

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF WARDEN PARISH HELD ON MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026 COMMENCING 7PM IN NEWBROUGH TOWN HALL**

**Those Present:** G Charlton (Chairman), K Youngs, SJ Heminsley, J Martin, WJ Foot, J Martin, A Anzocar-Nevin, one member of the public

### **2026/01 Apologies for Absence**

S Robson, L Kay

### **2026/02 Election of Chairman for the Annual Meeting of the Parish**

Those present agreed to elect G Charlton as Chairman.

### **2026/03 Chairmans Report 2025-2026 – Parish Cllr S Robson had compiled the following report:**

*“One of the highlights of the year was to award the Honorary Freedom of the Parish to Dennis Bowman. The Parish Council has adopted a Freemanship policy to enable the Honorary Freedom of the Parish to be awarded to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the Parish. Amongst many other contributions to the community, Dennis served on the Parish Council for over 50 years, and was considered to be the ideal recipient of the first such award. Another highlight was the repair and refurbishment of the Community MUGA at Newbrough First School. This was funded via grants from County Cllr’s Morphet and Azocar-Nevin, Warden and Newbrough Parish Councils, and Greenrigg Wind Farm. Huge thanks to Cllr Foot for the work he has done to coordinate the project. The Parish Council supported a number of local organisations with grant funding during the year. We agreed to jointly fund the pensioners bus trip with Newbrough PC up to the sum of £350, and grant £100 to Hexham Forum towards the Tyne Valley Film Festival event at Newbrough Town Hall. Other grants included £60 to Tynedale Hospital at Home, £50 to the British Legion, £60 to Sports Tynedale, and £500 to St Michael and All Angels church. The general environment of the villages is important to our residents. The Parish Gardeners continue to provide an excellent service in maintaining our green spaces. This has been supplemented by the work carried out by residents attending the litter picks organised by Cllr Charlton. The Parish Council has commented on a number of planning applications during the past year. The most significant being the two solar farm applications. The first application was by Eden Renewables for a solar farm and associated infrastructure to the north of Fourstones Sub-Station, and the second, submitted by Landpro on behalf of ARM Dev Energy Ltd, to develop a ground mounted solar park (and associated infrastructure) on land south of Carr Hill Plantation to the north of Fourstones. The general consensus was that a transition to renewable energy is essential to combat climate change and promote energy security, however the location of new solar farms should minimise the impact on high quality landscape and agricultural land. For this reason (and the cumulative impact of the two adjacent proposals) the Parish Council has objected to the Eden Renewable’s application, and is awaiting further reports of ecological and archaeological impact before commenting formally on the Landpro scheme. Preliminary works have commenced at the quarry including tree felling and laying hardcore for the access road. The other planning application of note is to convert the former Railway Inn into two dwelling houses and build a three bedroom bungalow on the car park. The Parish Council did not object to the principle of residential development but suggested that the development should be restricted to two dwellings to ensure sufficient parking and access arrangements could be provided. The outcome of this application is awaited. We welcomed the investment and associated development at the Filling Station and Frankham Kennels and supported the associated planning applications. It is worth noting that the County Council is conducting a consultation on Community Governance. As part of this we responded saying we are in favour of combining with the adjacent Parish Council as we are essentially one community sharing common interest. The outcome of this review is awaited. I would like to take this opportunity to thank fellow Parish Councillors for the contributions they have made during the year, the fantastic support from Cllr Antonia Azocar-Nevin in her first year as a County Councillor, and the professional advice and support we receive from the Parish Clerk. It is important that we continue to support the well-being of our community to the best of our ability.”*

**2026/04 Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**RESOLVED:**

Those present agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were a true record.

**2026/05 Matters arising from previous meeting**

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

**2026/06 Public Questions**

There were no public questions.

**2026/07 Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 705pm.

DRAFT