grant Ward. There were no other nominations. A vote was taken 8 Members in favour, 1 abstention.  <b>RESOLVED:</b> <b>That Councillor Keith Grimes be elected as Chairman for the term 2025/2026</b>
<b>CO04/25</b>	<b>TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMANS ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE SO12b</b> Councillor Grimes formally accepted the Chair and duly signed acceptance of office. <b>RESOLVED:</b> <b>That the declaration of acceptance be noted.</b>
<b>CO05/25</b>	<b>ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR SO12e</b> A nomination was made for Councillor Dawn Crosby by Councillor Keith Scantlebury and seconded by Councillor Rebecca Wilczek. There were no other nominations. A vote was taken 8 votes in favour, 1 abstention.  <b>RESOLVED:</b> <b>That Councillor Dawn Crosby be duly elected as Vice Chair for the term 2025/2026.</b>
<b>CO06/25</b>	<b>CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR SLEEKBURN WARD</b> (Representation of the People Act 1985 s21.2a) 4 nominations had been received and duly certified by the Proper Officer as valid. The Chairman invited each candidate to give a two-minute address to the members giving their reasons for wishing to serve as a Parish Councillor.

	<p>Nominees were asked to leave the meeting whilst a ballot was taken. 1 candidate failed to be seconded and was eliminated prior to ballot. In the first ballot a further candidate polling the lowest number of votes was eliminated. An absolute majority of 5 votes to 4 was returned in the final ballot.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b>  <b>That;</b>  <b>Mary Murphy be duly co-opted as Councillor to represent Sleekburn ward.</b></p>
<b>CO07/25</b>	<p><b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL MEETING</b></p> <p>The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 7 May 2024 were noted as previously agreed Minute CO28/24 4 July 24 refers.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b>  <b>That;</b>  <b>The minutes be signed as a true record.</b></p>
<b>CO08/25</b>	<p><b>APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES SO12f</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>(i) Councillor Grimes be appointed as representative to Northumberland Association of Local Councils</b></li> <li><b>(ii) Councillors Rebecca Wilczek, Keith Scantlebury, Keith Grimes and Roger Spriddell were nominated to represent the Council on the Board of East Bedlington Community Centre. (vote 9 in favour, 1 abstention)</b></li> <li><b>(iii) Councillor Grimes be appointed as the representative on the Blyth Offshore Demonstrator Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund.</b></li> <li><b>(iv) Councillor Keith Grimes and Councillor Rebecca Wilczek be appointed as representatives on the Borderlands / Bedlington Innovation Team.</b></li> </ul>
<b>CO09/25</b>	<p><b>ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN &amp; MEMBERS OF STAFFING COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>It was confirmed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman will act as ex-officio on this and all committees.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b>  <b>That;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>(i) Councillors Grant Ward, Caroline Rogers and Mary Murphy be appointed as members of the Staffing Committee.</b></li> <li><b>(ii) Councillor Grant Ward be appointed as Chairman of Staffing Committee for the term 2025/2026</b></li> </ul>
<b>CO010/25</b>	<p><b>TO APPOINT WORKING GROUPS</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b>  <b>That;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a) Services Working Group</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>(i) All Councillors be members of the Working Group</b></li> <li><b>(ii) Councillor Grant Ward be appointed as Chairman of the Working Group for the term 2025/2026</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>(iii) A Vice-Chairman be appointed at the first meeting of the working group</p> <p><b>b) Finance &amp; General Purposes Working Group</b></p> <p>(i) All Councillors be members of the Working Group</p> <p>(ii) Councillor Roger Spriddell be appointed as Chairman of the Working Group for the term 2025/2026.</p> <p>(iii) A Vice-Chairman be appointed at the first meeting of the Working Group.</p> <p><b>c) Planning &amp; Economic Regeneration Working Group</b></p> <p>(i) All Councillors be members of the Working Group.</p> <p>(ii) Councillor Keith Grimes be appointed Chairman of the Working Group for the term 2025/2026</p> <p>(iii) A Vice-Chairman be appointed at the first meeting of the Working Group.</p> <p><b>d) Events Working Group</b></p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the Events Working Group would be merged with the Services Working Group.</p>
CO11/25	<p><b>RESOLUTIONS</b></p> <p>a) To approve the Schedule of Meetings 2025/2026</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>(I) That the Schedule of Full Council Meetings for 2024/2025 be agreed.</p>
	<p><b>Meeting ended at 18:30</b></p>

Signed ..... Date: .....

Chairman