Minutes of the meeting of Evenwood and Barony Parish Council held in Cornerstone Christian Centre, Swan Street, Evenwood, on Tuesday 14th July 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. K. Murray-Hetherington (Parish Clerk) and one member of the public.

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

Minute No.	Agenda item
026/114	**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: RESOLVED**: To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons for non-attendance from Cllrs. D. Bussey (other appointment) and R. Potts (hospital). [*An apology and reason for absence was also received after the meeting from Cllr. T. Millward who subsequently tendered her resignation from the Parish Council*].
026/115	**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were no declarations of interest in agenda items.
026/116	**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Medhurst, it was **RESOLVED**: To receive the minutes of the previous ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 9th June 2026.
026/117	**MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING:** On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Finch, it was **RESOLVED**: To approve as a correct record and authorise the signing of the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 2026.
026/118	**CLERK'S REPORT:** The action log recording agreed tasks was updated and all completed tasks removed.
026/119	**FINANCIAL MATTERS:** On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Cosslett, it was **RESOLVED**: To receive the schedule of monthly income and expenditure and approve payment of those invoices which were presented to the meeting. Cllr. Pettit verified the bank reconciliation, and signed and dated the schedule of income and expenditure and invoices as evidence of this.
026/119.1	On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Cosslett, it was **RESOLVED**: To approve a £200.00 donation to Mrs. Sandra Lamb to stop loneliness and help people socialise. [*Cllrs. Marshall and Medhurst declared a registerable interest and left the room during discussion on this item and they took no part in the voting*].
026/120	**DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL (DCC):** Cllr. Potts was not present to give a report on issues relating to DCC. The Parish Clerk explained that DCC's Lane Rental Scheme (DLRS) is a major initiative targeting road congestion. It charges utility companies and contractors per day for carrying out works on the busiest roads during peak hours. The scheme encourages contractors to work at off-peak times and complete projects faster.
026/121	**REPORTS:** Cllr. Spraggon gave a report on a Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting. Cllr. Cosslett gave a report on attendance with Cllrs. Marshall and McCash at the County Durham Association of Local Councils' National Awards celebration event for Teesdale parish councils. He suggested that the Parish Council should consider applying for the Local Council Award Scheme's Bronze Award to promote its achievements.
026/121.1	Cllr. Spraggon gave a comprehensive report on the Allotments Working Group. **RESOLVED**: To approve the purchase of a notice board for Jubilee Terrace allotment site. Cllr. Breeze gave an update on digital allotment plans.

Chairman's Signature: *Robert C. Bolden* Date: 8th September 2026

026/121.2 Cllr. Pettit gave a detailed report on a meeting of the Emergency Plan Working Group which was pursuing funding opportunities to support emergency planning.

026/122 **PLANNING:** Members considered two applications determined under delegated authority: DM/25/00672/FPA (refused) and DM/26/01202/TPO (approved).

026/123 **SUMMER EVENT:** Cllr. Gilbey gave an update on arrangements relating to a summer event in 2027. **RESOLVED**: That the Summer event shall be held on Saturday 24th July 2027.

026/123.1 **RESOLVED**: To appoint Cllrs. Wendy Gilbey (Chair); Rachael Spraggon; Ellie Pettit; Barbara Medhurst; Anne Marshall; and William McCash to serve on the working group.

026/124 **SPEEDWATCH:** The Clerk reported that Nicola Stavers, in the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), can assist in navigating the Parish Council through the *Speedwatch* process and link with Durham Constabulary Neighbourhood Team and the new Volunteer Co-ordinator. She would be in touch on her return to work on 16th July 2026.

026/125 **ITEMS REQUESTED BY MEMBERS: RESOLVED**: To approve Cllr. Medhurst's request for a notice board for Ramshaw parish ward.

026/125.1 **RESOLVED**: To accept Mr. Anthony Maughan's offer to repair the timber on a commemorative bench seat in Ramshaw parish ward.

026/125.2 **RESOLVED**: To ask the Parish Clerk to report to Durham County Council the overgrown condition of a property in Ramshaw parish ward.

026/125.3 Members welcomed Cllr. Gilbey's report on her fundraising plans within the parish as an individual who is passionate about the elderly and not acting on behalf of the Parish Council.

026/126 **STANDING ORDERS:** At 9:00 p.m. there was no motion to suspend Standing Orders.

026/127 **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:** Cllr. Medhurst asked for an item to be included on the agenda [fire hydrants] which did not relate to the Parish Council's role and responsibilities.

026/128 **NEXT MEETING: RESOLVED**: To confirm the date and venue of the next meeting: Tuesday 8th September 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Cornerstone Christian Centre. [*There are no meetings in August during Summer recess*].

026/129 **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.

026/130 **ALLOTMENTS:** Members discussed the Parish Clerk's advice regarding title deeds/plans for each of the three allotment sites. **RESOLVED**: To instruct the Parish Council's solicitors to apply to H.M. Land Registry for a first registration of unregistered land at Delaware Avenue allotments and Jubilee Terrace allotments.

026/131 **GRANT:** Members discussed a grant to the Randolph Community Centre Foundation Trust, in the sum of £37,000 for the financial year 2025/26, and the policy which reserves the right to require repayment in the event of an outcome not being achieved. **RESOLVED**: That the Randolph Community Centre Foundation Trust shall not be asked to give back to the Parish Council some or all of the £37,000 grant funding following a £195,027 windfall from the National Lottery's Community Fund and the Trustees' subsequent decision to organise a free family fun day and to distribute a number of grants to a maximum value of £1,000 each, which was not the purpose for which the Parish Council's financial support was provided.

026/132 **CONCLUSION OF MEETING**: The meeting closed at 9:25 p.m.

Chairman's Signature: *Robert C. Bolden* Date: 8th September 2026