

Conserving our Past: Building Our Future

**Chairman Cllr. Harvey Neve**

Minutes of the Parish Meeting of Bishop Middleham Parish Council held Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025, in Bishop Middleham Village Hall at 7.00pm

**Present:** Cllr. H. Neve (Chair), Cllr. J. Brownlee, Cllr. G Jacobs, Cllr. E. Sparks Cllr. E Peeke (County Councillor)  
Mrs. A. Hall (Parish Clerk)  
0 members of the public were in attendance

ITEM NO.	MINUTES	ACTION
1.1/25	<b>Notice of Meeting</b> - It was moved by Cllr. Neve to open the meeting at 7pm.	
2.1/25	<b>Apologies:</b> Cllr. Burrows (Work), Cllr. Turner (Illness), Cllr. MacCallam (Illness)	
3.1/25	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> - None	
4.1/25	<b>Minutes</b> - The minutes of the meeting held on 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2024 were reviewed by the Council. A couple of typographical errors were corrected and approved.	<b>AH</b>
5.1/25	<b>Public Participation</b> - 0 member of the public	<b>AH</b>
6.1/25	<b>County Councillor Report:</b> - Cllr Peeke & Cllr. Neve (Chair) had been contacted by a representative from Knotty Hill Golf Club regarding the planned Anaerobic Plant to be installed at Sprucely Farm. Concerns were around pollution and odours. Cllr. Neve had spoken to the planning department and was assured there would be no odours when the plant was up and running. It was felt that this situation should be monitored. - Work had started on The Green as discussed previously.	
7.1/25	<b>Website</b> A meeting had been planned for 9 <sup>th</sup> January with the new website provider to agree the way forward and what information was required. Any information received would be shared with Mr Barrass from the Village Hall.	<b>AH</b>
8.1/25	<b>Outdoor Activities:</b> a) <b>Village Hall Park</b> - All quotes had now been received and had been contacted regarding disposal of equipment and wetpour. Only one company replied. Following discussion, it was agreed to go with the quote of £845. <b>Agreed:</b> Clerk to contact company to progress the work. <b>Proposed</b> Cllr Neve, <b>Seconded</b> Cllr Brownlee b) <b>Grounds Maintenance Contract</b> - Contractor had been informed. A meeting was being arranged week commencing 13/1/2025 with the Clerk and Contractor to look at the schedule in detail so that both parties agreed and to see if any amendments were required. c) <b>Empty Garage</b> - A quote had been received to replace the doors on the empty garage. Members felt this was appropriate and agreed to move forward with the quote £1,200 (ex VAT). Contractor to be contacted to arrange the work.	<b>AH</b>   <b>AH</b>

	<p>Members discussed the pricing for this particular garage. It was felt that this should be put on the agenda for the February meeting as it was not only a garage but there was some land with it. Members asked the Clerk to gather information regarding prices for similar garages in the area.</p> <p>It was also discussed what this piece of land / building could be used for in the future. To this end the Clerk was asked to contact DCC to find out if this piece of land could be purchased.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clerk to contact contractor and arrange for the new doors to be installed.</li> <li>• Clerk to find prices for garages with land to compare prices and bring to the meeting in February to review the prices</li> <li>• Clerk to contact DCC to enquire whether this piece of land could be purchased by the Parish Council</li> </ul> <p>d) <b>Fly Tipping</b> - Members were informed that the fly tipping reported by Cllr Turner had been removed the next day. Discussion took place regarding where fly tipping was taking place. Clerk was asked to find what happened to the cameras that the council had purchased that had been given to the wardens.</p>	<b>AH</b>
9.1/25	<b>Health and Safety</b> - nothing to report.	
10.1/25	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p><b>a) Payments and Receipt December 2024</b>- Payments and receipts for November were presented to the Council and approved.</p> <p><b>b) Budget 2025/26 / Precept Approval</b> - Members were informed that the Chair and the Clerk had looked at the budget in detail. Members had been sent a copy of the proposed budget prior to the meeting, along with options. To allow more work to be carried out on the Coronation Garden and other increases (eg Community Grants). It was agreed that the precept should be raised by 4.99%.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Clerk and Chair completed the necessary paperwork at the meeting to be sent to Durham County Council to request a 4.99% increase in the precept.</p> <p><b>Proposed:</b> Cllr Neve, <b>Seconded:</b> Cllr. Brownlee.</p>	
10.1/25	<p><b>Councillor Vacancy</b> - Nothing further to report</p> <p>Members were informed that the date for election was 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 - more information would be shared as it is received.</p>	<b>AH</b>
11.1/25	<b>Correspondence</b> - nothing to share	
12.1/25	<p><b>Policies:</b></p> <p>None to approve</p>	
13.1/25	<p><b>Member Sharing</b></p> <p>Cllr Jacobs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• had found information regarding AAP funding used to install traffic signals in a local town and felt this should be explored</li> <li>• informed members that he was selling 5 of the gazebos that the Parish Council use for events - this was to be put on the agenda in February for approval</li> </ul> <p>It was requested that community commendations be put on the agenda for February 2025 to move this important issue forward.</p>	<b>AH</b>
	<p><b>Next Meeting:</b></p> <p>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7pm</p>	

The meeting closed 8.30pm

Signed: - Chair.

Date: