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Clerk: Mr Ian Robson - Tel: 07999 985 548

## THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF HEALEYFIELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD THURSDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2026

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

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.04 p.m.

### 1. Apologies for Absence

None received

### 2. Declarations of Interest

None received

### 3. Agree minutes of the previous meeting

**RESOLVED** That the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026 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 the contents of the flower tubs are in the process of being replaced, and that he will be representing the parish council at two events marking the retirement of Rev Martin Jackson over the coming weeks.

### 6. County Councillor Report

County Cllr. D Haney provided the following report:

- Planning Reforms: It is expected later this year that the North, Central/East and South/West area planning committees of the Council will be abolished and only the County Planning committee will remain. This is because the vast majority of planning decisions will be made by council officers, arising from the government's planning reforms.
- There is no update on Shotley Bridge Hospital since the last meeting.

**RESOLVED** To receive, with thanks, the County Councillors report.

### 7. Correspondence

**RESOLVED** To receive the following correspondence.

- a. St John's Church – Query regarding Village Festival
- b. Resident – Enquiry about hiring the village hall.
- c. Adderstone Living – enquiry about supporting the parish.
- d. Resident – Fence damage requiring repair

**RESOLVED** That the clerk attends to the following:

- Respond to St John's Church regarding festival planning.
- Respond to Adderstone Living to invite a representative to the July meeting.

**RESOLVED** That Cllr. Wallace investigates the fence damage and engage with a local contractor.

## 8. Clerk's Report

a. The clerk reported on the following items:

- Reported missing chevron sign on Allensford Bank, FS-Case-848819625
- Requested update on Friends of Village Hall request from CDALC solicitor.

**RESOLVED** To receive the Clerk's report.

b. Matters for Information

**RESOLVED** That the following be actioned:

- WI Seat - Plan to repair the seat has been determined and will be taken forward.
- Grass Strimming - to be performed during July.
- War Memorial Lettering – Lettering to be restored in early July.
- Grass Strimming around benches – work to be completed during July.

## 9. Finance

a. Accounts for Payment

Ref	Description	Payee	Amount (£)
540	Instant Access Account	Transfer	- 1,000.00
541	HP Instant Ink	HP Instant Ink	13.49
542	Screws for bench & flower tub plaques	Screwfix	11.99
543	Lloyds Bank Account Charge	Lloyds Bank	4.25
544	Staff Costs	Staff Costs	584.47
545			
546	Instant Access Account	Transfer	- 750.00

### Bank Balances

Account	Balance £
Community Account	968.95
Instant Access Account	14,627.24
Hinckley & Rugby 45 Day	15,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30,596.19</b>

**RESOLVED** To approve the accounts for payment for June 2026.

## 10. Planning Applications

a. DM/26/01351/FPA 16 Hillgarth Castleside Consett DH8 9QD  
Front/side single storey extension and garage conversion

**RESOLVED** To make no comment on this application.

## 11. Parish Event Planning

a. Castleside Village Festival – September 2026

i. The clerk provided an update on progress of event governance activities.

ii. Cllr Robson provided an update regarding the following:

1. Show categories & associated organisations.
2. Scarecrow competition theme will be 'Books' of any type.
3. School hosted activities & associated timetable

**RESOLVED** To receive the updates, and approve the amendments as submitted.

**RESOLVED** To update the Event Management Plan with the amendments briefed.

**12. Document Review**

- a. Grants & Donation Policy

**RESOLVED** To approve the document as presented

**13. Flower Tub Planting**

- a. Updated costs for annual planting following addition on three new planters.

An update is to be provided at the next meeting by Cllr Pearson.

**14. Primary School ‘Sponsorship’**

- a. To understand what support the primary school would benefit from.

The Headteacher is considering this request and will get back to the Parish Council in due course.

**15. Community Engagement Survey**

- a. To discuss the content for this survey.

**RESOLVED** for the clerk to progress with the draft survey and produce a formal proposal to be presented to the parish council.

**16. Councillor email addresses**

- a. To determine if value for money is being achieved, and if not determine the way forward.

**RESOLVED** To reduce the cost of the seven councillor email addresses by downgrading functionality.

**17. Drover Road – GPS Routing**

- a. To determine what can be done to deter traffic from using Drover Road as a shortcut to/from the A68.

**RESOLVED** To raise the following with Durham County Council Highways:

- Assessment of Drover Road, e.g. road width, white lines, carriageway erosion.
- Signage Review – repair damaged signs, signs to deter traffic, e.g. ‘Don’t follow your Sat Nav’, ‘Narrow Road’ etc.

**18. Litter Picking Equipment**

- a. To discuss the way forward on funding for litter picking equipment.

**RESOLVED** To meet with potential sponsors.

**19. Anti-social Behaviour Hotspots**

- a. Determine if there are any anti-social hotspots in Healeyfield to be reported to Durham Constabulary.

**RESOLVED** To respond to PC Fallows.

**20. Parish Bench maintenance**

- a. Determine maintenance to be performed on benches identified by Cllr. Wallace.

**RESOLVED** For Cllr Wallace to perform an audit of the benches to determine a list of work required.

**RESOLVED** that Standing Order 3x be suspended in accordance with Standing Order provisions, to enable the meeting to proceed beyond 2 hours and complete the business on the agenda.

**21. Near Closure of footpath alongside the A68 down Allensford Bank**

a. To discuss what the council wishes to do about this.

**RESOLVED** To report the following to Durham County Council:

- Vegetation overgrowth on the footpath opposite the quarry.
- Footpath that disappears around the Allensford Hall / Pemberton Road junction.

**22. Date of the next Ordinary Meeting**

**RESOLVED** That the date and time of the next meeting be **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2026 at 7pm in St Johns Church Community Room.**

Meeting ended at 9.10 pm

Chair ..... Date .....

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