



**Minutes of a meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council held on Tuesday 13 May 2025
at East Bedlington Community Centre**

PRESENT:

Councillor Dawn Crosby
Councillor Keith Grimes (Chairman)
Councillor Paul Hedley
Councillor Mary Murphy
Councillor Keith Scantlebury
Councillor Caroline Rogers
Councillor Roger Spriddell
Councillor Allan Stewart
Councillor Grant Ward
Councillor Rebecca Wilczek

In attendance:

Jenny Tindale – Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Tina Rowell - Assistant Clerk
11 Members of the public.

		ACTION
	The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present.	
CO12/25	<p>PUBLIC SESSION</p> <p>A resident of Kelso Gardens raised concerns on behalf of the residents and traders in The Oval. Concerns related to a planning application 25/01331/FUL referring to the erection of a One Stop Shop of land which they believe was to be kept as green space. Concerns included the storage of waste close to residential properties, noise from the refrigeration units which they believe will be greater than recommended levels, traffic congestion on what is already a challenging estate in terms of traffic movement, road safety as the increase in traffic will be in close proximity to Stead Lane School and children's play areas, loss of green space to the community identified in applications 12/02396/COU and 13/00047/DISCON, increased anti-social behaviour which led to the demolition of the retail and residential units previously located on the site, and that the application they felt does not comply with the Northumberland Local Plan STP2 and 3.</p> <p>Another resident of Kelso Gardens spoke about concerns of increased litter, she explained the problems that domestic waste removal teams have accessing the household waste bins and felt that the increase in commercial waste would attract vermin and odour. She expressed concern regarding the increase in traffic and</p>	

	<p>reiterated that the estate has sufficient shops to meet the needs of local residents. The General Dealers has operated for over 30 years and the shop owner and his family have worked tirelessly to support the Community through fundraising for community activities and supporting the local school. Such a venture would have a significant impact on his livelihood and the opinion of the estate is that it would destroy the community spirit. A petition of over 1100 signatures has already been gathered in objecting to the development.</p> <p>Another resident and business owner commented on road safety and the risk to the community increased traffic will have. It was reported that the estate is often grid locked due to the existing level of traffic and not designed for heavy goods vehicle deliveries. The proposed delivery bay will cover a pavement removing access for wheel chair users. He explained the proposed facility will put the independent traders out of business and the increase in noise from traffic and anti-social behaviour will drastically reduce the quality of life on the estate.</p> <p>Another resident of Kelso Gardens explained how she felt the visual impact of the building is not in keeping with the area and the development would impact her access to her property. She added that the proposed development was a Tesco development and referred to the store which closed in Bedlington town centre due to lack of trade, despite having access to greater parking and increased footfall. She felt this only highlighted that there is no demand for another Tesco store in the town.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the County Councillor for East Bedlington is also supporting the residents and traders.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked the residents for bringing the matter to the Paish Council invited those in attendance to remain whilst the Members discussed the matter later in the agenda</p>	
CO13/25	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies were noted from Councillor Len Smith (holidays)</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>(i) The apologies be noted.</p>	Clerk
CO14/25	<p>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2025 had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. A member sought clarification regarding minute CO95/24. The Clerk explained that the underpass graffiti project was unable to go ahead within the timescales and the MLIS grant funding was not drawn down.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That;</p> <p>(i) The minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting held on 4 March 2025 be signed as a true record.</p>	
CO15/25	Clerk & Officers Update	

	<p>A written report was circulated. The Clerk expanded on all matters raised with particular attention given to project delivery. There were no questions from the update</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That;</p> <p>(i) The Clerk and Officer Report be noted.</p>	
CO16/25	<p>DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION</p> <p>There were no disclosures or requests.</p>	
CO17/25	<p>POLICE REPORT</p> <p>There was no report.</p>	
CO18/25	<p>NCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS</p> <p>There were no written reports submitted</p>	
CO19/25	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>A member raised his dissatisfaction with the amount of correspondence received bi-monthly. He requested that this be reviewed. The Clerk reminded members that they were welcome to inspect the correspondence at any time.</p> <p>There were no questions raised relating to the correspondence.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>(i) That the correspondence be noted.</p> <p>(ii) Distribution of correspondence to be an agenda item Services working group June.</p>	
CO20/25	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>Members considered the planning determinations and applications circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that planning applications do have to be published in the agenda even if the observations date has expired and a delegated response has been sought / offered.</p> <p>Members discussed at length planning application and were unanimous in their decision to support the residents and traders in objecting to the development on the grounds of traffic and noise, parking and highway safety, previous planning decisions, disabled persons access, design and appearance of the building, adopted local plan along with the likelihood of loss of local traders and destruction of community spirit.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That;</p>	

	<p>(i) The planning applications and determinations be noted.</p> <p>(ii) The Council object to planning application 25/01331/FUL</p> <p>(iii) If required the Chairman to speak in support of the residents at the planning committee.</p>	
CO21/25	<p>FINANCE REPORT</p> <p>The Responsible Financial Officer presented the suite of reports explaining the relevance for the benefit of new members.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the,</p> <p>(i) Schedule of receipts and payments for 31 March and 30 April be approved.</p> <p>(ii) Cleared balances as of 31 March and 30 April 2025 of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current account of £76,307.76 and £83,317.44 • Deposit account £00.12 and £00.12 • CCLA Investment account 200,000 and £350,000 be noted. <p>(iii) Budget report for 31 March and 30 April be noted.</p> <p>(iv) Detailed Income and expenditure for the month ended 31 March and 30 April be noted.</p> <p>(v) Balance Sheet for the month ended 31 March and 30 April be noted.</p> <p>(vi) That the Chairman and RFO sign the Statutory Balance Sheet.</p>	
CO22/25	<p>WORKING GROUPS</p> <p>Minutes of the working groups held since the last full council meeting were circulated prior to the meeting for information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing Committee held 11 March 25 • Finance & General Purpose working group held 25 March • Services working group held 15 April 20 <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That;</p> <p>The Minutes of the Staffing Committee and working groups be received.</p>	
CO23/25	<p>INTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT</p> <p>The report of the Internal Auditor, Mike Slaughter had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no areas of concern.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That;</p> <p>The Internal Auditor Report be noted.</p>	
CO24/25	<p>APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR 2025/2026</p> <p>Members were unanimous in their decision.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That;</p> <p>Mike Slaughter be appointed as Internal Auditor for the year 2025/2026.</p>	

CO25/25	ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2024/2025 The Annual Governance Statement 2024/2025 had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. RESOLVED That; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) The Annual Governance Statement 2024/2025 be approved. (II) That the Chairman and Clerk sign the Annual Governance Statement 	
CO26/25	AGAR – ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS The AGAR – Accounting Statements had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. RESOLVED: That; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The Council approve the AGAR – Accounting Statements for 2024/2025 (ii) The Chairman signs the Accounting Statements for 2024/2025 	
CO27/25	AGAR – PUBLIC INSPECTION OF ACCOUNTS The Clerk / RFO explained the rules regarding the in period in which members of the public can inspect the accounts. RESOLVED: That; The public may inspect the accounts during the period 3 June to 14 July 2025.	
CO28/25	MATTERS FOR DECISION RESOLVED: Members resolved that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The Council ratifies the Staffing Committee resolution to adopt East Bedlington Parish Council SLA (ii) The Council ratifies the Staffing Committee resolution to adopt the updated Anti-Harassment & Bullying Policy. (iii) The Council adopts the Project Management and Process Service Level Agreement. (iv) Members approve the deposit of Parish records (excluding the last 24 months) In the Woodhorn Archives. 	
CO29/25	DATE OF NEXT MEETING Tuesday 1 July 2025	

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