



ESTABLISHED 1894

## Evenwood & Barony Parish Council

**Minutes of a meeting of Evenwood and Barony Parish Council held in Cornerstone Christian Centre, Swan Street, Evenwood, on Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 7:00 p.m.**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. K. Murray-Hetherington (Parish Clerk); Mr. M. Proud (Jubilee Allotment Association); Mr. A. Maughan; Mr. P. Tallentire (Teesdale Mercury) and twelve members of the public.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** A resident raised a question relating to land at Wellgarth in Evenwood. Several 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]; incomplete homes at Evenwood Gate; Houses in Multiple Occupation and emergency vehicles on the A688, matters which did not relate to the Council's role and responsibilities.

Minute No.	Agenda item
026/037	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:</b> There were no apologies for non-attendance.
026/038	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:</b> There were no declarations of interest.
026/039	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:</b> On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Potts, it was <b>RESOLVED:</b> To approve as a correct record and authorise the signing of the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th February 2026.
026/040	<b>MATTERS ARISING:</b> Minute 026.024 - Cllr. Spraggon mentioned that she had received an 'onslaught' of abusive comments after posting on her personal Facebook account an advertisement inviting expressions of interest in filling vacancies by co-option.
026/041	<b>VACANCIES:</b> Two candidates were in attendance to tell members why they would like to serve as co-opted parish councillors.
026/041.1	On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Potts, it was unanimously <b>RESOLVED:</b> That Sarah Hanrahan shall fill a vacancy for the Lands parish ward by co-option. The candidate signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
026/041.2	On the motion of Cllr. Finch, seconded by Cllr. Cosslett, it was unanimously <b>RESOLVED:</b> That Delia Heather Bussey shall fill a vacancy for the Lands parish ward by co-option. The candidate signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
026/042	<b>CLERK'S REPORT:</b> The action log recording agreed tasks was updated and all completed tasks removed.
026/043	<b>FINANCIAL MATTERS:</b> On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Marshall, it was unanimously <b>RESOLVED:</b> 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.

Chairman's Signature:

Date: 14th April 2026

- 026/043.1 On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Medhurst, it was unanimously **RESOLVED**: To donate the sum of £155.00 to help maintain flow planters in Evenwood.
- 026/043.2 On the motion of Cllr. Cosslett, seconded by Cllr. Finch, it was unanimously **RESOLVED**: To approve an application for a grant from St. Paul's Parochial Church Council (PCC) to purchase two wheelchair(s) in the sum of £320.00.z
- 026/044** **REPORTS**: The Chairman gave a report on his attendance at a meeting of Jacob Wright's Cottages charity, including repairs, inspections, voids, and income and expenditure; and a report on County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) and on the work of Rise North East. **RESOLVED**: To appoint Cllr. Marshall to attend future meetings of CDALC.
- 026/044.1 Cllr. Pettit gave a report on a meeting of the Emergency Plan Working Group which was pursuing several funding opportunities to support emergency planning.
- 026/044.2 Cllr. Spraggon gave a detailed report on the Allotments Working Group, including vacant plots; waiting lists; and collection of allotment rents.
- 026/044.3 Mr. M. Proud had obtained a quotation from the Council's preferred local contractor for the cost of installing hardstanding car parking at the Jubilee Allotment site **RESOLVED**: To instruct the contractor to proceed with the work at the price quoted [£2,700.00].
- 026/044.4 A complaint had been received highlighting the bad state of the allotment track at Delaware Avenue. **RESOLVED**: To instruct the Council's preferred local contractor to proceed with the improvement work at the price quoted [£1,300.00].
- 026/044.5 Cllr. Breeze apologised for the lack of progress relating to digital allotment plans for each of the three allotment sites and he pledged to make progress in time for the next meeting.
- 026/044.6 Cllr. Medhurst confirmed that she had successfully completed the Understanding Trustee Responsibilities & Good Governance training.
- 026/045** **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL (DCC)**: Cllr. Potts reported on DCC's approval of a 1.99% council tax increase for 2026/27, a reduction from the previously planned 3.1% rise; a share of £22 million to fund pothole repairs; and new Local Network Action Plans (LNAPs); Evenwood & Barony was the only local council to lower its precept in County Durham.
- 026/046** **PLANNING**: There had been no response from planning officers regarding planning application no. DM/25/02768/FPA. Cllr. Potts agreed to raise the matter at County Hall.
- 026/047** **STANDING ORDERS: RESOLVED**: To suspend Standing Order 3x [a meeting shall not exceed a period of two hours] for as long as the following matters were under discussion.
- 026/048** **SUMMER EVENT: RESOLVED**: To defer a Summer Fayre/Fun Day until 2027.
- 026/049** **ITEM REQUESTED BY A MEMBER**: On the motion of Cllr. McCash, it was unanimously **RESOLVED**: To provide official identification for all parish councillors.
- 026/049.1 On the motion of Cllr. Hodgson, it was **RESOLVED**: 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.
- 026/050** **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**: To consider a proposal to create and share a map showing the locations of the defibrillators within the parish [Cllr. Hodgson].
- 026/051** **NEXT MEETING: RESOLVED**: To confirm the date of the next meeting: Tuesday 14th April 2026 commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Cornerstone Christian Centre.
- 026/052** **CONCLUSION OF MEETING**: The meeting closed at 9:20 p.m.