



ESTABLISHED 1894

Evenwood & Barony Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Randolph Community Centre, Stones End, Evenwood, Bishop Auckland, DL14 9RE, on Tuesday 13th May 2025 at 7:15 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors R. Bolden (Chairman); R. Spraggon (Vice-Chair); A. Breeze; J. Cosslett; A. Deakin; C. Hodgson; A. Marshall; E. Pettit.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr. Robert Potts (Durham County Council); Mr. K. Murray-Hetherington (Parish Clerk); and two members of the public.

Minute No.	Agenda item
025/246	DECLARATIONS OF OFFICE: All councillors signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Parish Clerk, before they sat and acted as a councillor.
025/247	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: There were no apologies for non-attendance.
024/248	ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN: On the motion of Cllr. Pettit, seconded by Cllr. Spraggon, it was unanimously RESOLVED: To elect Cllr. Bolden as Chairman of the Council for 2025/2026.
025/249	DECLARATION OF OFFICE: Cllr. Bolden signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
025/250	ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR: On the motion of Cllr. Deakin, seconded by Cllr. Pettit, it was unanimously RESOLVED: To elect Cllr. Spraggon as the Vice-Chair of the Council for 2025/2026.
025/251	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: There were no apologies for non-attendance.
025/252	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes of the previous Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th May 2024 which were approved and signed as a true record on Tuesday 11th June 2024 were received.
025/253	MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.
025/254	VACANCIES: On the motion of Cllr. Cosslett, seconded by Cllr. Marshall, it was RESOLVED: That Robert Potts shall fill one of the two vacancies for the Witton parish ward by co-option. The candidate signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
025/255	APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES: On the motion of Cllr. Breeze, seconded by Cllr. Deakin, it was RESOLVED: To appoint Cllr. Bolden as the Parish Council's representative on the Jacob Wright's Cottages charity.
025/255.1	On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Deakin, it was unanimously RESOLVED: To nominate Cllr. Cosslett to serve as a panel member on the new Teesdale Local Network Group (LNG), representing the Parish Council.
025/255.2	On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Deakin, it was unanimously RESOLVED: To appoint Cllr. Marshall to represent at Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings the Parish Council's views as expressed through formal resolution.
025/256	WORKING GROUPS: The system of Working Groups and terms of reference was

Chairman's Signature..... Date.....

reviewed and it was **RESOLVED:** To appoint representatives to serve on the following working groups:

- 025/256.1 Allotments Working Group (4) (Cllrs. Spraggon [Chair]; Deakin; and Pettit).
- 025/256.2 Communications Working Group (4) (Cllrs. Breeze [Chair]; Bolden; Cosslett; Marshall).
- 025/256.3 Emergency Plan Working Group (4) (Cllrs. Pettit [Chair]; Bolden; Hodgson; Marshall; with one ex-officio member from Lands Ward - Cllr. Deakin).

- 025/257 STANDING ORDERS:** On the motion of Cllr. Cosslett, it was **RESOLVED:** That a parish councillor shall not serve more than four consecutive one-year terms as Chair of the Parish Council. However, in the case of an emergency, this term may be extended by an absolute maximum of one extra year. This can only happen where a two-thirds majority of the Council members present agree to it.

- 025/258 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS:** Members were asked to read the contents of the long-awaited new model financial regulations released by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) which had been circulated. **RESOLVED:** To discuss the financial regulations at the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 10th June 2025.

- 025/259 ASSETS REGISTER: RESOLVED:** To approve the amendments to the fixed assets register which had been presented to members.

- 025/260 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES: RESOLVED:** To approve the checklist of the Parish Council’s formal policies and procedures which had been presented to members.

- 025/260.1 On the motion of Cllr. Spraggon, seconded by Cllr. Cosslett, it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To approve the Grants and Donations Policy setting out the rules in the Local Government Act (section 137) which had been circulated to members.

- 025/261 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS: RESOLVED:** To confirm that the Parish Council shall meet on the second Tuesday of each month except August (Summer recess) commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Randolph Community Centre unless otherwise stated.

- 025/262 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: RESOLVED:** To confirm the date of the next annual meeting: Tuesday 12th May 2026.

- 025/263 CONCLUSION OF MEETING:** The meeting closed at 8:00 p.m.