



## Minutes of a meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council held on 2 September 2025 at East Bedlington Community Centre

### PRESENT:

Councillor Dawn Crosby  
Councillor Keith Grimes (Chairman)  
Councillor Paul Hedley  
Councillor Keith Scantlebury  
Councillor Len Smith  
Councillor Allan Stewart  
Councillor Grant Ward  
Councillor Rebecca Wilczek

### In attendance:

Jenny Tindale – Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer  
11 Members of the public.

		ACTION
	<b>Presentations</b> Councillor Wilczek and Councillor Scantlebury presented trophies to Garden Competition winners Best Small Garden – Alison Townsend Best Large Garden – Hayley Hildrew	
CO50/25	<b>PUBLIC SESSION</b> A resident of East Sleekburn raised concerns regarding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>planting in East Sleekburn Village</li> <li>Dangerous road surface on railway crossing West Bridge Street and a request to have the railway crossing removed if it is not being used.</li> <li>Position of planter in the village</li> <li>Speeding vehicles and dangerous parking</li> </ul> The Clerk advised that she would write to Port of Blyth to seek information regarding rail usage. Contact would be made with Network Rail, however it may be more difficult to obtain a response from Network Rail. NCC had decided to remove the flower beds on the Springville Border. The groundwork should have been properly reinstated by the utility contractors and both NCC officers and Parish Council officers have commented on the poor quality of restoration. It is the Parish Council's intention to add further perennial stock in the Spring to the first border. The installation of bollards on the junction effected by dangerous parking is an NCC matter and would be taken up with Councillor Spriddell on his return from leave.	Clerk

	<p>Speeding vehicles is a matter for the Police and should be reported. Details of the Neighbourhood Inspector to be shared with the resident.</p> <p>A further resident of East Sleekburn expanded on the increased amount of traffic through the village and dangerous driving from motorbike and scooter users. It was noted that there has already been one fatality. Further comments have been raised regarding the behaviour of the contractors working on behalf of Amethyst Homes. It was noted that this was not a matter for the Parish Council and would need to be taken up with the contractors or Planning Officer directly.</p>	
	<p><b>The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present. Prior to commencement of the agenda proper the Chairman called for a minutes silence in memory of former Councillor Allan Douglas.</b></p>	<b>Observed</b>
<b>CO51/25</b>	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>Apologies were noted from Councillor Roger Spridell (Holiday), Councillor Mary Murphy (illness); Councillor Caroline Rogers (illness)</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>(i) <b>The apologies be noted.</b></p>	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>CO52/25</b>	<p><b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p><b>That;</b></p> <p>(i) <b>The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 1 July be signed as a true record.</b></p>	
<b>CO53/25</b>	<p><b>Clerk &amp; Officers Update</b></p> <p>The Clerk had circulated a written report prior to the meeting. She reported that confirmation had been received from NCC that planning permission had now been granted in respect of the former Station Building. A positive meeting had been held with the Network Rail Legal Team and their solicitors. It was considered that outstanding issues with the lease had now been resolved. The lease would need to be signed by two Councillors and the Clerk.</p> <p>She highlighted dates for a Candlelight Celebration at the Bedlington Ellipsoid to commemorate the illumination of the artwork and the closure of the pit in 1971.</p> <p>The official opening of the QEII Memorial Garden was confirmed for 27 September at 11am.</p> <p>It was also noted that the LTP for schemes to be considered in 2026/27 had been received and would be presented at the next Services Working Group</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p>	

	<p><b>That;</b></p> <p>(i) The Chairman and Vice Chair sign the Network Rail Lease</p> <p>(ii) The Clerk and Officer Report be noted.</p>	
<b>CO54/25</b>	<p><b>DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS &amp; REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION</b></p> <p>There were no disclosures or requests.</p>	
<b>CO55/25</b>	<p><b>POLICE REPORT</b></p> <p>There was no Police Report</p>	
<b>CO56/25</b>	<p><b>NCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS</b></p> <p>Councillor Austin submitted a detailed report which was circulated to Members.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked him for his very comprehensive report.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p><b>That;</b></p> <p><b>Thanks be noted to Councillor Austin for his report and that the report be noted.</b></p>	
<b>CO57/25</b>	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>(i) That the correspondence be noted.</p>	
<b>CO58/25</b>	<p><b>PLANNING</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p><b>That;</b></p> <p>i) Planning determinations be noted.</p> <p>ii) That no objections be noted with regards to applications 25/02617/PRUTPO; 25/02911/REM; 25/01725/REM</p>	
<b>CO59/25</b>	<p><b>FINANCE REPORT//REM</b></p> <p>The Responsible Financial Officer presented the suite of reports explaining the relevance for the benefit of new members.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p><b>That the,</b></p> <p>(i) Schedule of receipts and payments for the month ended 31 August be approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current account cleared balances as 31 August of £20,591.13</li> <li>• Deposit account £00.12</li> <li>• CCLA Investment account 300,000 be noted.</li> </ul> <p>(ii) Budget report for as at 31 August 2025 be noted.</p> <p>(iii) Detailed Income and expenditure for the month ended 31 August 2025 be noted.</p> <p>(iv) Balance Sheet for the month ended August be noted.</p>	

<b>CO60/25</b>	<b>WORKING GROUPS</b> Minutes of the working groups held since the last full council meeting were circulated prior to the meeting for information. <b>That;</b> <b>The minutes of</b> (i) The Services Working Group held 12 August 2025 , and, (ii) Staffing Committee held 26 August 2025 be noted.	
<b>CO61/25</b>	<b>MATTERS FOR DECISION</b>  <b>RESOLVED:</b> <b>That;</b> (i) The installation of a steel palisade fence at Cambois Allotments to complete the boundary fence be approved at a cost of £5,600. (ii) The refurbishment of plot 508 Cambois Allotment be approved at a cost of £3,200. (iii) The Council adopt the 2025 NALC Model Standing Orders (iv) The Council adopt the 2025 NALC Model Financial Regulations. (v) The Council approve and adopt the Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy as recommended by the Staffing Committee (vi) The Chairman and Clerk attend the NCC Consultation event with Town and Parish Councils 2 October 2025	
<b>CO62/25</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b> <b>Tuesday 4 November 2025</b>	

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