

Minutes of a meeting of Evenwood and Barony Parish Council held in Cornerstone Christian Centre, Swan Street, Evenwood, on Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors R. Bolden (in the Chair); A. Breeze; D. Bussey; J. Cosslett; M. Finch; S. Hanrahan; C. Hodgson; A. Marshall; W. McCash; B. Medhurst; E. Pettit; R. Potts; R. Spraggon.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. K. Murray-Hetherington (Parish Clerk) and three members of the public. Mr. M. Proud (Jubilee Allotment Association) arrived at 7:50 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Two residents raised concerns about a proposed solar and storage facility (SSF) at Bucks Head Farm [Cllr. Finch declared an interest, left the room, and did not take part in any discussion relating to Qair Renewables]. The Chairman gave a report on a recent public consultation.

Minute No.	Agenda item
026/053	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: There were no apologies for non-attendance.
026/054	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr. Finch declared an interest in any matters relating to Qair Renewables and a proposed solar and storage facility (SSF) at Bucks Head Farm.
026/055	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Medhurst, it was unanimously RESOLVED: To approve as a correct record and authorise the signing of the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th March 2026.
026/056	VACANCIES: One candidate was in attendance to explain why she would like to serve as a co-opted parish councillor. On the motion of Cllr. Potts, seconded by Cllr. Medhurst, it was unanimously RESOLVED: That Mrs. Wendy Gilbey shall fill a vacancy for the Lands parish ward by co-option. The candidate signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
026/057	CLERK'S REPORT: The Clerk had circulated a written report on his attendance at the Society of Local Council Clerks' North Regional Training Seminar held on 11th March and he reminded members about a training course for parish councillors to be held on 19th May 2026. The action log recording agreed tasks was updated and all completed tasks removed.
026/057.1	RESOLVED: To consider at the next meeting a timetable of events for the <i>Lamp of Light of Peace Remembrance</i> event on 11th November 2026.
026/058	FINANCIAL MATTERS: RESOLVED: To receive the schedule of monthly income and expenditure and approve payment of those invoices which were presented to the meeting. Cllr. Cosslett verified the bank reconciliation, and signed and dated the schedule of income and expenditure and invoices as evidence of this. On the motion of Cllr. Pettit, seconded by Cllr. Potts, it was unanimously RESOLVED: To appoint Halfpenny Accountancy as the independent internal auditor.
026/058.1	On the motion of Cllr. Cosslett, seconded by Cllr. Breeze, it was unanimously RESOLVED: To approve a grant to Evenwood and Ramshaw Community Projects Group (£3,041.69) towards the purchase of eight lamp post 'light socks' for Christmas 2026.
026/059	REPORTS: Cllr. Marshall gave a report on attendance at a Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting and a proposal to start a "Speed Watch" scheme.
026/059.1	Cllr. Pettit gave a report on a forthcoming meeting of the Emergency Plan Working Group which was pursuing funding opportunities to support emergency planning.
026/059.2	Cllr. Spraggon gave a detailed report on the Allotments Working Group, including vacant plots; waiting lists; and collection of allotment rents.
026/059.3	RESOLVED: To appoint Cllr. Hanrahan to serve on the Allotments Working Group.

Chairman's Signature:

Date: 12th May 2026

- 026/059.4 **RESOLVED:** To purchase and install two lockable notice boards for the allotment sites at Delaware Avenue and Copeland Row.
- 026/059.5 On the motion of Cllr. Potts, seconded by Cllr. Finch, it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To decline Jubilee Allotment Association's offer of £70.00 contribution towards the cost [£2,700.00] of installing hardstanding car parking at the allotment site.
- 026/059.6 The Chairman gave a report on a meeting of County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC). **RESOLVED:** To invite Becks Lippe (RISE North East) to discuss the village green and Sport England's role as a statutory adviser on planning and 'green' spaces.
- 026/060** **STANDING ORDERS:** At 9:00 p.m. it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To suspend Standing Order 3x [a meeting shall not exceed a period of two hours] for fifteen minutes only.
- 026/061** **ALLOTMENT MAPPING:** Cllr. Breeze explained his reasons for the lack of progress relating to digital allotment plans for each of the three allotment sites. **RESOLVED:** To discuss the matter at the parish council meeting in June 2026.
- 026/062** **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL (DCC):** There were no matters raised by Cllr. Potts on issues relating to DCC due to lack of time until closure of the meeting.
- 026/063** **PLANNING:** Members considered comments produced by the Hamsterley Forest Action Group following amendments to planning application DM/24/02979/FPA. **RESOLVED:** To confirm the Parish Council's previous position relating to the application.
- 026/064** **IDENTIFICATION CARDS:** **RESOLVED:** To approve a policy on official ID cards which had been circulated to members in advance.
- 026/065** **POLICY ON MEMORIAL ITEMS:** To defer until the next meeting consideration and approval of a policy on memorial items, due to lack of time until closure of the meeting.
- 026/066** **ITEMS REQUESTED BY A MEMBER:** Cllr. Hodgson agreed to contact the family of a local veteran who had died at the age of 102 years, with a view to installing a commemorative plaque on an existing bench at Evenwood Gate.
- 026/066.1 **RESOLVED:** To defer until the next meeting Cllr. Hodgson's proposal to create a map of defibrillators in the parish, due to lack of time until the closure of the meeting.
- 026/067** **FLAGPOLE:** To defer until the next meeting consideration and approval of a flag flying policy, due to lack of time until the closure of the meeting.
- 026/068** **SUMMER EVENT: RESOLVED:** To defer until the next meeting discussion of arrangements relating to a Summer Fayre/Fun Day in 2027 (a standing item), due to lack of time until the closure of the meeting.
- 026/069** **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:** There were no items from members for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting.
- 026/070** **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: RESOLVED:** To confirm the date of the Annual Parish Meeting, a meeting of all the local government electors for the parish on Tuesday 12th May 2026 commencing at 6:00 p.m. in the Cornerstone Christian Centre.
- 026/071** **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL: RESOLVED:** To confirm the date of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in the Cornerstone Christian Centre on Tuesday 12th May 2026 commencing at 6:30 p.m. or directly after the close of the preceding meeting.
- 026/072** **CONCLUSION OF MEETING:** The meeting closed at 9:22 p.m.