



## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2026

**COUNCILLORS:** Wilkinson, Jackson, Thelwell, Platten, Hannan & Watson

**Clerk:** Martin Clark

**Others:** Teesdale Mercury & 1 resident

### Public Participation

The resident asked about the bonfire/November event referred to in the budget. *Cllr Watson explained that due to regulations we cannot let off any type of firework other than those used in gardens. The plan is to make it a village event and that is currently being planned, tentatively called 'festival of fire'*

A question was raised about the muddy residue of leaves in areas around the Village, and the poor state of the road through the village.

*Cllr Wilkinson explained that the parish council make requests to Durham County Council to clear the leaves and blocked drains. As a parish council we are looking at ways it can improve things and have cleared mulched leaves up to the doctors surgery, and the slop down to the green. It cannot tackle the whole village, and may be a community effort. The issue of the road will be referred to in the meeting.*

### 1. Acceptance, or otherwise of apologies

No apologies were received from Cllr Jerom

**Resolved** – That the submitted apologies be accepted.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

**Resolved** – No personal or pecuniary declarations were made.

### 3. Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 07 January 2026

**Resolved** – That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 07 January 2026.

#### 4. Clerks Report

Received – Clerks report (Appendix A)

Additionally, the Clerk referred to

- Reporting the state of the road through the village to DCC.
- Making a complaint about the poor pothole repairs carried out by the surgery.
- Spoken to Kebble Homes who confirmed they expect to start work on the roads and sewage at St Peter's in June. They will be repairing the fence on site and removing any fly tipping.

**Resolved** – that the information be received and noted.

#### 5. Finance/Accounts

5.1 February reconciliation and payments – Received.

Additional invoice - £370.00 A Tomlinson (work on hedges at Balmer Hill).

**Resolved** – That the February meeting payments and reconciliation be approved.

#### 6. Village issues/Maintenance

- Cllr Wilkinson referred to the recent Police issues relating to the proprietors of the village shop.
- Cllr Platten referred to builders working on a property by the green that are constantly parking on the green, and with the wet weather they are churning things up.
- Cllr Platten referred to the permissive path alongside the football field (riverside) that the council had earlier agreed with Raby estates to place hardcore down to improve things. Cllr Platten will refer to the Clerk details of a contractor who could quote for the works.

#### 7. Correspondence

None	
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#### 8. Planning

None

#### 9. Parish Council Monthly meetings

A proposal was put forward to change the monthly council meetings to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to leave the meetings as they are – first Wednesday of the month.

#### 10. Speeding Group

Cllr Hannan gave members a verbal report on the groups progress:

- Survey results are in and will be having an informal meeting with group members to go through the results
- Potential dates are being considered for a meeting with County Councillors, DCC Highways and the Police – date will be given to Clerk to facilitate
- Have sufficient volunteers to now set up Community Speedwatch in Gainford and Winston
- This group represents a significant amount of people
- Discussion took place on the Gateway (30mph) moving to beyond the new estates being built in Gainford, and the use of 'buffer' zones: 60-40--30

**Resolved** – That the information be received and noted

### **Date & time of next ordinary meeting**

Wednesday 4 March 2026 6.30pm

## **Appendix A**

### **11 February 2026 meeting - Clerks Report**

- Precept request following budget approval submitted to DCC
- Dealing with tenancy issues at the allotments – issuing warning letters
- Requested that allotment rents are not paid before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026
- Arranged for leaves to be swept and removed
- Following complaints about over hanging hedges at Balmer Hill arrangements were made to cut them back
- Complaints received about parking on the green by the footballers – reported to the team and will be referred to the league should it continue
- Discussing Housing Needs survey with Susan Tron and arranging attendance at the March meeting
- Emailed county councillors to alert them to a request forthcoming to attend speeding group meeting

