



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 10th June 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors R. Spraggon (in the Chair); J. Cosslett; C. Hodgson; A. Marshall; E. Pettit; R. Potts.

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

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

Minute No.	Agenda item
025/277	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: RESOLVED: That apologies and reasons for non-attendance shall be accepted from Cllrs. R. Bolden [holiday]; A. Breeze [holiday]; A. Deakin [unwell].
025/278	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest.
025/279	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: On the motion of Cllr. Pettit, seconded by Cllr. Marshall, it was RESOLVED: To approve as a correct record and authorise the signing of the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday 13th May 2025.
025/280	MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.
025/281	ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: On the motion of Cllr. Pettit, seconded by Cllr. Marshall, it was RESOLVED: To approve as a correct record and authorise the signing of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 13th May 2025.
025/282	ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL: On the motion of Cllr. Pettit, seconded by Cllr. Marshall, it was 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 13th May 2025.
025/283	VACANCIES: Two candidates were in attendance to tell members a bit about themselves and why they would like to serve as a co-opted parish councillor. Members then considered their expressions of interest in their absence. The Parish Clerk advised members that the only prerequisite for co-option (other than the mandatory qualifying criteria) is a majority vote of existing councillors in favour of a candidate for co-option.
025/283.1	[Cllr. Potts left the room, and was not present during the discussion and vote]. On the motion of Cllr. Cosslett, seconded by Cllr. Marshall, it was RESOLVED: That Becky Land shall not fill one of the vacancies by co-option. The candidate failed to gain a majority vote in her favour and it was resolved that she shall not be co-opted.
025/283.2	On the motion of Cllr. Marshall, seconded by Cllr. Cosslett, it was RESOLVED: That Barbara Medhurst shall fill the vacancy for the Ramshaw parish ward by co-option. The candidate signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
025/284	CLERK'S REPORT: RESOLVED: To adopt the draft email policy which had been circulated to all councillors.

Chairman's Signature..... Date: 8th July 2025.....

- 025/284.1 The Parish Clerk gave a report on progress of WJP Software Ltd. (Active Councils) new website and a .gov.uk domain and official website addresses.
- 025/284.2 The Clerk advised that a copy of the cost quotation had been obtained for the project to purchase a defibrillator, solar powered defibrillator cabinet. **RESOLVED:** To discuss at the next parish council meeting the installation of a defibrillator and equipment in Ramshaw.
- 025/284.3 The Clerk advised that the business of Smith Roddam Solicitors will be transferred to McGarry Law LLP from 1st July 2025 and the firm had been asked to provide a list of information and documents currently held by the firm in paper or electronic form to help the Parish Council decide what action to take next.
- 025/285 FINANCIAL MATTERS: RESOLVED:** To receive the schedule of monthly income and expenditure and approve payment of those invoices which were presented to the meeting. **RESOLVED:** To approve the appointment of the independent internal auditor [Halfpenny Accountancy].
- 025/286 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR):** On the motion of Cllr. Cosslett, seconded by Cllr. Marshall, it was **RESOLVED:** To approve sections 1 & 2 of the AGAR statement for 2024/2025.
- 025/287 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS:** Members discussed the new model financial regulations released by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). **RESOLVED:** To ask the Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) to review the contents of the new template and consider any adaptations for final approval by the council.
- 025/288 REPORTS:** Cllr. Spraggon gave a report on the Allotments Working Group. **RESOLVED:** To allocate one vacant allotment plot to the applicant whose name had reached the top of the waiting list on a first-come-first-served basis.
- 025/288.1 Members considered written advice from the Technical Specialist (Groundwater and Contaminated Land) at the Environment Agency regarding the possibility of future water extraction from a disused borehole or well within the allotment site at Delaware Avenue. Neither the Agency nor the British Geological Survey (BGS) have any records of the disused borehole. The first stage of the process would be to undertake a Groundwater Investigation Consent (GIC), and planning permission is not usually required to drill boreholes (or to re-use existing boreholes) or to abstract groundwater.
- 025/289 DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL:** Cllr. Potts gave a report on issues relating to DCC, including an update on Kays Hall Farm planning application and the Toft Hill by-pass. Cllr. Hodgson expressed concerns about fly-tipping at Evenwood Gate and an overgrown pathway between Evenwood and Evenwood Gate. She was advised that DCC encourages residents to use the 'DOITONLINE' service to report any such concerns.
- 025/290 PLANNING:** There were no valid planning applications to consider.
- 025/291 ACTION LOG:** It was agreed to meet Aidan McCabe (DCC) on Wednesday 18th June 2025 at 3:00 p.m. to carry out a full audit of litter bins and dog waste bins in the parish.
- 025/292 ASSETS REGISTER: RESOLVED:** To dispose of an obsolete war memorial sign to the local history society and to update the assets register accordingly.
- 025/293 NEXT MEETING: RESOLVED:** To confirm the date of the next meeting: Tuesday 8th July 2025.
- 025/294 ITEMS REQUESTED BY MEMBERS:** To consider installation of flag pole [Cllr. Cosslett].
- 025/295 CONCLUSION OF MEETING:** The meeting closed at 8:30 p.m.

Chairman's Signature..... Date: 8th July 2025.....