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THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF HEALEYFIELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD THURSDAY 14th AUGUST 2025

Present: Cllr. A Pearson (Chair), Cllr. J Robson, and Cllr. A Wallace.
Mr. I Robson (Clerk)

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.10 p.m.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr. K Piggott & Cllr. K Spencer submitted apologies for the meeting.

It was **Resolved** to accept the apologies presented.

County Cllr. D Haney was unable to attend.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Pearson declared an interest in the meeting room item within the Clerks Report

3. Agree minutes of the previous meeting

It was **Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 26th June 2025 be accepted as a true and correct record.

4. Public Participation

No members of the public were in attendance.

5. Chair's Report

The Chair reported that positive meetings were held with Rev. Jackson and St John's PCC regarding the Christmas Lights for 2025.

6. County Councillor Report

County Cllr. D Haney was unable to attend the meeting but provided a written update on the following items.

- a) Shotley Bridge Hospital Urgent Care cuts
- b) Reform party consulting on change to Council Tax reduction scheme
- c) Castleside Inn/Stamfordham Pub
- d) Castleside Gateways project

It was **Resolved** to contact Cllr. Haney on item (d) regarding ownership, liability, maintenance and to enquire as to the Parish Council having a voice in the selection of the gates.

7. Correspondence

The following correspondence was presented.

- a. Tour of Reservoir – Response to feedback from Parish Council.
- b. Luke Akehurst MP – Acknowledgement that Go North East has responded.
- c. Resident – Advising that Irvingthale Farm has been sold.
- d. CDALC – New County Durham Plan.
- e. Special Branch Tree Services – Ash Dieback Plan

- f. CDALC – House of Multiple Occupation – request for assistance to advertise this consultation.

It was **Resolved** to receive the correspondence and for the clerk to perform the following actions.

- (f) To advertise the consultation on the parish Council website

8. Clerk's Report

The clerk reported on the following items:

- Meeting Room review update
- Grass cutting
- September's Meeting Date
- Parish Council Laptop
- Gazebo signage
- Blank thank you cards delivered to Chair
- Councillor vacancy advert updated
- DCC advice regarding gunfire noise – individual residents to raise issue directly.
- Local Government pay settlement agreed.
- Matters for Information

It was **Resolved** to receive the Clerk's report.

It was **Resolved** for the clerk to contact St John's Church to determine if they have a TV or projector.

It was **Resolved** for the September meeting date to be amended to 11th September 2025.

9. Finance

a. Accounts for Payment

Ref	Date	Description	Supplier	Budget Category	Net	VAT	Total
417	31/01/2025	Village Hall - Warm Hub - Jan 25	Castleside Village Hall	NPG - 4.5 Warm Community Location at Castleside VH	£ 142.54	£ -	£ 142.54
418	28/02/2025	Village Hall - Warm Hub - Feb 25	Castleside Village Hall	NPG - 4.5 Warm Community Location at Castleside VH	£ 118.32	£ -	£ 118.32
419	11/06/2025	Bank Account Charge - June	Community Account	Administration	£ 5.78	£ -	£ 5.78
420	26/06/2025	HP Instant Ink	HP Instant Ink	Administration	£ 3.74	£ 0.75	£ 4.49
425	12/07/2025	Paint & Wire Brushes	Gralands	Parish Projects	£ 15.43	£ -	£ 15.43
426	12/07/2025	Fence Paint	TradePoint (B&Q)	Parish Projects	£ 100.00	£ -	£ 100.00
427	01/08/2025	Storage Donation	Grove Methodist Church	Donations	£ 100.00	£ -	£ 100.00
428	26/07/2025	HP Instant Ink	HP Instant Ink	Administration	£ 3.74	£ 0.75	£ 4.49
429	24/07/2025	New Councillor Training - K Piggott	CDALC	Training	£ 20.00	£ -	£ 20.00
430	19/08/2025	Bank Account Charge - July	Community Account	Administration	£ 4.25	£ -	£ 4.25
422	31/07/2025	Staff Costs - July 2025			£ 536.55	£ -	£ 536.55
423							
431	28/08/2025	Staff Costs - August 2025		Staff Costs	£ 536.55	£ -	£ 536.55
432							

b. Bank Balances -	Community Account	£ 305.43
	Instant Access Account	<u>£ 27,870.83</u>
	Total	£ 28,176.26

It was **Resolved** to approve the accounts for payment for August 2025.

10. Planning Applications

- DM/25/01604/FPA
Village Hall, Drover Road, Castleside, Consett, DH8 9RE
Existing window updated to new fire exit door.

It was **Resolved** to make no comment

- b. DM/25/01694/FPA
44 Consett Road, Castleside, Consett, DH8 9QL
Two storey side extension

It was **Resolved** to submit a comment that the cladding should be brick, not grey cement, to match existing property and street scene. The recent removal of trees on the border with Castle Hills will make the cladding even more visible.

- c. DM/25/01963/FPA
Stoneycroft, Woodlands Park Farm, Woodlands Park, Consett, DH8 9EZ
Change of use from holiday let to unrestricted residential dwelling (Use class C3)

It was **Resolved** to make no comment.

- d. DM/25/02100/FPA
17 Wesley Gardens, Castleside, Consett, DH8 9QE
Single storey front, first floor side and single storey side and rear flat roofed extensions, widening of vehicle hardstanding area and widening of existing dropped kerb to highway

It was **Resolved** to make no comment.

11. Parish Event Planning

- a. Scarecrow Competition 2025

It was **Resolved** to proceed with the Scarecrow Competition in 2025 with the theme of a 'Story Book Character'.

- b. Castleside Village Festival – September 2026

It was **Resolved** to proceed with the name 'Castleside Village Festival'.

12. Documentation Review

- a. Grievance & Disciplinary Policy

It was **Resolved** to adopt the policy document as presented.

13. 2025 Newsletter

It was **Resolved** to proceed with a 4-page Newsletter.

14. Christmas Lights

It was **Resolved** to receive the update from Cllr. Pearson following his meetings with Rev. Jackson and St John's PCC, and to thank him for his work in this area.

It was **Resolved** to purchase additional LED lights and associated equipment.

It was **Resolved** for the clerk to arrange for the current Christmas Lights to be installed on the tree.

15. Parish Wood Management

It was **Resolved** to thank Cllr. Wallace for his work and to approve the visual inspection checklist for use.

It was **Resolved** to suspend standing order 3.w. to allow the meeting to continue beyond the 2-hour limit defined in standing orders.

16. Village A68 Gate painting & Flyposting signs

It was **Resolved** to postpone any further work whilst investigating the approach from Durham County Council via Cllr. Haney.

17. Parish Correspondence

It was **Resolved** to keep this under review but to make no changes for now.

18. Autumn Planting

It was **Resolved** to identify potential locations for new additional flower troughs and planters.

It was **Resolved** to set a budget for £100 for bulb planting and to include an item regarding Bulb planting within the next Newsletter.

19. Lead Miner Tub Maintenance

It was **Resolved** to purchase paint & equipment to re-paint the miner's tub.

20. Date of the next Ordinary Meeting

It was **Resolved** that the date and time of the next meeting be **Thursday 11th September 2025 at 7pm in Castleside Village Hall.**

Meeting ended at 9.35 pm

Chair Date