



**Minutes of a meeting of East Bedlington Parish Council held on 5 May 2026
at East Bedlington Community Centre**

PRESENT:

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

In attendance: Jenny Tindale – Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
County Councillor Bedlington East Ward - Trevor Austin

		ACTION
CO11/26	PUBLIC SESSION There were no members of the public present.	
CO12/26	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from Councillor Mary Murphy (work commitments)	
CO13/26	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING RESOLVED: That; (i) The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 3 March 2026 be signed as a true record.	
CO14/26	Clerk & Officers Update The Clerk gave a verbal report detailing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An initial meeting had been held with New Skills Consultants who have been appointed by NCC to support the development of a business plan for the Heritage Café/Bistro. Additional market research is required and a further meeting of the Station Building Development working group has been organised for 26 May. • The Outdoor Services Officer has completed dressing the QE Memorial Garden with bark and will commence planning the square and carousel planters week commencing 11 May. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She reported she had applied for the VAT refund which will return just over £23,000 to the bank account. • The first tranche of the precept has been received and she has transferred £115,000.00 into the investment account which now stands at £400k • County Councillors Spriddell and Austin have kindly agreed to support the remaining costs to upgrade equipment at Jennings Field and Selbourne Terrace play areas from their Members Local Improvement Schemes. HFF will commence removal of the damaged surface and equipment from Jennings Field by week commencing 11 May. • Take up of stalls at the Cambois fair has been very positive with all stalls now booked and a request from the team at St Andrews Church to attend, • The Clerk reported on the non attendance of the Assistant Clerk, giving brief details of her illness. • The Clerk would be on annual leave from 10 May for two weeks returning to work on 26 May. During the Assistant Clerks absence, the office will be closed to the public. The Outdoor Services Officer will spend some time in the office each day to check for urgent messages. The apprentice will be working from home for the duration of the Clerk's leave undertaking course work, <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) That thanks be noted to Councillors Spriddell and Austin for their supports. (ii) The Clerk relays the Councils hopes of a speedy recovery to the Assistant Clerk (iii) That the Clerks report be noted. 	Clerk
CO15/26	<p>DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION</p> <p>There were no new disclosures or requests.</p>	
CO16/26	<p>POLICE REPORT</p> <p>No report issued prior to the meeting</p>	
CO17/26	<p>NCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS</p> <p>A written report from Councillor Austin had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That; Thanks be noted to Councillors Austin for his in-depth report and that the report be noted.</p>	

CO18/26	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>RESOLVED: (i) That the correspondence be noted.</p>	
CO19/26	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>RESOLVED: That; i) Planning determinations be noted. ii) That no objections be recorded in respect of applications 26/01118/FUL, 26/01102/FUL,</p>	
CO20/26	<p>FINANCE REPORT</p> <p>The Responsible Financial Officer presented the suite of reports which had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED That the, (i) Schedule of receipts and payments for the month ended 31 March 2026 be approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current account cleared balances as at 31 March 2026 £23,426.77 • Deposit account £00.12 • CCLA Investment account £285.00 be noted. <p>(ii) Budget report as at 31 March 2026 be noted. (iii) Detailed Income and expenditure for the month ended 31 March 2026 be noted (iv) Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 March 2026 be noted.</p>	
CO21/26	<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: That; The minutes of (i) The Finance & General Purpose Working Group held on 24 March 2026 be noted. (ii) The Services Working Group held 21 April 2026 be noted. (iii) The Planning & Economic Regeneration Working Group held Tuesday 28 April 2026 be noted.</p>	

CO22/26	<p>INTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT</p> <p>The full internal auditors report had been circulated prior to the meeting along with page 3 of the AGAR,</p> <p>RESOLVED: That;</p>	
CO23/26	<p>APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR 2026/2027</p> <p>RESOLVED: That; The Council appoint Michael Slaughter as internal auditor for the year 2026/2027</p>	
CO24/26	<p>ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENTS 2025/2026</p> <p>The Annual Governance Statement 2025/2026 had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED That;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (l) The Annual Governance Statement 2025/2026 be approved. (i) That the Chairman and Clerk sign the Annual Governance Statement 	
CO25/26	<p>AGAR – ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2025/2026</p> <p>The AGAR – Accounting Statements had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The Council approve the AGAR – Accounting Statements for 2025/2026 (ii) The Chairman signs the Accounting Statements for 2025/2026 	
CO26/26	<p>AGAR – PUBLIC INSPECTION OF ACCOUNTS</p> <p>The Clerk / RFO explained the rules regarding the in period in which members of the public can inspect the accounts.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That; The public may inspect the accounts during the period 3 June to 14 July 2025.</p>	
CO27/26	<p>MATTERS FOR DECISION</p> <p>RESOLVED: That; The Council formally adopt the 2025-2030 Parish Plan</p>	Clerk

CO28/26	SMALL GRANTS AND DONATIONS RESOLVED: That; The council approves the recommendation of the Finance & General Purpose Working Group and award (i) A grant of £250 to Bedlington & District Red Squirrels. (ii) A grant of £500 to Reiverdale Scout Group.	
CO106/25	DATE OF NEXT MEETING Tuesday 7 July 2026	

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