

Whessoe Parish Council

MINUTES of the Meeting of Whessoe Parish Council held at Whessoe Parish Hall on Monday 1st December 2025, at 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor S Goldfinch (Vice Chair) Councillor T Musson Councillor F Minay
 Councillor M Singh Bains Borough Councillor R Lawley
 Parish Clerk – B Goldfinch

MINUTE NO.	ITEM	ACTION
52.25	<p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>In the absence of the Chair, Councillor S Goldfinch chaired the meeting.</p> <p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Councillors D Woodley, C Stewart and S Patterson sent apologies, which were accepted by the Parish Council.</p>	
53.25	<p><u>Public Participation</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
54.25	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
55.25	<p><u>Minutes of the meeting of Whessoe Parish Council – 22nd September 2025</u></p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting of Whessoe Parish Council held on the 22nd September 2025 were presented.</p> <p>The Council RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of Whessoe Parish Council held on the 22nd September 2025 be approved and signed.</p> <p><u>Action Points</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All actions are covered in the Agenda. 	
56.25	<p><u>Planning</u></p> <p>Planning Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Planning Committee met on 8th October and 18th November. The Council noted the reports. 	

Signed..... Date.....
 Chair of the Parish Council

	<p><u>Planning Application 25/01281/FUL</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council considered this application for the installation of 18 no. pole mounted CCTV cameras and associated CCTV boxes located within the proposed Solar Farm site on land North of Burtree Lane and RESOLVED to raise no objections. The Clerk notified the planning authority on 2nd December. <p>Planning Applications Log</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council RESOLVED to note the planning applications log. 																																																	
57.25	<p><u>Parish Councillor Vacancy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None at present. 																																																	
58.25	<p><u>Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer</u></p> <p>Staffing Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update for this meeting 																																																	
59.25	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>Bank Reconciliation September and October 2025 Councillors Patterson and Minay reconciled the bank account against the cashbook on 12th October and 10th November 2025 respectively.</p> <p>Financial/Budget Statement to 31st August 2025 The Clerk presented the Financial Statement for the period.</p> <p>Receipts totalled £19,588 of which £13,525 came from the precept. The Council spent £10,218 to the end of the period.</p> <p>Payments more than £100 are as follow.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="339 1395 1331 1912"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date Paid</th> <th>Transaction Detail</th> <th>Total</th> <th>Payee Name</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>16/04/25</td> <td>Annual Subscription</td> <td>£ 313.69</td> <td>CDALC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16/04/25</td> <td>Internal Audit</td> <td>£ 100.00</td> <td>Kevin Pearce</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16/04/25</td> <td>Accounting Software</td> <td>£ 243.60</td> <td>Rialtas Business Solutions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17/04/25</td> <td>Gas March</td> <td>£ 163.81</td> <td>EDF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20/05/25</td> <td>Replacement for broken window</td> <td>£ 225.00</td> <td>Peter Bean</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29/05/25</td> <td>Insurance</td> <td>£ 677.18</td> <td>Zurich Insurance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10/06/25</td> <td>Office 365</td> <td>£ 104.99</td> <td>Microsoft</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27/06/25</td> <td>PAYE Q1</td> <td>£ 405.00</td> <td>HMRC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27/06/25</td> <td>Booking Software</td> <td>£ 265.00</td> <td>Hallmaster</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30/06/25</td> <td>Clerk's Salary Q1</td> <td>£ 1,620.40</td> <td>Clerk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>07/07/25</td> <td>Hall Maintenance (roof)</td> <td>£ 100.00</td> <td>Dave Woodley</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date Paid	Transaction Detail	Total	Payee Name	16/04/25	Annual Subscription	£ 313.69	CDALC	16/04/25	Internal Audit	£ 100.00	Kevin Pearce	16/04/25	Accounting Software	£ 243.60	Rialtas Business Solutions	17/04/25	Gas March	£ 163.81	EDF	20/05/25	Replacement for broken window	£ 225.00	Peter Bean	29/05/25	Insurance	£ 677.18	Zurich Insurance	10/06/25	Office 365	£ 104.99	Microsoft	27/06/25	PAYE Q1	£ 405.00	HMRC	27/06/25	Booking Software	£ 265.00	Hallmaster	30/06/25	Clerk's Salary Q1	£ 1,620.40	Clerk	07/07/25	Hall Maintenance (roof)	£ 100.00	Dave Woodley	
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	08/09/25	Ink cartridges, teaspoons and HDMI wall plate	£ 108.18	Amazon		
	29/09/25	PAYE Q2	£ 405.00	HMRC		
	29/09/25	Clerk's Salary Q2	£1,620.40	Clerk		
	01/10/25	Replacement Website	£ 258.00	Plexus Media Ltd		
	09/10/25	Replacement Laptop	£ 299.99	Amazon		
	13/10/25	Roof Repair	£ 720.00	C Park DHM Roofing		
	13/10/25	Boiler Service & certification	£ 300.00	MHL Ltd		
	<p>Budget Review and Precept Setting 2026-27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council carefully and in detail considered the planned income and expenditure by both the Parish Council and Hall Committee. They RESOLVED to fund any improvements or significant maintenance works on the hall through grant funding applications. They RESOLVED to set a neutral balanced budget and to this end they RESOLVED to seek a precept of £14,200. This is a 5% increase on 2025-6. The Clerk will notify Darlington Borough Council accordingly. Post meeting note: Done 4th December 2025. <p>Banking – outstanding action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council's bankers, Lloyds, are charging a monthly fee to continue banking with them. The charges that affect the Council's account are a £4.25 fee per month plus 42p for every manual transaction (paying in cheques and cash). At the moment there are no manual transactions. The Clerk will investigate alternative options. 					Clerk
60.25	<p><u>IT - Website and Email</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Parish Council's new website went live on 25th September 2025. <p><u>Laptop – outstanding action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council replaced the existing laptop on 9th October 2025 at a total cost of just over £300 including business prime subscription. The installed operating system, Windows 11 home, needs updating to Pro and the clerk will arrange this. 					Clerk
61.25	<p><u>Policies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Data Protection Regulations (UK) – the Parish Council has had updated advice on compliance with these regulations. The Clerk will review and amend the existing policy if necessary and bring any amendments back to the Council and will ensure that any fee due to the Information Commissioners office is paid. 					Clerk

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62.25	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerks and Councils Direct was passed to Councillor T Musson. 	
63.25	<p><u>Events and Training</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council noted the events and training log. 	
64.25	<p><u>Marketing and social media</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice Board on Berrymead Farm – Storey Homes has been approached to see if they would sponsor and install a notice board on the site. 	
65.25	<p><u>Whessoe Parish Hall Committee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hall Committee met on 18th November 2025. An update of the significant changes from the last Parish Council meeting was provided by the Councillor Goldfinch. <p>Contracts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas and electricity contracts will be significantly lower than expected as the Parish Council has negotiated cheaper deals. • As part of a winter programme the Clerk will ask for the trees in the car park to be trimmed and for the pressure washing to be carried out. • The gas boiler was serviced and recertified on 8th October 2025. • The roof was repaired and there is now no evidence of water ingress. • The fir extinguisher test was carried out on 13th November 2025. One extinguisher was out of date and replaced. <p>Hall bookings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council discussed the issues created by the recent late night parties at the hall. They RESOLVED to not hire the hall to any new requests for a one-off hire after 6pm. The Council is conscious that there are many more neighbours adjacent to the hall and that it is unfair to ask councillors to close the hall late at night. This will require a change to the one-off hire agreement. • The Council RESOLVED to remove the block charging for one-off hires as the hall will not be used by them after 6pm. Instead charging would revert to an hourly charge. The Council RESOLVED to charge £15 per hour for all new hires after 1st January 2026. The Clerk will amend the hire charge agreement accordingly. • The Clerk would circulate the latest version of the hall opening rota. <p>POST MEETING NOTE: Done 2nd December 2025.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

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66.25	<p><u>Whessoe Parish Social Committee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Social Committee met on 10th November 2025. An update was provided by Councillor Minay. <p>Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Race night scheduled for 5th December 2025 was cancelled due to lack of interest. • Quiz nights are scheduled for 23rd January and 13th March. • The Christmas Party plans were discussed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Set up would be from 2pm for those who could be there to help out. ○ The hall will open at 3pm and aim to end by 6pm. ○ The entertainer will arrive around 3pm and entertainment is scheduled to start at 3.30pm. ○ There were 36 tickets sold (18 children and 18 adults). ○ Refreshments are included in the ticket price. There are mince pies, biscuits, tea, coffee, mulled wine and a variety of soft drinks. ○ The children’s gift has been kindly donated by Councillor Sigh Bains. The Council thanked him for the chocolate boxes. <p>Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Social Committee is mainly funded through proceeds from quiz nights and other donations. At the end of the year any surplus from the quiz nights will be donated to Darlington Samaritans. 	
67.25	<p><u>Date and Time of Future Meetings</u></p> <p>Meetings of Whessoe Parish Council:</p> <p>Parish Council Meeting – Monday, 26th January 2026 – 7.00 pm Parish Council Meeting – Monday, 23rd March 2026 – 7.00 pm Annual Meeting – Wednesday 20th May 2025 – 7.00 pm</p> <p>Annual Parish Meeting:</p> <p>Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 20th May 2025 – 6.30 pm to 7.00 pm</p>	

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