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THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF HEALEYFIELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD THURSDAY 29th JANUARY 2026

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

County Cllr. D Haney

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00 p.m.

1. County Durham Red Squirrel Initiative Presentation

It was **Resolved** to thank the Durham Red Squirrel Initiative for their presentation, however the council decided that they will decline the offer to clear grey squirrels from the Parish Wood at this time.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr. K Piggott - It was **Resolved** to accept the apologies

3. Declarations of Interest

None

4. Agree minutes of the previous meeting

It was **Resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 27th November 2025 be accepted as a true and correct record.

5. Public Participation

3 members of the public were in attendance. 2 spoke about the Red Squirrel initiative (Agenda item 1) and the other spoke about the Heritage 100 Walks (Agenda item 14).

6. Chair's Report

The Chair advised there was nothing to report due to the quiet Festive period.

7. County Councillor Report

County Cllr. D Haney reported the following:

- Expecting Council Tax increase of 3.1%.
- Speeding on Consett Road raised with Durham Police & Durham County Council.
- Village Gateways – investigating funding sources.
- Date extended for closure of the Urgent Treatment centre at Shotley Bridge
- DCC Health scrutiny committee receive a presentation regarding the Breast Surgery 'scandal'. County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust using the report as an opportunity to reset the whole organisation.

It was **Resolved** to accept the County Councillors report.

8. Correspondence

The following correspondence was presented.

- a. CDALC – Royal Garden Party Nomination

It was **Resolved** to nominate Cllr. Pearson and guest.

- b. CDALC – Recent amendment (paragraph 6) to Durham County Council’s Code of Conduct to allow the use of immoderate, offensive, shocking or provocative expression, in a political context, by members.

It was **Resolved** not to amend Healeyfield Parish Council’s Code of Conduct.

9. Clerk’s Report

a. The clerk reported on the following items:

- Section 137 amount for 2026/27 set at £11.60 per elector.
- DCC current & new consultations
- Pension re-enrolment / re-declaration required between March & July

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

b. Matters for Information

- WI Seat – In progress
- Parish Wood Title Deeds – change of address – Ongoing.
- Website population with past events – In Progress
- Old Parish Record Storage – Pending clerk audit and transfer to DCC Storey.

It was **Resolved** to receive the updates.

10. Finance

a. Accounts for Payment

Ref	Payee	Description	Amount (£)
473	Morrisons & Tesco	Mince Pies - Tree lighting event	9.50
474	Information Commissioner's Office	ICO Renewal	47.00
475	HP Instant Ink	HP Instant Ink	4.49
476	Community Account	Bank Account Charge	4.25
477	HP Instant Ink	HP Instant Ink	4.49
478	Community Account	Bank Account Charge	4.75
479	WJP Software Limited	Website, Annual Support & O365	886.80
481 482	Staff Costs	Staff Costs	574.20
483	The Events Industry Forum Ltd	The Purple Guide Lite (Event Planning)	12.0

Bank Balances -	Community Account	£ 1,913.59
	Instant Access Account	<u>£ 20,701.56</u>
	Total	£ 22,615.15

It was **Resolved** to approve the accounts for payment for January 2026.

b. HMRC payments via Direct Debit

The clerk advised that a dual signed hard copy of the direct debit mandate was required to instigate payments to HMRC via direct debit. The mandate is to be signed by banking signatories after the meeting.

c. Higher Interest Notice Account

The clerk presented the report into notice accounts.

It was **Resolved** to proceed with opening a Hinckley & Rugby 45-day notice account.

d. Tree Lighting Donations

It was **Resolved** to make donations to St John's Church and Consett Brass regarding the Christmas Tree & Poppy Net light electricity and the music at the lighting event, respectively.

11. Planning Applications

None received

12. Parish Event Planning

a. Castleside Village Festival – September 2026

It was **Resolved** to approve the baseline planning document and to use this going forward.

13. Documentation Review

It was **Resolved** to approve the Debit Card Use Protocol as presented.

14. Heritage 100 Walks – Donation Request

It was **Resolved** to support the request to sponsor the Heritage 100 Walk in Healeyfield at a cost of £350, and to accept Cllr. Haney's offer to share the sponsorship cost.

15. 2026 Grass Strimming servicing and safety costs

It was **Resolved** to approve up to £75 excl. vat, for the clerk to service the strimmer and purchase safety equipment.

16. War Memorial – restoration of letters

It was **Resolved** to obtain quotations for restoring the letters on the war memorial. Cllr. Spencer offered to obtain the quotations.

17. Flower Tub New Locations & Branding of new and existing tubs

It was **Resolved** to proceed with the installation of flower tubs at Castleside Primary School and at St John's Church.

It was **Resolved** to approve the quotation received for flower tub plaques and to proceed with the purchase subject to agreeing the design.

18. Date of the next Ordinary Meeting

It was **Resolved** that the date and time of the next meeting be **Thursday 26th February 2026 at 7pm in St John's Church Community Room.**

Meeting ended at 8.55 pm

Chair

Date