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THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF HEALEYFIELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD THURSDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2026

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

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.02 p.m.

Healeyfield Parish Council would like to acknowledge with sadness the passing of Mr. David Plumridge, who was a parish councillor for many years and served his community well. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

1. Appointment of Councillor via Co-Option

Following the uncontested Parish Council election in May 2025 there were two vacancies which the Parish Council is authorised to fill via co-option. Following the receipt of a councillor application, and following the selection process, the Parish Council **Resolved** to co-opt Samantha Langlands as Parish Councillor.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr. K Piggott - It was **Resolved** to accept the apologies
County Cllr. Haney offered his 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 29th January 2026 be accepted as a true and correct record.

5. Public Participation

No members of the public were in attendance.

6. Chair's Report

The Chair advised that the council was delighted to welcome Cllr. Langlands and is looking forward to working together to improve the facilities and lives of residents of Healeyfield.

7. County Councillor Report

County Cllr. D Haney provided a report prior to the meeting:

- Durham County Council budget - Council Tax was set at 1.99% increase as opposed to the 3.1% rise initially publicised. This arose due to a generous last minute (about 1 week before!) settlement from central government. Liberal Democrats proposed two amendments to the budget, one on investment in solar energy which would have long term financial benefits for the Council, and another on issuing £10k to each councillor to spend on highways safety initiatives in their electoral division. Both were rejected by the administration.

- Castleside Heritage 100 Walk funding - As it was not possible to part-fund this with the PC using my neighbourhood budget, I am happy to commit the same amount of funding to another scheme the PC may wish to undertake

It was **Resolved** to accept the County Councillors report and to thank him for his offer of further support.

8. Correspondence

The following correspondence was presented.

- a. Durham Hospitals Radio – Funding Support Request

To be discussed under agenda item 14.

9. Clerk's Report

- a. The clerk reported on the following items:

- Royal Garden Party draw resulted in winners from Chilton Town Council and Burnhope Parish Council.
- Defibrillator was offline between 12th & 18th February due to a flat battery.
- Section 106 funds potentially available from DCC, application form received.
- HMRC Direct Debit setup.
- During February the following items were reported to DCC by the clerk:
 - a. Fly tipping on Whitehall
 - b. Dog bin overflowing on Rowley Bank
 - c. Pothole on Consett Road
- White lines have been painted on the A692 junctions with Wharnley Way and Moorland Crescent.

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.
- War Memorial – Cllr. Spencer reported that potential contractors are being approached.

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

10. Finance

- a. Accounts for Payment

Ref	Payee	Description	Amount £
484	Consett Brass	Donation for Christmas Light Switch-On	40.00
485	St John's Church	Electricity for lights (Poppy Net & Christmas Lights)	40.00
486	HP Instant Ink	HP Instant Ink	4.49
487	St John's Church	Meeting Room Hire	20.00
488	Grove Methodist Church	Storage Donation	100.00
489	Heritage 100 CIC	Castleside Walk sponsorship	250.00
491 492	Staff Costs	Staff Costs	574.20
493	Turtle Engineering Limited	SP1 Defib Battery	239.99
494	Community Account	Bank Account Charge	4.25

496	St John's Church	Meeting Room Hire	20.00
497	P Snowdon	Summer Planting & 8 Watering visits	392.80
498	St John's Church	Meeting Room Hire	20.00

Bank Balances

Account	Balance £
Community Account	841.86
Instant Access Account	6,611.18
Hinckley & Rugby 45 Day	13,000.00
TOTAL	20,453.04

- b. Cllr. Robson verified bank reconciliations for all accounts, and the original bank statements, following the January 2026 meeting and identified no exceptions to report to the council.

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

11. Planning Applications

- a. DM/26/00138/CPO - Ms. Robert Russell - 15 Front Street Castleside
Lawful development certificate for extension to existing dormer and creation of small new dormer to allow for disabled platform lift access to first floor

It was **Resolved** to make no comment on this planning application.

12. Parish Event Planning

- a. Litter Pick

It was **Resolved** for Cllr. Robson to discuss the litter pick with a potential host location to determine the most suitable date.

It was **Resolved** for Cllr. Spencer to contact Durham County Council regarding a rubbish collection on the Monday following the litter pick.

- b. Castleside Village Festival – September 2026

The report, and recommendations, from the Festival Working group was presented to the council.

It was **Resolved** to approve the working group report, and recommendations, with the following amendments, and for the marketing plan to be updated accordingly:

- The council will consider the use of social media at a point in the future.
- A maximum of two flyers to be produced and distributed for the event.

It was **Resolved** to approve the quotation for the design of the festival logo.

13. Documentation Review

It was **Resolved** to approve and adopt the Safeguarding Policy and Freeman Nomination documents as presented.

14. Durham Hospital Radio – Donation Request

It was **Resolved** to thank Durham Hospital Radio for the work they do. However, with limited funds Healeyfield Parish Council's donations policy limits assistance to community organisations located and working in Healeyfield, and therefore as this organisation does not meet these criteria the council has decided to decline the offer to donate.

15. Flower Tubs

It was **Resolved** to defer a decision regarding the flower tub quotation until a further conversation is held with the Primary School.

It was **Resolved** to approve the design and material of the flower tub branding and for Cllr. Wallace to liaise with the contractor to submit the order.

16. Date of the next Ordinary Meeting

It was **Resolved** that the date and time of the next meeting be **Thursday 19th March 2026 at 7pm in St John's Church Community Room.**

Meeting ended at 8.54 pm

Chair

Date