



MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER 2025

COUNCILLORS: Wilkinson (Chair), Jackson, Watson, Hannan, Thelwell & Platten

Clerk: Martin Clark

Visitors: 3 Residents

Teesdale Mercury

Public Participation

Residents present wished to discuss the issue of flags being placed on lampposts the village.

- Flags were put up covertly overnight and have upset the community as they are
- seen as sending a message that the village is not inclusive.
- Political not patriotic
- The flags were removed by residents recently but the person who put them up said he would just get more.
- Residents were aware the Parish Council has no authority in this matter but wanted To know its collective view.

Cllr Wilkinson referred to the flag issue was on the agenda (6.3) but could be brought forward with agreement.

Cllr Hannan proposed a statement from the Parish Council on the issue of flags Being hung on lampposts in the village. Supported by all members –

This Parish Council has no political leaning and is here to support an inclusive community. The flying of flags on lampposts is in its opinion being used purely for political and divisive means. The underlying sentiment is to intimidate and trying to send message of you are not welcome. This does not represent this village which is inclusive and does not encourage division.

1. Acceptance, or otherwise of apologies

Cllr Jerom submitted his apologies.

Resolved – That the submitted apologies be accepted.

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 03 September 2025

Resolved – That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 03 September 2025 are approved.

4. Clerks Report

Report received (Appendix A)

Resolved – that the information be received and noted.

5. Finance/Accounts

5.1 October reconciliation and payments – Received.

Additional payments:

A Tomlinson - £60.00 (Gap)

A. Tomlinson £190.00 (Langton Phone box)

CE Walker - £722.20

Focus - £50.00

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

5.2 Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) 2024/25

Pursuant of Minute 6.2 & 6.3/May/25 and the council's approval of Section 1 (Annual Governance Statement and Section 2 (Accounting Statements), the Annual Return, together with all supporting documentation, were duly submitted to the Council's External Auditor (Mazars LLP) by the agreed date.

There were no material matters affecting the opinion.

Resolved – That the information be received and noted.

6.1 State of the hedge/path between Balmer Hill and North Lane – This has been reported to Durham County Council

6.2 Parish Paths – As the parish council are not involved in the Parish Paths this year, Durham County Council Rights of Way have been requested to carry out clearance.

6.3 Reference has been made to the placing of Union and St Georges flags on lampposts – officially the parish council has no jurisdiction on removing these flags. The county wide issue is one for Durham County Council.

This item was dealt with at the beginning of the meeting.

Resolved – That this Parish Council has no political leaning and is here to support an inclusive community. The flying of flags on lampposts is in its opinion being used purely for political and divisive means. The underlying sentiment is to intimidate and trying to send message of you are not welcome. This does not represent this village which is inclusive and does not encourage division.

7. Correspondence

None	
------	--

8. Planning

None.

9. Affordable Rural Housing Survey

The Clerk updated members on the progress towards the Affordable Housing Survey to be conducted by Durham Community Action (DCA).

- Starting the mail shots in the next couple of weeks
- Survey will run until 31 December 2025, with the results presented to the council hopefully in February 2026
- DCA will look to hold a couple of drop ins in the village hall.

Date & time of next ordinary meeting

Wednesday 5 November 2025 6.30pm

Appendix A

October 2025 meeting - Clerks Report

- Ordered telephone box paint and arranged for it to be painted and look at any door repairs
- Spoke to Raby with regard the concerns over the road adjacent to house build – *assurances that this will be cleaned as and when in line with approvals*
- Spoke to Raby regarding the Recreation Field rent – *rise in line with lease terms*
- Reported the gullies in need of cleaning to DCC
- Affordable Housing Survey – discussions with Durham Community Action (on agenda)

- Reported path/hedge from Balmer Hill to North Lane being overgrown and difficult to pass
- Dealing with emails over the flying of flags on lampposts
- Organised a skip for the scouts