

**Tuesday 28 May 2026**

**Meeting commenced: 19:33**

**Present:** Cllr Kevin Fortune (Chair), Cllr Eileen Rogerson, Cllr Kevin Robson, Cllr Anne Palmer.  
Clerk David Binns. Apologies: Cllr Phil Lawless, Cllr Nicky Brown  
No members of the public.

1e/05/2026 **To receive, and approve if appropriate, apologies for absence and reasons given.**  
Apologies received from Cllr Lawless (meeting clash) and Cllr Brown (work commitment).  
Cllr Brown joined the meeting at 20.25.

2e/05/2026 **To receive declarations of interests**  
*Members are reminded to declare any interest in any item on the agenda, now or at any time during the meeting.*  
None given

3e/05/2026 **Chair to explain the background to the meeting, with reference to Vattenfall's proposal for Ray II Wind Farm; an opinion on which is required from the Parish Council by 1 June 2026.**  
*Town & Country Planning Act 1990; Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.*  
*Proposal: Scoping Opinion for an Order granting Development Consent for the Ray II Wind Farm (the proposed development). Ref: EN0110031. Deadline for comments 4 June 2026.*

The Chair outlined the background: Vattenfall are working on an initial proposal to build 20 wind turbines, together with battery storage and a grid connection to the Fourstones substation. The turbines will generate approximately 166 MW of electricity annually and are expected to be operational for 35 years. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> May Vattenfall held a drop-in session at Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall, an opportunity for parishioners to ask questions to understand the plans, although details at the moment are limited. A formal planning consent application is expected in Spring 2027.

4e/05/2026 **To receive comments/ queries from members of the public with regard to items on**  
5e/05/2026 **the agenda & Exclusion of the Public**  
No members of the public were present.

6e/05/2026 **Finalise the Opinion of the Parish Council regarding the proposed development**  
After discussion, it was resolved that the Council adopts a neutral opinion until more detailed information and plans are available. The Council's initial concerns/questions regarding the current proposals will be shared as part of the Council's opinion.  
It was further resolved that:

- The Council will seek to influence the development plans, particularly where there are areas of concern, or opportunities which could benefit parishioners. The Council will coordinate with other interested Parish Councils, in particular Corsenside and Elsdon, in this respect.
- Any press communications will be managed by the Clerk, following consultation with Councillors.
- The Clerk will contact Vattenfall to see if an open day can be arranged at the existing wind farm. This would be helpful to understand how environmental issues and impacts are managed.
- Ray Wind Fund Grants will be added to the next Ordinary Meeting agenda.

7e/05/2026 **Date & time of next meeting : Tuesday 7 July 2026**  
**Meeting closed: 20:40**

