



ESTABLISHED 1894

Evenwood & Barony Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council held in the Randolph Community Centre, Stones End, Evenwood, Bishop Auckland, DL14 9RE, on Tuesday 8th July 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: A period of 40 minutes was allocated for residents to make representations regarding Kays Hall Farm planning application and the village green. The Parish Clerk reported that Church Commissioners, who are the owners of the Village Green, are supportive of the Kays Hall Farm development and will not create any barrier for the development going forward. Developers will be completing an application under section 16 of the Commons Act 2006 for the proposed de-registration and exchange of land at Evenwood Village Green, which is a public process run by the Planning Inspectorate where the Parish Council may make an objection.

Minute No.

Agenda item

- 025/296 KAYS HALL FARM:** On the motion of Cllr. Marshall, seconded by Cllr. Spraggon, it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To write to the Chief Executive and Principal Planning Officers at Durham County Council to confirm a formal objection on behalf of the Parish Council regarding planning application DM/23/01723/RM - Kays Hall Farm - and to emphatically request that this application should be referred to committee for consideration rather than be decided by officers under delegated powers.
- 025/297 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: RESOLVED:** That apologies and reasons for non-attendance shall be accepted from Cllrs. E. Pettit (holiday) and R. Potts (other business).
- 025/298 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 025/299 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** On the motion of Cllr. Deakin, seconded by Cllr. Cosslett, it was **RESOLVED:** To approve as a correct record and authorise the signing of the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday 10th June 2025.
- 025/300 MATTERS ARISING:** There were no matters arising.
- 025/301 VACANCIES:** There were no expressions of interest in filling five vacancies for the following parish council wards by co-option: Evenwood (2); Lands (2); Witton (1).
- 025/302 CLERK'S REPORT:** The Clerk reported that, as part of its commitment to supporting small businesses, HSBC Bank had removed the £8 monthly account fee from the Small Business Banking Account. The Clerk advised that the business of Smith Roddam Solicitors had been transferred to McGarry Law LLP from 1st July 2025 and the firm had confirmed that only deeds held by the firm are those in relation to the application for first registration of the Cricket Field which was still currently with HM Land Registry.
- 025/302.1** On the motion of Cllr. Breeze, it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** To ask the Church Commissioners whether they would be willing to formally transfer ownership and control of the Village Green to the Parish Council for a nominal consideration (payment).

Chairman's Signature:

Date: 9th September 2025

- 025/303 FINANCIAL MATTERS: RESOLVED:** To receive the schedule of monthly income and expenditure and approve payment of those invoices which were presented to the meeting.
- 025/304 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS:** On the motion of Cllr. Deakin, seconded by Cllr. Cosslett, it was **RESOLVED:** To adopt the new model financial regulations/procedures released by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) which had been adapted by the Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) to suit the size and structure of the council and the activities it undertakes, and circulated to all councillors for review.
- 025/305 REPORTS:** Cllr. Spraggon gave a report on the Allotments Working Group. **RESOLVED:** To issue a verbal warning to a new tenant and to issue a written warning to another long-standing tenant regarding the condition of their plots.
- 025/305.1 RESOLVED:** That the Chair of the Allotments Working Group shall arrange a meeting between members of the Allotments Working Group and representatives of plot holders to discuss the possibility of water extraction within the allotment site at Delaware Avenue.
- 025/305.2** There was no report from the Emergency Plan Working Group.
- 025/305.3** Cllr. Breeze gave an update on the new domain name and website and official email addresses, including the annual costs [£694 + VAT]. The Parish Clerk reminded members about the need for parish councils to make the switch to .gov.uk domains and .gov.uk emails to comply with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requirements. The Chairman discouraged members from using WhatsApp for any council business.
- 025/306 DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL:** There was no report on issues relating to DCC.
- 025/307 PLANNING:** The following application had been received: DM/25/01691/FPA at Burnlee Bowes Close, Ramshaw, DL14 0NX. Proposal: Remediation and part demolition of retrospective access road with associated lighting and entrance boundary wall.
- 025/308 ACTION LOG: RESOLVED:** To update the action log recording agreed tasks and to remove all completed tasks. Action was required to obtain from an alternative local contractor a quote for the cost of assessing a couple of trees at the village green. Cllr. Potts had been requested to ask officers at DCC whether they can recommend a company to assist with a bus shelter repair on Evenwood Lane, opposite Fairfield.
- 025/309 LITTER BINS: RESOLVED:** To ask Aidan McCabe (DCC) for a summary of the meeting held to carry out a full audit of litter bins and dog waste bins in the parish.
- 025/310 DEFIBRILLATOR: RESOLVED:** That parish councillors for the Ramshaw ward shall discuss the location for the installation of a defibrillator and equipment in Ramshaw.
- 025/311 FLAGPOLE:** On the motion of Cllr. Cosslett, seconded by Cllr. Medhurst, it was **RESOLVED:** To install a flagpole to allow for the Union Flag to be flown in Evenwood. [Cllr. Hodgson abstained]. On the motion of Cllr. Breeze, it was **RESOLVED:** To ask whether the Randolph Community Centre Foundation Trust would be willing to allow the Parish Council to install a permanent flagpole at the Randolph Community Centre.
- 025/312 NEXT MEETING: RESOLVED:** To confirm the date of the next meeting: Tuesday 9th September 2025. [Apologies for absence from Cllrs. Cosslett and Marshall (holiday)].
- 025/313 ITEMS REQUESTED BY MEMBERS:** To discuss the installation of a defibrillator at Evenwood Gate [Cllr. Hodgson].
- 025/314 CONCLUSION OF MEETING:** The meeting closed at 9:10 p.m.

These draft minutes are not the official record until formally approved at the next meeting.