

HEDGELEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual meeting of Hedgeley Parish Council commencing at 7pm on Wednesday 6th May 2026 in the Breamish Hall Powburn

Those Present: Cllr M Wilson (Chairman), Cllr J Bennett, Cllr M Clark, Cllr N Birnie, Cllr D Carr-Ellison, Cllr J Carrdus, Tweed Forum and Environment Agency representatives, one member of the public

2026/23 Apologies for Absence

Cllr M Leigh

2026/24 Election of Chairman

Cllr Wilson proposed and seconded as Chairman and duly elected

2026/25 Election of Vice Chairman

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

The following item was brought up the agenda.

2026/33 Planning

2026/33/01 Planning Application received

- 26/01081/FUL: Land North East of Low Hedgeley Cottages – Package of river and floodplain restoration works along River Breamish

A presentation was given by Craig Marshall (Tweed Forum) and Environment Agency representative.

Restoration works are planned at Hedgeley Estate as part of a major project to improve the River Breamish and Pow Burn for wildlife, water and people. Led by the River Till Restoration Partnership, a collaboration between the Tweed Forum, the Environment Agency and Natural England, with the support of Hedgeley Estate, the project will help the river function more naturally again. The project is part of the 30 year River Till restoration strategy, working with landowners and farmers in the catchment area. The river will be more resilient during floods and drought and reconnect to the flood plain. Some temporary closures and diversions will be required during the works. There will be an additional public right of way bridleway, and upgrading some existing / formalising other public right of way areas. The flood risk has been assessed and modelled throughout the design.

Representatives were thanked for the presentation and left the meeting.

Member of the public left the meeting.

2026/26 Declaration of Members Interests

There were no declaration of members interests.

2026/27 Co-Option Vacancies

There had been no applications for the co-option vacancies.

2026/28 Opportunity for members of the public to raise any matter on the agenda

There were no items raised by members of the public.

2026/29 Minutes of previous meeting held Wednesday 4th February 2026

RESOLVED:

Members agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting held Wednesday 4th February 2026 were a true record.

2026/30 Mobile speedgun monitoring, speeding traffic Powburn. Members to receive update

There is currently one speedgun volunteer waiting to be trained.

2026/31 Members to receive update on matters previously reported to County Council

2026/31/01 Vehicular access to The Plough. Members to consider safety issues

The area had not been successful via the County Council Local Transport Plan request system. The County Cllr advised a roundabout was not feasible, however some white lining / signage could be implemented. As it is private land, the business owner / tenant would be responsible should any plans to move the access point to the premises be considered, and which would require planning permission.

2026/31/02 Double white lining refreshment Powburn. Members to receive update

The County Cllr advised surfacing dressing is about to start on A697, which will result in a few days of full road closure. White lining would be actioned when works completed.

2026/31/03 Yellow lining Glanton junction. Members to receive update

The lining team would implement improvements whilst in the area.

2026/32 County Cllr update

- The library consultation had now closed. Due to budget cuts from central government, County Council had £30m savings to make. Each service department were evaluating statutory/non-statutory services. Wooler library opening hours would have a potential reduction of 10 hours per week. The visiting library van service would run on a six week cycle (reduced from three weeks).
- Community resilience events had been arranged at Cornhill and Craster.
- The Council tax support package had been re-assessed. People most in need would continue to receive support, however others would no longer be eligible. The rise in fuel costs is causing concern, with government having put money aside, which those on benefits could access. Northumberland Communities Team can be contacted for advice.
- Central Government were stipulating food waste collections. As no funding had been supplied for this, collections would only be arranged in the South-East of the County, as is not financially or environmentally viable. NCC need to increase the amount they recycle, and additional resident bins would be provided for fibrous material, including glass. The current recycle bin will take additional plastics, with bins emptied once a month. The green bin would continue to be emptied once a fortnight. NCC were spending £1m a year to collect contaminated waste from the recycling centre.
- Community governance review – every parished area that does not have a sitting Parish Council must hold an annual meeting, hosted by the County Cllr. Options for discussion would be 1. Dissolve the parish area, 2. Set up a parish council or 3. Join a neighbouring parish council.
- The 2026-2027 budget had been passed, with an additional £4m secured for Highways over 3 years, to action u and c roads. An additional gulley tanker had been purchased.
- Speed camera project in conjunction with the North East Road Safety Partnership – Northumbria Police decide where mobile speed monitoring vans are placed, although they can withdraw vans where there is not enough evidence to warrant it. There is not enough funding to digitise / upgrade current cameras, with County Council negotiating a separate deal with Northumbria Police to invest £1.25m in the purchase of cameras. The A697 is a priority area for cameras.
- NCC had had a challenging time with potholes due to weather conditions and which is proving to be a national issue. If a pothole is filled more than twice it automatically transfers to a list for a permanent repair. NCC are assessing the option of purchasing additional machinery. Central government have scored each County Council, with NCC scoring amber (0.4% off a green score), and the only rural authority close to a green score.
- There had been a change in policing in the North once again, with Alnwick and Berwick linked together with one inspector covering both areas. No police / vehicles were now starting and finishing in Rothbury and Wooler. County Cllr to arrange a meeting in Wooler for ward parishes, with two representatives from each Parish Council invited to meet with police representatives.

2026/33 Planning

2026/33/01 Planning Application received

- 26/01081/FUL: Land North East of Low Hedgeley Cottages – Package of river and floodplain restoration works along River Breamish – discussed earlier.

2026/33/02 Planning Application approved

No planning approvals had been received.

2026/34 Powburn Play Area

2026/34/01 Additional repairs to play area. Members to receive update.

Repairs had been actioned. Information relating to the repair warranty period had been received. Playdale had confirmed the equipment would take adult weight.

2026/34/02 Willow structure. Members to receive update

The willow structure had been installed and proving popular. Thanks given to all those involved.

2026/34/03 Parish Christmas tree. Members to consider options for metal structure display.

Structure currently being designed.

2026/35 Finance

2026/35/01 The following accounts are to be authorised:

Payable to	Detail	Nett	VAT	Gross
Lloyds Bank	Bank charges	£12.75	NIL	£8.50
Playdale	Retrospective, Play area repairs	£2343.91	£468.78	£2812.69
	Deposit Balance	£2343.92	£468.78	£2812.70
Biteabout Arts	Retrospective, willow structure	£900	NIL	£900
HMRC	PAYE, DD	£77.20	NIL	£77.29
C Miller	Quarterly salary	£308.32	NIL	£308.32
	Quarterly expenses	£27.47	NIL	£27.47
Zurich	Annual insurance policy	£511	NIL	£534.00
S Bertram	Internal auditing	£75.00	NIL	£75.00
NALC	Annual membership	£120.57	NIL	£120.57

RESOLVED:

Members approved the payments, excepting the payment to NALC, deferred until August.

2026/35/02 Flagpole. Members to discuss parish flagpole

The current flagpole is un-usable.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed a flagpole should be integrated into the Christmas tree structure.

2026/35/03 Members to receive acknowledgement of grant from Friends of Whittingham & Edlingham with Bolton Chapel Burial Grounds

Members acknowledged receipt.

2026/36 Biodiversity in the parish. Members to consider adopting biodiversity policy.

Members considered the biodiversity policy.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed to adopt the biodiversity policy.

2026/37 Grit bins. Members to consider additional grit bins in the parish

The Parish Council would likely need to fund a grit bin. County Council had advertised for snow squad volunteers, however there were no current volunteers within the parish. On a related matter, County Council do not grit secondary routes.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed not to fund an additional grit bin at Crawley Dene.

2026/38 Waste bin (for dog dirt) Crawley Dene. Members to consider suitable location

Members considered a waste bin at the layby beside Crawley Dene.

RESOLVED:

The Clerk to contact County Council to initially ask if NCC would empty a bin in the area.

2026/39 Volunteer to maintain planters at Bolton. Members to consider options

A volunteer had not yet been secured. However Cllr D Carr-Ellison had carried out some planter repairs, and would arrange bedding plants. Volunteer had been secured to maintain Powburn planters.

2026/40 Signpost refurbishment. Members to consider refurbishment of one mile signpost

Meeting had been held to consider signpost refurbishment. Funding is available via Glanton Heritage Group. The post could be sand blasted and coated / painted. It had been suggested the signpost be located near to the stone planter outside Breamish Hall.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed the heritage signpost should be refurbished.

2026/41 Audit of Accounts year ending 31/3/26

2026/41/01 Members to consider and agree any matters arising from the report of the internal auditor

Members reviewed the internal audit report. There was one recommendation in relation to electronic payments requiring double authorisation.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed to continue with the present arrangements for authorising electronic payments.

2026/41/02 Members to approve the Governance Statement

RESOLVED:

Members approved the governance statement.

2026/41/03 Members to approve the draft annual accounts year ending 31/3/26

RESOLVED:

Members approved the draft annual accounts year ending 31/3/26.

2026/41/04 Members to approve the accounting statements and explanation of variances

RESOLVED:

Members approved the accounting statements and explanation of variances.

2026/41/05 Members to approve the exemption certificate

RESOLVED:

Members approved the exemption certificate.

2026/41/06 Members to approve the public right of inspection dates 3rd June until 14th July 2025

RESOLVED:

Members approved the public right of inspection dates 3rd^t June until 14th July 2025.

2026/42 Meeting venue. Members to confirm August Parish Council meeting to be held at Bolton Village Hall

The Clerk advised Bolton Village Hall had been booked for the August Parish Council meeting.

2026/43 Community Resilience Forum. Members to receive report relating to County Council event

Cllr Wilson had attended the forum held at Cornhill. The training had included emergency scenarios and resilience.

2026/44 Review of Council documents

Members reviewed the following council documents:

2026/44/01 Standing Orders. Members to consider the following addition: Standing Order 12.4: The Clerk has delegated authority to respond to Planning Applications following consultation with all Parish Councillors, if the time for a response is before a scheduled meeting of the Council.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed to re-adopt the Standing Orders, with the inclusion of the above amendment.

2026/44/02 Data protection policies – Privacy Notice; Information Data Protection Policy; Document Retention Policy; Model Publication Scheme; I.T. Policy

RESOLVED:

Members agreed to re-adopt the data protection policies with no revisions.

2026/44/03 Safeguarding Policy

RESOLVED:

Members agreed to re-adopt the safeguarding policy with no revisions. All members to sign document.

2026/44/04 Freemanship Policy

RESOLVED:

Members agreed to re-adopt the Freemanship Policy with no revisions.

2026/44/05 Code of Conduct

RESOLVED:

Members agreed to re-adopt the Code of Conduct with no revision(s).

**2026/45 Members to receive notice of road closure - A697 Roseden to Powburn - 11/5/26 930am to 330pm
-to allow for Surface Dressing preparations**

Members noted the road closure, which had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

2026/46 Urgent Business/Items for next agenda

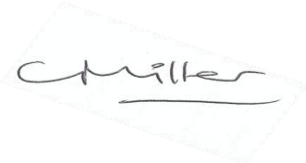
A person willing to cut the community garden was required as a matter of urgency - Cllr Carrdus prepared to action in the interim. Part of the area could be kept longer for biodiversity purposes. Matter to be considered further at next meeting. Pothole / road repairs should be reported via County Council reporting system Fix My Street.

2026/47 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Hedgeley Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 5th August 2026 commencing 7pm at Bolton Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 945pm

Claire Miller, Parish Clerk



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