



MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2025

COUNCILLORS: Jackson, Watson, Hannan, Thelwell & Platten

Clerk: Martin Clark

Visitors: Susan Tron, Durham Community Action.

In the absence of the Cllr Wilkinson, Cllr Jackson took the Chair.

1. Acceptance, or otherwise of apologies

Apologies were submitted by Cllr's Jerome & Wilkinson.

Resolved – That the submitted apologies be approved.

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to consider whether they might have a personal or a pecuniary interest

in any matter included on the agenda for this meeting. If so, it is requested that any such interest be declared now. If subsequently during the consideration of any matter, it

becomes apparent to any member that he/she does, indeed, have an interest, it should then be declared immediately.

Resolved – No personal or pecuniary declarations were made.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 02 July 2025

Resolved – That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 02 July 2025 are approved.

4. Clerks Report

The Clerk referred to:

- Speed visor repairs arranged and carried out under warranty
- Speeding group emails
- Rec field sprayed and fence repaired as approved
- Weed killing spraying of main drag

- Langton phone box request for re-painting
- Allotments Notice to Quit issued and garden re-tenanted
- Conversation with Raby regarding the rec field rent

Resolved – that the information be received and noted.

With the agreement of members agenda item 7 was discussed at this point

5. Finance/Accounts

5.1 September reconciliation and payments – Received.

Additional payments:

CE Walker - £722.20

Focus - £50.00

A Tomlinson - £60.00

Resolved – That the September meeting payments and reconciliation be approved.

5.2 Grant Request - Warm & Welcome

The council supports the group and how it brings people together.

Resolved – (a) That the grant to Warm and Welcome be approved; (b) That the award is paid (£1,280) from the approved 2025/26 Community Support budget.

5.3 Pay Award 2025/26

Agreement has been reached on the pay award for local government service employees, covering the period April 2025 to 31 March 2026. The award is an increase of 3.2%.

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

5.4 Laptop – Windows issues

On October 14 Windows 10 will reach the end of support – with many critical systems no longer being provided. The PC laptop is not able to support Windows 11 and will therefore require replacing.

Resolved – That a new Windows 11 compatible laptop is purchased.

6. River Safety

This agenda item was deferred.

7. Affordable Rural Housing (Gainford)

Susan Tron from Durham Community Action spoke on the issue of Rural Affordable Housing. They have commissioned research into what the needs of each Parish in County Durham might be, because the needs of those requiring housing is often hidden and difficult to ascertain. Collected data has enabled the Rural Housing Advisory Group to prioritise certain areas and Gainford has been identified as an area in need of affordable housing.

Susan spoke on offering to conduct a Parish Housing Profile for Gainford. The profiles are designed to be a short, easy-to-digest snapshot showing key housing facts for your area: levels of affordability, age of residents, types of homes, and more. They are designed to support local discussions and decision-making.

Resolved – That Durham Community Action carry out a Rural Housing Profile in Gainford.

8. Allotment Update

9. Village Issues/Maintenance

9.1 Langton Phone box – requires painting.

Resolved – That the phone box red paint is purchased and arrangements for the box to be painted are made.

9.2 Rec Field rent review – under the terms of the lease the rent is reviewed every 5 years. The current rent has been £776.46pa from 2020 with the new rent now being increased to £1,034.09pa from November 2025.

Action - Members agreed the Clerk refer back to Raby to ask that they look again at the 33% increase.

9.3 The main road by construction of the new houses North and South of Spa road appears not to be regularly cleaned after lorries enter and leave the site.

Action – Contact Raby to request the road is kept clear of mud and debris from the site.

9.4 Gullies in need of clearing.

Action – Contact DCC to request gullies cleared.

10. Correspondence

None	
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11. Planning

None.

12. Speeding Group

Members were pleased with the positive responses received from neighbouring parish councils to forming a lobby group.

Cllr Hannan will look to setting up a meeting in Scarth Hall, Staindrop to look at next steps.

Date & time of next ordinary meeting

Wednesday 3 September 2025 6.30pm

Minutes 3 September 2025

Agenda items – Allotment pest control; Rural Affordable Housing & River Swimming safety