Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Evenwood and Barony Parish Council held in Cornerstone Christian Centre, Swan Street, Evenwood, on Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. K. Murray-Hetherington (Parish Clerk).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: There were no members of the public present

Minute No.	Agenda item
026/073	**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:** On the motion of Cllr. Marshall, seconded by Cllr. Spraggon, it was unanimously **RESOLVED**: That Cllr. R.C. Bolden shall be elected Chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2026-2027.
026/074	**DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE:** Cllr. Bolden signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
026/075	**ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN:** There were two candidates proposed. Cllr. Spraggon was proposed by Cllr. Breeze, seconded by Cllr. Marshall, and received 3 votes. Cllr. Cosslett was proposed by Cllr. Pettit, seconded by Cllr. Medhurst, and received 9 votes. Voting was by show of hands. There were 2 abstentions. **RESOLVED**: That Cllr. J. Cosslett shall be elected Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for the municipal year 2026-2027. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Spraggon for her support as Vice-Chair**.**
026/076	**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** There were no apologies for non-attendance.
026/077	**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL: RESOLVED**: To receive the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 13th May 2025 which were approved and signed as a true record on 10th June 2025.
026/078	**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Cosslett, it was unanimously **RESOLVED**: To approve as a correct record and authorise the signing of the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th April 2026.
026/079	**APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES:** On the motion of Cllr. Breeze, seconded by Cllr. Marshall, it was unanimously **RESOLVED**: To appoint Cllr. Bolden as the Parish Council's representative on the Jacob Wright's Cottages charity.
026/079.1	On the motion of Cllr. Pettit, seconded by Cllr. Spraggon, it was unanimously **RESOLVED**: To appoint Cllr. Cosslett as the Parish Council's representative as a panel member on the Teesdale Local Network Group (LNG).
026/079.2	On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Medhurst, it was **RESOLVED**: To appoint Cllr. Marshall to represent the Parish Council's views at Durham Constabulary's Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings.
026/079.3	**RESOLVED**: To appoint Cllrs. Bolden and Marshall as the Parish Council's representatives at County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) meetings.
026/080	**WORKING GROUPS:** The system of Working Groups and terms of reference were reviewed and it was **RESOLVED**: To appoint representatives to serve on the following:
026/080.1	Allotments Working Group: Cllrs. Spraggon; Pettit; Medhurst; Hanrahan; Breeze.
026/080.2	Emergency Plan Working Group: Cllrs. Pettit; Bolden; Marshall; Hodgson; Medhurst; McCash, with one ex-officio member from Lands ward (Cllr. Gilbey).

Chairman's Signature: Date: 9th June 2026

026/080.3 Village Green Working Group: Cllrs. Cosslett; Marshall; Bolden; Medhurst; Hanrahan.

026/081 **STANDING ORDERS:** The Standing Orders were reviewed. **RESOLVED**: To approve the Standing Orders with no amendments.

026/082 **ASSETS REGISTER: RESOLVED**: To approve the amendments (additions) to the fixed assets register which had been presented to members.

026/083 **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES: RESOLVED**: To approve the checklist of the Parish Council's formal policies and procedures which had been presented to members.

026/083.1 **RESOLVED**: To approve an identity card policy which had been circulated to members.

026/083.2 **RESOLVED**: To approve a flag flying policy which had been circulated to members.

026/083.3 **RESOLVED**: To approve a memorial items policy which had been circulated to members.

026/084 **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS: RESOLVED**: To confirm that the Parish Council shall meet on the second Tuesday of each month except August commencing at 7:00 p.m.

026/085 **CLERK'S REPORT:** The Clerk reported that two practical governance changes were widely expected to be made in the King's Speech on 13th May 2026: remote and hybrid council meetings and reform of the councillors' standards regime. The action log recording agreed tasks was updated and all completed tasks removed. **RESOLVED**: To approve the purchase of Rialtas Business Services' accounting software at the cost quoted.

026/086 **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. Spraggon verified the bank reconciliation, and signed and dated the schedule of income and expenditure and invoices as evidence of this.

026/087 **REPORTS**: Cllr. Spraggon gave a report on the Allotments Working Group, including vacant plots; waiting lists; and collection of allotment rents.

026/087.1 Cllr. Pettit gave a detailed report on a meeting of the Emergency Plan Working Group which was pursuing funding opportunities to support emergency planning. A 'walkabout' would take place at on 11th June 2026. The next meeting would be held on 16th June 2026. **RESOLVED**: To approve the latest updated version of the draft Emergency Plan.

026/088 **VACANCY:** One candidate was in attendance at 7:43 p.m. to explain why she would like to serve as a parish councillor. On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Pettit, it was unanimously **RESOLVED**: That Teresa Millward shall fill a vacancy for the Witton parish ward by co-option. The candidate signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. [*Cllr. Millward gave an apology and left the meeting at 7:54 p.m. due to child care*].

026/089 **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL (DCC):** Cllr. Potts gave a report on issues relating to DCC, including cancellation of a full council meeting for the first time in recent memory due to a lack of questions or motions submitted by the public or opposition; and a notable surge in cross-border rural crime involving the theft of quad bikes.

026/090 **PLANNING:** There were no planning applications to consider.

026/091 **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:** To consider a response relating to *Speedwatch* monitoring equipment [Cllr. Breeze]; to consider a proposal relating to the A688 road at Evenwood Gate [Cllr. Hodgson]; and to consider a proposal for a defibrillator at Windmill [Cllr. Potts].

026/092 **CONCLUSION OF MEETING**: The meeting closed at 8:20 p.m.

Chairman's Signature: Date: 9th June 2026