



**Minutes of a meeting of Evenwood and Barony Parish Council held in Cornerstone Christian Centre, Swan Street, Evenwood, on Tuesday 13th January 2025 at 7:00 p.m.**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. K. Murray-Hetherington (Parish Clerk); Mr. W. McCash; Mr. M. Proud (Jubilee Allotment Association); Mr. A. Maughan; and Mr. P. Tallentire (Teesdale Mercury).

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** There were no questions or concerns raised by members of the public.

Minute No.	Agenda item
026/001	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:</b> An apology for absence was received from Cllr. A. Breeze but no reason for non-attendance was given.
026/002	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:</b> There were no declarations of interest.
026/003	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:</b> On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Medhurst, it was <b>RESOLVED:</b> To approve as a correct record and authorise the signing of the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th December 2025.
026/004	<b>MATTERS ARISING:</b> 025/376 - The Chairman advised members to monitor the objection raised to planning application no. DM/25/02768/FPA.
026/005	<b>VACANCIES:</b> On the motion of Cllr. Cosslett, seconded by Cllr. Marshall, it was unanimously <b>RESOLVED:</b> That Mr. William McCash shall fill a vacancy for the Evenwood ward by co-option. The candidate signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
026/006	<b>CLERK'S REPORT:</b> The Parish Clerk gave a report on matters including the prospect of councils in England holding remote and hybrid meetings; members' code of conduct; and the national Civility and Respect Campaign.
026/006.1	On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Finch, it was <b>RESOLVED:</b> To adopt with immediate effect Durham County Council's amended Members' Code of Conduct.
026/006.2	On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Cosslett, it was <b>RESOLVED:</b> To sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge to demonstrate a commitment to addressing poor behaviour and fostering positive changes to support civil and respectful behaviour.
026/006.3	On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Cosslett, it was <b>RESOLVED:</b> That individual parish councillors shall sign an undertaking - <i>Councillor's Statement of Assurance</i> - to personally commit to upholding the values of civility and respect.
026/006.4	The action log recording agreed tasks was updated and required actions were agreed. On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Cosslett, it was <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the preferred location to install a defibrillator and solar powered cabinet at Evenwood Gate is 1) near the existing notice board adjacent to the A688, or 2) on the corner of Hilton Lane.
026/007	<b>CORRESPONDENCE:</b> On the motion Cllr. Marshall, seconded by Cllr. Cosslett, it was unanimously <b>RESOLVED:</b> To nominate Cllr. B. Medhurst to be put into the draw for two tickets (councillor plus guest) for a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

Chairman's Signature:

Date: 10th February 2026

- 026/007.1 On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Medhurst, it was unanimously **RESOLVED**: That Wellers Law Group shall be the Parish Council's preferred firm for specialist legal advice and services, working to fixed fees at the outset of a matter.
- 026/007.2 On the motion of Cllr. Potts, seconded by Cllr. Spraggon, it was unanimously **RESOLVED**: To approve the Parish Clerk's attendance at the Society of Local Council Clerks' (SLCC's) regional training seminar in Newcastle upon Tyne on 11th March 2025 and mileage costs.
- 026/008 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. Marshall verified the bank reconciliation, and signed and dated the schedule of income and expenditure and invoices as evidence of this.
- 026/009 REPORTS**: Cllr. Spraggon gave a report on the Allotments Working Group and requested an enforcement letter for plot no. 18 at Delaware allotment site (overgrown). Cllr. Breeze was absent but had indicated that he would provide a report on progress of digital allotment plans for each of the three allotment sites. Mr. Michael Proud was thanked for producing an accurate map of the plots at the Jubilee Allotment site.
- 026/009.1 On the motion of Cllr. Finch, seconded by Cllr. Potts, it was unanimously **RESOLVED**: To give to the tenant of the plots known as 'the parish field' one month's notice that the tenancy would not be renewed on 1st April 2026 due to non-usage for a long period of time.
- 026/009.2 On the motion of Cllr. Potts, seconded by Cllr. Cosslett, it was unanimously **RESOLVED**: To instruct the Parish Clerk to draft a lease agreement for the plots known as 'the parish field' for a period of seven years on payment of £39.00 per plot for the first year and thereafter on payment of £1,200.00 each year for the remaining period of the lease.
- 026/009.3 Cllr. Pettit reported that the Emergency Plan Working Group would meet soon to discuss funding opportunities to support emergency planning.
- 026/010 DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**: Cllr. Potts reported that DCC had identified savings to avoid raising council tax by 4.99% - the maximum allowed without a referendum.
- 026/011 PLANNING**: There were no valid planning applications received which required attention.
- 026/012 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.
- 026/013 ITEMS REQUESTED BY A MEMBER**: On the motion of Cllr. Hodgson, seconded by Cllr. Finch, it was **RESOLVED**: To match the £3,000 from County Councillor Potts' fund to supply and install a defibrillator and solar powered cabinet at Evenwood Gate. On the motion of Cllr. Cosslett, seconded by Cllr. Potts, it was **RESOLVED**: To submit an ePetition request to Durham County Council regarding the A688 road at Evenwood Gate.
- 026/014 SUMMER EVENT 2026: RESOLVED**: To discuss firm proposals at the next meeting.
- 026/015 NEXT MEETING: RESOLVED**: To confirm the date of the next meeting: Tuesday 10th February 2026 commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Cornerstone Christian Centre.
- 026/016 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC: RESOLVED**: That the public and the press shall be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the next item of business due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.
- 026/017 NOTES OF A MEETING: RESOLVED**: To approve the 'pink paper' notes of a meeting regarding the policy on malicious communications and advice on legal proceedings.
- 026/018 CONCLUSION OF MEETING**: The meeting closed at 9:14 p.m.