



ESTABLISHED 1894

Minutes of a meeting of Evenwood and Barony Parish Council held in Cornerstone Christian Centre, Swan Street, Evenwood, on Tuesday 9th December 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors R. Bolden (in the Chair); A. Breeze; J. Cosslett; C. Hodgson; A. Marshall; B. Medhurst; R. Spraggon.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. K. Murray-Hetherington (Parish Clerk); Mr. M. Proud (Jubilee Allotment Association; Mr. M. Finch; and Mr. P. Cooper [arrived at 7:08 p.m.]

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: A member of the public raised concerns about a matter which did not relate to the Parish Council's role and responsibilities (fines for school absences) and he was pointed in the right direction for assistance from the Evenwood ward councillor (Durham County Council).

Minute No.	Agenda item
025/365	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: RESOLVED: That apologies and reasons for non-attendance shall be accepted from Cllrs. E. Pettit [holiday]; R. Potts [meeting].
025/366	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest.
025/367	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Breeze, it was RESOLVED: To approve as a correct record and authorise the signing of the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th November 2025.
025/368	MATTERS ARISING: 025/356 - The Chairman confirmed that a number of necessary tree surgery works had been carried out and paid for by the Church Commissioners.
025/369	VACANCIES: One candidate was in attendance to tell members why he would like to serve as a co-opted parish councillor. Members then considered his expression of interest in his absence. On the motion of Cllr. Cosslett, seconded by Cllr. Spraggon, it was unanimously RESOLVED: That Mr. Michael Finch shall fill a vacancy for the Evenwood parish ward by co-option. The candidate signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
025/369.1	On the motion of Cllr. Breeze, seconded by Cllr. Spraggon, it was RESOLVED: That, if a member owns a <i>Facebook</i> account, they shall be encouraged to publish an advertisement and map inviting expressions of interest in filling the remaining vacancies by co-option.
025/370	DEVONSHIRE PLACE: The Parish Clerk gave an update on an issue raised by a resident at the previous meeting relating to land adjoining her home belonging to <i>North Star Housing Association</i> .
025/371	CLERK'S REPORT: There was no correspondence or any matters which required action.
025/372	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.
025/372.1	RESOLVED: To invite organisations to apply for a grant or donation in good time before the Parish Council's meeting in April each year. Any award would become available for payment only after receipt of the precept money after 1st April in each financial year. Ad-hoc requests could still be made during other months but there would be no guarantee

Chairman's Signature:

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that any funds would remain available.

025/373 **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.

025/373.1 The Emergency Plan Working Group had not met since the previous meeting.

025/373.2 Cllr. Spraggon gave a report on the Allotments Working Group. **RESOLVED:** To discuss at the next meeting an amendment to the rules relating to fires at the allotments.

025/373.3 On the motion of Cllr. Marshall, seconded by Cllr. Medhurst, it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** That Cllr. Alan Breeze shall work with the Chair of the Allotments Working Group (AWG), Cllr. Rachael Spraggon, to produce digital allotment plans for each of the three allotment sites (an accurate map of the plots), and to provide a report on progress at the next parish council meeting. The Secretary of Jubilee Allotment Association, Mr. Michael Proud, offered to assist with a map of the Jubilee Allotment site.

025/374 **JUBILEE ALLOTMENTS:** Mr. Michael Proud, Secretary of Jubilee Allotments Association signed a management agreement, a legal document that outlined how the Parish Council as the landowner delegates the day-to-day management of the allotment site to an association. assured members that reports from the Allotments Working Group regarding allegations relating to cock-fighting and puppy farming were unfounded and had no basis in fact. He confirmed that a caravan had been removed from the allotment site.

025/375 **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL (DCC):** Cllr. R. Potts had submitted an apology for his absence and there was no report on issues relating to DCC.

025/376 **PLANNING:** On the motion of Cllr. Marshall, seconded by Cllr. Medhurst, it was **RESOLVED:** To raise a strong objection to planning application no. DM/25/02768/FPA on the grounds of increased traffic volume, highway safety risks, dangerous access, poor visibility, pedestrian harm, and insufficient parking.

025/377 **ACTION LOG:** The action log recording agreed tasks was updated and all completed tasks removed. **RESOLVED:** To proceed with the work to replace the area of crushed rock fines around the seat donated by Dr. Z. Sayed at Bank Top with stone flags paved around the seat and pointed with grey block paving around edge, at the price quoted.

025/378 **SUMMER EVENT:** Members discussed a proposal for a Summer event in 2026. **RESOLVED:** To place an item on the agenda for discussion as a standing item.

025/379 **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:** Cllr. Spraggon requested an item on the next agenda to discuss a request to purchase a parcel of land (field) at an allotment site.

025/380 **STANDING ORDERS: RESOLVED:** To suspend Standing Order 3x [a meeting shall not exceed a period of two hours] for as long as the following matter was under discussion.

025/381 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC:** On the motion of Cllr. Marshall, seconded by Cllr. Spraggon, it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and the press shall be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the next items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, i.e. legal proceedings preparation or advice.

025/382 **ITEM REQUESTED BY A MEMBER:** Members reviewed the Parish Council's policy on malicious communications.

025/383 **CONCLUSION OF MEETING:** The meeting closed at 9:27 p.m.

Chairman's Signature:

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