



Minutes of a meeting of Evenwood and Barony Parish Council held in Randolph Community Centre, Stones End, Evenwood, Bishop Auckland, DL14 9RE, on Tuesday 14th October 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors R. Bolden (in the Chair); A. Breeze; J. Cosslett; A. Deakin; A. Marshall; B. Medhurst; E. Pettit; R. Potts; R. Spraggon.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. K. Murray-Hetherington (Parish Clerk); two members of the public.

ANNOUNCEMENT: The Parish Clerk announced the death of Mr. Tony Elliott, a much respected former parish councillor, who served Lands Ward for many years. Members acknowledged that he was a kind, courteous gentleman, who loved his village and would be missed, and they offered their deepest sympathy to his family.

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

Minute No.	Agenda item
025/334	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: RESOLVED: That apologies and reasons for non-attendance shall be accepted from Cllr. C. Hodgson (overseas).
025/335	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest.
025/336	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: RESOLVED: To approve as a correct record and authorise the signing of the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday 9th September 2025.
025/337	MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.
025/338	COMMEMORATIVE BENCH: Mrs. Diane Thompson and Mr. Gary Somers outlined a request for permission to purchase and install a recyclable memorial bench for their parents. On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Pettit, it was unanimously RESOLVED: To grant permission for installation of a memorial bench at the Welfare Ground with an engraved plaque: "In loving memory of Kevin & Maureen Somers".
025/339	VACANCIES: There were no expressions of interest in filling five vacancies for the following parish council wards by co-option: Evenwood (2); Lands (2); Witton (1).
025/340	CLERK'S REPORT: A request had been received from an allotment tenant to purchase a parcel of land (field) at the allotment site. RESOLVED: To obtain a market valuation report and a rental valuation from a professional valuer.
025/340.1	A tree survey on the village green had been instructed by Fisher German LLP on behalf of the Church Commissioners and was scheduled to be carried out on 12th November 2025.
025/341	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.
025/341.1	On the motion of Cllr. Deakin, seconded by Cllr. Cosslett, it was RESOLVED: To award a donation of £200.00 to Evenwood Community Action for tickets to the Aglow event.

Chairman's Signature:

Date: 11th November 2025

- 025/342 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR):** The External Audit Team at Forvis Mazars LLP had advised that their audit report for the AGAR for the year ended 31st March 2025 would not be ready in time for the deadline: 30th September. The audit had been completed and was awaiting manager review and sign-off.
- 025/343 DEFIBRILLATOR:** On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Potts, it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To order the defibrillator and solar powered cabinet and AED familiarisation on the basis of the revised quote [£5,364.00] provided by Severnside.
- 025/344 REPORTS:** Cllr. Spraggon gave a comprehensive report on the Allotments Working Group. **RESOLVED:** To appoint Cllr. Maude as a member of the Working Group.
- 025/344.1 **RESOLVED:** To ask a qualified plotholder to carry out the work to enable water extraction at Delaware Avenue allotments at the price quoted [£180.00].
- 025/344.2 **RESOLVED:** To notify the relevant departments regarding serious allegations relating to a caravan being used for accommodation; cock-fighting; and puppy farming; and to ask the Secretary of the Jubilee Allotments Association to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council to discuss issues relating to the site and review the management arrangement.
- 025/344.3 Cllr. Pettit gave a report on the Emergency Plan Working Group's a meeting to discuss upgrading the emergency plan; organising training; equipment. **RESOLVED:** To appoint Cllr. Maude as a member of the Working Group.
- 025/344.4 On the motion of Cllr. Breeze, it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To disband the Communications Working Group after completion of the website and email addresses.
- 025/344.5 Cllr. Marshall gave a report as the appointed representative on a recent meeting of Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting, including Speedwatch and wildlife cruelty.
- 025/345 DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL (DCC):** There were no matters relating to DCC.
- 025/346 PLANNING:** There were no planning applications to consider.
- 025/347 ACTION LOG: RESOLVED:** To ask Mr. Anthony Maughan to occasionally undertake repairs and maintenance tasks across the Parish Council's property and street furniture as a multi-skilled handyperson, on an ad-hoc (as-and-when required) basis.
- 025/347.1 Members discussed a quote for the cost of supplying and installing a flagpole [£1,673.94]. **RESOLVED:** That a quote for the cost of heavy duty flagpole with internal halyard system and lockable access door is required to minimise the risk of flag theft.
- 025/348 REMEMBRANCE:** To confirm the arrangements for the Remembrance Service on Sunday 9th November 2025 and the Remembrance Commemoration on Monday 10th November 2025.
- 025/349 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.
- 025/350 NEXT MEETING: RESOLVED:** To confirm the date of the next meeting: Tuesday 11th November 2025 at 6:30 p.m. (annual budget and precept setting meeting for 2025/26).
- 025/351 ITEMS REQUESTED BY MEMBERS:** Cllr. Maude requested an item for inclusion on an agenda to discuss a proposed pedestrian crossing outside Randolph Community Centre.
- 025/352 CONCLUSION OF MEETING:** The meeting closed at 9:12 p.m.

These draft minutes are not the official record until formally approved at the next meeting.