



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

PRESENT:

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

In attendance:

Jenny Tindale – Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Sgt Steven Ridsdale 3998, Bedlington NBM
County Councillor Bedlington East Ward - Trevor Austin

		ACTION
CO63/25	PUBLIC SESSION There were no members of the public present.	
CO64/25	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were noted from; Councillor Caroline Rogers (prior engagement), Councillor Rebecca Wilczek (illness) RESOLVED: (i) The apologies be noted.	Clerk
CO65/25	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING RESOLVED: That; (i) The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 2 September 25 be signed as a true record.	
CO66/25	Clerk & Officers Update The Clerk had circulated a written report. She highlighted that: (i) The Network Rail lease is now in a format that the Council are comfortable to sign. Further fees have been incurred to allow statutory searches to be carried out. (ii) All planters across the parish have been planted up with Winter bedding.	

	<p>(iii) Hannah Liddle, the Parish Business Administration apprentice has now started and will be working her way through both the college portfolio and parish related tasks.</p> <p>(iv) Work has started on the Active Travel Corridor in the Parish. There is quite a lot of disruption and a section of Station Road will be closed for 3 to 8 weeks.</p> <p>(v) Due to ongoing construction works in Bedlington Station an event has been organised in East Bedlington Community Centre to celebrate switching on the festive lighting.</p> <p>(vi) A member of the public has raised awareness of a new government initiative to create the first Town of Culture. A suggestion was made that both East and West Bedlington Councils could work together on a bid. It was noted that all bids could only have one lead organisation. Whilst members were supportive of the initiative the capacity of the officers to deliver a £3.5m programme of events would be challenging, bearing in mind current projects. The Chairman added that this may be a project that the four NCC Councillors could explore or indeed the newly reformed Bedlingtonshire Development Trust.</p> <p>(vii) Bonfire – the Clerk updated members on the unsafe bonfire which had been built in the Oval. As advised by the Neighbourhood Policing Team, Bernicia are planning to remove the structure early am 5 November. The Clerk reminded members present that there is very clear advice on the NCC website for anyone wanting to hold an event or activity on public land.</p>	
	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That;</p> <p>(i) Councillor Spriddell, in his capacity as NCC Councillor and NCC Councillor Austin explore the Town of Culture programme.</p> <p>(ii) That the report be noted.</p>	
CO67/25	<p>DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION</p> <p>There were no disclosures or requests.</p>	
CO68/25	<p>POLICE REPORT</p> <p>The Chairman proposed and all members agreed to bring this item forward in the meeting. Sgt Ridsdale introduced himself and the Bedlington Station Neighbourhood Beat Officer. He advised that now he is in post he will be calling into the Centre more frequently and sending regular updates. He advised that the current priorities for East Bedlington are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASB including off road bikes and e scooters • Retail crime • Drugs 	

	<p>Councillor Murphy enquired about the electric bikes purchased by NCC Councillors and if they were being used. The officers advised they had been used in the summer in Gallagher Park and that one bike is awaiting repair. She also requested feedback on Force policy on the use of the bikes. The officers advised that the use of drones was the most effective emerging tool but they needed members of the public to come forward with information with regards to properties where anti social or illegal activities were taking place. They advised that they also struggled to promote successes in seizing off road bikes and successful drugs raids. The Chairman advised that any publicity sent to the Parish office would be circulated on our social media channels. He thanked the officers for their attendance.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That;</p> <p>The Police report be noted.</p>	
CO69/25	<p>NCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS</p> <p>Written reports had been circulated by both NCC Councillors. Councillor Spriddell expanded on his intention to ask for further investment for the 434 bus route to support residents living in East Bedlington during NCC question time.</p> <p>Councillor Austin expanded on the consultation to install double yellow lines along Moorland and Glassey Terrace and the progress of the responses by the applicant to Highways in respect of the proposed Tesco's development in the Oval.</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>	
CO70/25	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>(i) That the correspondence be noted.</p>	
CO71/25	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>The Chairman referred to the application for double yellow lines and asked members if it should be pursued. The Clerk updated that the resident who had requested the work had contacted NCC Highways and requested that the consultation be extended and had been assured by NCC that this would happen.</p> <p>He commented on 25/01331/FUL and advised that if Highways were satisfied with the information resubmitted by the applicant the matter would go to Planning Committee in December, if they were not satisfied by the resubmission the application would be rejected completely.</p> <p>Members considered application 25/033901/REM and noted it was now in a better location.</p>	

	<p>RESOLVED: That;</p> <p>i) Planning determinations be noted. ii) That no objections be recorded in respect of application 25/01331/FUL</p>	
CO72/25	<p>FINANCE REPORT//REM</p> <p>The Responsible Financial Officer presented the suite of reports explaining the relevance for the benefit of new members.</p> <p>RESOLVED That the,</p> <p>(i) Schedule of receipts and payments for the month ended 31 October be approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current account cleared balances as 31 October of £33,849.14 • Deposit account £00.12 • CCLA Investment account 375,000 be noted. <p>(ii) Budget report for as at 31 October 2025 be noted.</p> <p>(iii) Detailed Income and expenditure for the month ended 31 October 2025 be noted.</p> <p>(iv) Balance Sheet for the month ended 31 October 25 be noted.</p>	
CO73/25	<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> <p>Councillor Murphy asked if the meeting between the NCC Councillors and Gen Sanderson had gone ahead. She was advised that it had not, and that the Chairman of the Council would also be joining the meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That;</p> <p>The minutes of</p> <p>(i) The Finance & General Purpose and Budget Working Group held 30 September 2025</p> <p>(ii) Planning & Economic Regeneration Working Group held 14 October 25</p> <p>(iii) Services Working Group held 21 October 2025 be noted.</p>	
CO74/25	<p>SMALL GRANTS & DONATIONS</p> <p>Members approved the recommendation of the Finance & General Purpose Working Group.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That a grant of £300 be awarded to Bedlington Brass</p>	

CO75/25	<p>MATTERS FOR DECISION</p> <p>Members noted that one of the recommended selections for the LTP is now to be included in the Active Travel Corridor. Members considered adding improvements to the traffic lights and road junction at the A1147 crossroads as the final selection subject to further research by the Clerk.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That;</p> <p>(i) LTP Priorities for 2026/27 are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a pedestrian crossing St Johns Road • Improved road safety and traffic flow Clayton Corner • Improvements to junction and traffic light upgrade junction A1147 <p>(ii) To note that the Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday 23 December 25 until Monday 5 January 2026, with the exception of Parish Staff in attendance at the Pantomime 29 December 2025.</p>	
CO76/25	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Tuesday 13 January 2026</p>	

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