Minutes of the meeting of Evenwood and Barony Parish Council held in Cornerstone Christian Centre, Swan Street, Evenwood, on Tuesday 9th June 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: A member of the public asked about the planning application DM/23/01723/RM for the erection of 38 dwellings at Kays Hall Farm, The Green, Evenwood, DL14 9QR. The Chairman confirmed that the application had been approved and the Parish Council has resolved to continue to oppose the development over the impact of the proposed access on the Village Green.

Minute No.	Agenda item

026/093 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: RESOLVED**: To receive apologies for absence and approve reasons for non-attendance from Cllrs. W. Gilbey (holiday); S. Hanrahan (other appointment); C. Hodgson (overseas). [*An apology and reason for absence was also received after the meeting from Cllr. R. Potts*].

026/094 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were no declarations of interest in agenda items.

026/095 **MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:** On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Pettit, it was unanimously **RESOLVED**: To receive the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 2026.

026/096 **MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL:** On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Medhurst, it was unanimously **RESOLVED**: To approve as a correct record and authorise the signing of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th May 2026.

026/097 **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.

026/098 **APPLICATION FOR AN ALLOTMENT:** An applicant for an allotment was in attendance to have an opportunity to respond to concerns which had been raised about his suitability, and to assess whether he was a reliable and responsible renter. **RESOLVED**: To refuse the application at the present time due to the applicant's physical health condition and his medical limitations. His name may remain on the waiting list but he will not be offered the tenancy of any vacated plot unless and until he is in a position to provide a medical 'fit note' issued by a healthcare professional (a doctor) providing evidence of his fitness to carry out gardening activities, to protect his well-being and safety, and to aid his recovery.

026/099 **CLERK'S REPORT:** The action log recording agreed tasks was updated and all completed tasks removed. **RESOLVED**: That Cllrs. Cosslett; Medhurst; and McCash shall attend the County Durham Association of Local Councils' (CDALC) National Awards celebration event for Teesdale parish councils on Wednesday 1st July 2026.

026/100 **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.

026/100.1 **RESOLVED**: To approve the new approved mileage allowance payment (AMAP) which had increased from 1st April 2026 to 55 pence per mile.

026/100.2 **RESOLVED**: To begin the process of separating the Parish Council's insurance policy from the Randolph Social Welfare Centre charity number: 520785 as a separate legal entity.

026/100.3 The Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) explained that this year the accounts have taken longer than expected mainly due to the transition to a new accounting software which involved set up and data entry and the annual governance and accounting statements for 2025/2026 would be available for sign-off as soon as possible.

026/101 **REPORTS**: Cllr. Spraggon gave a report on her attendance at a Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting. Cllr. Bolden gave a report on his attendance with Cllr. Marshall at a meeting of County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC). He mentioned the Employment Rights Act 2025 and reforms to protections against workplace harassment; neighbourhood plans; and affordable housing.

026/101.1 Cllr. Spraggon gave a report on the Allotments Working Group, including vacant plots; waiting lists; and new notice boards. The Parish Clerk gave an update on a lease holder's pre-application planning advice relating to the land known historically as 'the parish field'.

026/101.2 Cllr. Pettit gave a detailed report on a meeting of the Emergency Plan Working Group which was pursuing funding opportunities to support emergency planning. A 'walkabout' would take place at on 11th June 2026. The next meeting would be held on 16th June 2026. The latest updated version of the draft Emergency Plan would be circulated for approval. On the motion of Cllr. Pettit, seconded by Cllr. Cosslett, it was **RESOLVED**: To approve in principle some funding to contribute towards the cost of emergency equipment.

026/101.3 Cllr. Breeze reported that he was still very keen to make progress with digital allotment plans for each of the three allotment sites and a visit would be arranged with Cllr. Spraggon to take measurements. **RESOLVED**: To place an item on the agenda in September 2026.

026/102 **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL (DCC):** Cllr. Potts was not present to give a report on issues relating to DCC. The Parish Clerk gave a summary of the structure of the new Local Networks: Elected Member Board; Stakeholder Panel; Local Network Community Forum.

026/103 **PLANNING:** There were no planning applications to consider.

026/104 **STANDING ORDERS:** At 9:00 p.m. it was unanimously **RESOLVED**: To suspend Standing Orders for a limited period of 15 minutes to progress the remaining business

026/105 **SPEEDWATCH:** Cllr. Breeze reported that Etherley Parish Council had confirmed that sharing valuable *Speedwatch* monitoring equipment would be very difficult particularly in terms of access and availability. **RESOLVED**: To investigate the possibility of obtaining radar devices and monitoring equipment for volunteers to record vehicle speeds.

026/106 **A688 ROAD: RESOLVED**: That matters relating to the A688 road at Evenwood Gate shall not be discussed further unless supported by a firm written proposal.

026/107 **DEFIBRILLATOR:** On the motion of Cllr. Cosslett, seconded by Cllr. Spraggon, it was **RESOLVED**: To match the funding allocated by County Councillor Potts from Durham County Council's members' budget for a community defibrillator and solar powered defibrillator cabinet at Windmill in the Toft Hill parish ward.

026/108 **SUMMER EVENT:** Cllr. Gilbey was not present to give an update on arrangements relating to a summer event in 2027. She had been in contact with *Evenwood Roadrunners* and would be arranging a meeting. It was agreed that setting a date is the top priority.

026/109 **CONCLUSION OF MEETING**: The meeting closed at 9:18 p.m.

Chairman's Signature: Date: 14th July 2026