



**Minutes of a meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council held on 20 January 2026
at East Bedlington Community Centre**

PRESENT:

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

In attendance:

Jenny Tindale – Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Tina Heddon – Assistant Clerk
County Councillor Bedlington East Ward - Trevor Austin

		ACTION
CO77/25	PUBLIC SESSION There were no members of the public present.	
CO78/25	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were noted from; Councillor Keith Scantlebury (illness) RESOLVED: (i) The apologies be noted.	Clerk
CO79/25	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING RESOLVED: That; (i) The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 4 November 25 be signed as a true record.	
CO80/25	Clerk & Officers Update The Clerk had circulated a written report on emerging issues and actions carried out since the last meeting. She referred to additional papers submitted with the report highlighting the Respect agenda. She noted whilst other neighbouring councils were spending large sums on external	

	<p>consultants to support members with this topic all the necessary materials are available free of charge from either the NALC national web site or SLCC website, as most of the underpinning of the Respect and Civility agenda is from the Code of Conduct she felt members were more than able to progress the agenda – if they close to adopt it, in house.</p> <p>Details of the Interim Audit had also been circulated with the report. There are no areas of concern and the Internal Auditor has raised awareness of the inclusion of assertion 10 in this year’s AGAR. She reported that both officers would be attending training on this subject in March.</p> <p>There were no questions on report</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>(i) Respect Agenda – ref to Services Working Group</p> <p>(ii) That the report be noted</p>	Clerk
CO81/25	<p>DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION</p> <p>There were no disclosures or requests.</p>	
CO82/25	<p>POLICE REPORT</p> <p>No report issued prior to the meeting</p>	
CO83/25	<p>NCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS</p> <p>A written report from Councillor Austin had been circulated prior to the meeting. A member enquired as to the progress of the Tesco application. Cllr Austin confirmed that the applicant had been given further time to submit solutions to the access concerns. Councillor Spriddell gave a verbal report. He updated on the progress of the Active Travel Corridor and the process and direction for future works. He had been advised that an improved service for the 424 may be offered when the station reopens at Bedlington. He also advised that he would be meeting with Highways Officers to discuss installation of bollards in East Sleekburn village to deter problem parking. He confirmed that the Active Travel Corridor works in the village would also contribute to reduce parking problems vehicles in the village. Councillor Wilczek asked if there had been any progress on the reopening of the Rutherford Centre. It was reported that there is a challenge to ongoing maintenance responsibilities which is slowing down the process.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That;</p> <p>Thanks be noted to Councillors Austin and Spriddell for their reports and that the reports be noted.</p>	

CO84/25	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>(i) That the correspondence be noted.</p>	
CO85/25	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That;</p> <p>i) Planning determinations be noted.</p> <p>ii) That no objections be recorded in respect of applications 25/04628/ADE and 25/04601/VARYCO</p>	
CO86/25	<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 the month ended 31 December be approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current account cleared balances as 31 December 2025 of £49,890.14 • Deposit account £00.12 • CCLA Investment account £315,000 be noted. <p>(ii) Budget report for as at 31 December 2025 be noted.</p> <p>(iii) Detailed Income and expenditure for the month ended 31 December 2025 be noted.</p> <p>(iv) Balance Sheet for the month ended 31 December 25 be noted.</p>	
CO8725	<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. Members were reminded that the Working Group minutes were presented to members for information only at the meeting and details from the draft minutes should be raised with the Clerk prior to the meeting or at the next working group.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That;</p> <p>The minutes of</p> <p>(i) The Services Working Group held 9 December 2025 be noted.</p> <p>(ii) Finance & General Purpose Working Group & Budget Group held 16 December 2025 be noted</p> <p>(iii) Staffing Committee held 6 January 2026 be noted</p>	

CO88/25	<p>SMALL GRANTS & DONATIONS</p> <p>A grant made by delegated decision to the Port of Blyth was declared to the meeting. Councillor Stewart passed on a message of thanks from the Port officials for the Parish contribution to their Christmas Appeal</p> <p>A further request to support the Pride Progression Ball was presented to members.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That;</p> <p>(i) a grant of £100 made by delegated decision to the Port of Blyth Christmas Appeal be noted.</p> <p>(ii) A donation of £80 be made to Pride Action North to support ongoing work.</p>	
CO89/25	<p>MATTERS FOR DECISION</p> <p>RESOLVED: That;</p> <p>(i) Vice Chair Councillor Dawn Crosby and the Clerk attend the Town & Parish Council conference 5 March 2026.</p> <p>(ii) The Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Councillor Rogers attend the YMCA 150 year Anniversary reception 29 January.</p>	
CO90/25	<p>ANNUAL BUDGET & PRECEPT 2026/2027</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Parish Council approve</p> <p>(i) Parish Precept of £312,549 for the financial year 2025/26 representing £144.42 for the Parish Council's element of the Council Tax for a Band D Property.</p> <p>(ii) Items of growth 2026/27 £13,000</p> <p>(iii) Non recurring items of expenditure £15,110</p> <p>(iv) No increase in the allotment rents for the year 2026</p> <p>(v) No additional capital expenditure 2026/2027</p>	Clerk
CO91/25	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Tuesday 3 March 2026</p>	

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