

# **HEDGELEY PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Hedgeley Parish Council commencing at 7pm on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025 in the Breamish Hall Powburn**

**Those Present:** Cllr M Wilson (Chairman), Cllr N Birnie, Cllr M Clark, Cllr D Carr-Ellison, Cllr J Bennett

**In Attendance:** C Miller (Clerk), M Mather (County Cllr), C Hall (Environment Agency)

### **2025/24 Apologies for Absence**

All members were present.

### **2025/25 Election of Chairman**

Cllr Wilson proposed and seconded as Chairman and duly elected.

### **2025/26 Election of Vice Chairman**

Cllr D Carr-Ellison proposed and seconded as Vice Chairman and duly elected.

### **2025/27 To receive Declarations of Acceptance of Office**

Declarations of Acceptance of Office received.

### **2025/28 Declaration of Members Interests**

There were no Declaration of Members Interests.

### **2025/29 Co-Option Vacancies**

The Clerk advised that further to the Boundary Review / uncontested election, there were 10 Cllr positions, and currently five vacancies.

### **2025/30 Meeting with Colin Hall, Environment Agency, to discuss a Community Flood Plan**

Colin Hall thanked for attending. Several residents were concerned and prepared to assist during flooding instances. A bespoke contingency plan would look at improving resilience for the community and contain a series of actions for volunteers to enact. This would allow flood alerts / advanced warnings. Advanced warning would not cover the increase in surface water issues, however EA contact relevant bodies, such as Northumbrian Water, along with the flood group. This type of instance is not made public knowledge as people need to act accordingly. EA would keep the flood plan up to date with contact details etc, and arrange training if necessary. Recruiting volunteers would be by word of mouth, advertising, EA attendance at parish events, such as Powburn Show. A lead flood warden would issue alerts and be the first point of contact. Posters to be provided by EA and publicised via community website / facebook pages. EA can visit individual properties to advise on property resilience. Funding could be available to assist Flood Warden groups.

### **RESOLVED:**

County Cllr to investigate responsibility for water run off on Glanton road – measures had been put in place which were no longer effective.

### **2025/31 Opportunity for members of the public to raise any matter on the agenda**

There were no members of the public present.

### **2025/32 Minutes of previous meeting held Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

### **RESOLVED:**

Members agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting held Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were a true record.

**2025/33      Mobile speedgun monitoring, speeding traffic Powburn. Members to receive update**

Longhoughton Parish Council to carry out speed gun monitoring in the parish. Northumbria Police speed van currently visits the parish on a weekly basis. The Powburn solar powered interactive signage had been repaired.

**2025/34      Generator for the Breamish Hall. Members to receive update**

Electrical works had been actioned, Alncom to fully connect LPG generator and be responsible for the equipment.

**2025/35      Members to receive update on matters previously reported to County Council**

**2025/35/01      Overgrown hedging at Shawdon Hill crossroads**

Hedging continues to obscure vision. Additional County Council verge cutting could be possible.

**RESOLVED:**

County Cllr to raise problems with County Council Highways.

**2025/35/02      Vehicular access to The Plough. Members to consider safety issues**

Site meeting had been held with County Council Officer Richard McKenzie.

Discussion had taken place regarding the feasibility of changing the road layout on the corner to make safer. RM to look into planning application for bakery at Running Fox and pass on concerns. Consultation on potential parking restrictions on Glanton road and Crawley Dene planned.

**2025/36      County Cllr update**

County Cllr Mather had been re-elected with Hedgeley joining the Wooler ward. Each County Cllr is allocated £15K / annum for community projects during their four year term. Links between Parish Council's and police appear to be getting bigger. County Cllr to contact police and suggest the local Inspector, Sergeant and representatives from Parish Council's meet behind closed doors once / twice a year. County Cllr portfolios to be confirmed in the next week. Cllr Mather looking into flooding at crossroads / kiln house, although part of the area is not in the Wooler ward.

**2025/37      Planning**

**2025/37/01      Planning Applications received. Members to consider application.**

- 25/00877/TPO & 25/00876/FUL: Outbuilding West of Plough Inn – Conversion of garage to form bakery in association with running of The Running Fox – the Parish Council had no objections to the proposals.

**2025/38      Powburn Play Area**

**2025/38/01      Annual ROSPA play area inspection. Members to receive update on issues arising.**

Repairs had been completed. Seating would require replacement in the next couple of years.

**2024/38/02      Picnic bench. Members to consider purchase of picnic bench from funds raised.**

Some funds had been raised towards picnic bench, further fundraising / funding to be sought in due course.

**2024/38/03 Parish Christmas tree. Members to receive update on tree purchase.**

Suppliers could supply 2.5ft to 3ft tree, available Autumn, which would take around five years to grow.

The cost for a 50litre pot, 4ft tree would be approximately £300. Alternative options available, such as using existing weeping willow with battery lighting or a metal structure to display lighting.

**RESOLVED:**

Cllr Carr-Ellison to research options for metal structure.

**2025/39 Finance**

**2025/39/01 The following accounts are to be authorised:**

| Payable to                                        | Detail                                   | Nett              | VAT     | Gross    |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|----------|
| Playdale (retrospective)<br>Paid 11/2/25 & 8/3/25 | Play area repairs                        | £955.26           | £191.06 | £1146.32 |
| Unipart (retrospective)<br>Paid 20/2/25           | Repair to interactive signage            | £786.90           | £157.38 | £944.28  |
| The Breamish Hall (retrospective)<br>Paid 8/3/25  | Hire of meeting room year ending 31.3.25 | £49.00            | NIL     | £49.00   |
| HMRC                                              | PAYE retrospective 24/4/25, Direct Debit | £84.60            | NIL     |          |
| C Miller                                          | Quarterly salary<br>Quarterly expenses   | £298.76<br>£31.20 | NIL     |          |
| Northumberland Association of Local Councils      | Annual subscription                      | £120.27           | NIL     |          |
| Zurich Insurance                                  | Annual insurance premium                 | £511              | NIL     |          |

**RESOLVED:**

Members approved the payments.

**2025/40 Biodiversity in the parish. Members to consider adopting biodiversity policy.**

Bee hives had been suggested in the parish, however it was not considered a feasible initiative for the Parish Council. Parish Council had arranged tree planting and bird box installation. Biodiversity policy to be adopted in due course.

**2025/41 Flooding.**

**1. Members to consider issues** – discussed earlier.

**2. Members to consider Flood Warden Group** – discussed earlier.

**2025/42 Parish Survey. Members to consider carrying out resident survey.**

Item to be removed from agenda.

**2025/43 Interactive signage. Members to receive update on repair**

Signage had been repaired.

**2025/44      Audit of Accounts year ending 31/3/25**

**2025/44/01      Members to consider and agree any matters arising from the report of the internal auditor**  
There were no matters arising from the report of the internal auditor.

**2025/44/02      Members to approve the Governance Statement**

**RESOLVED:**

Members approved the governance statement.

**2025/44/03      Members to approve the draft annual accounts year ending 31/3/25**

**RESOLVED:**

Members approved the draft annual accounts year ending 31/3/25.

**2025/44/04      Members to approve the accounting statements and explanation of variances**

**RESOLVED:**

Members approved the accounting statements and explanation of variances.

**2025/44/05      Members to approve the exemption certificate**

**RESOLVED:**

Members approved the exemption certificate.

**2025/44/06      Members to approve the public right of inspection dates 2nd June until 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

**RESOLVED:**

Members approved the public right of inspection dates 2<sup>nd</sup> June until 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

**2024/45      Members to consider problems with mail delivery to Powburn**

Longhoughton County Cllr W Pattison had contacted the Post Office in relation to mail not being delivered and been advised this was due to staff shortages.

**2025/46      Urgent Business/Items for next agenda**

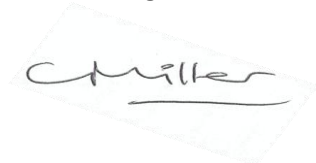
Basic accounts package; Stand alone Parish Council website; signage at Abberwick Ford; Payment to D Smailes community garden grasscutting; Payment to A Adams strimming play park to be added to next meeting agenda.

Double white lining in Powburn required refreshment which was included on current County Council work schedule.

**2025/47      Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Hedgeley Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2025 commencing 7pm in the Breamish Hall, Powburn.

The meeting closed at 850pm.



Claire Miller, Parish Clerk