

Conserving our Past: Building Our Future

Chairman Cllr. Harvey Neve

Minutes of the Parish Meeting of Bishop Middleham Parish Council held Wednesday 12th March 2025, in Bishop Middleham Village Hall at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr. H. Neve (Chair), Cllr. J. Brownlee, Cllr. G Jacobs, Cllr. E. Sparks, Cllr. M MacCallam, Cllr. V. Cooke
Mrs. A. Hall (Parish Clerk)

Cllr. E. Peeke (County Councillor)
8 members of the public were in attendance

ITEM NO.	MINUTES	ACTION
1.3/25	Notice of Meeting - It was moved by Cllr. Neve to open the meeting at 7.00pm	
2.3/25	Apologies: Cllr. Burrows (Compassionate), Cllr. Turner (Holiday)	
3.3/25	Declarations of Interest - None	
4.3/25	Minutes - The minutes of the meeting held on 12 th February 2025 were to be deferred until the April 2025 meeting.	
5.3/25	<p>Public Participation - 8 members of the public were in attendance to raise concerns regarding the Anaerobic Digestion Plant at Sprucely Farm, which is currently in the Planning process at Durham County Council. Although initially approved, it has been agreed to take it back to Committee following a challenge by Knotty Hill Golf Centre (members of who attended this meeting).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level of community interest, indicating significant concern. • Impact on Quality of Life: Potential negative effects on residents' daily lives, local businesses, and the environment. • Project Details: The AD plant will operate 24/7, processing large volumes of organic waste. • Environmental Impact: Concerns about odour pollution, emissions, and effects on local wildlife and landscapes. • Traffic and Safety: Increased heavy vehicle traffic, road safety concerns, and congestion. • Consultation and Notification: Frustration over the lack of proper consultation and notification. • Planning Process: The community felt that the planning application process lacked transparency and proper evaluation. • There were no details / images provided on what this plant would look like when complete and how this would impact the local area. 	
6.3/25	<p>County Councillor Report: A meeting had been arranged for members of the public to attend to discuss the work being carried out at The Green. Meeting would be at 5.30pm on Wednesday 19th March 2025 in the Village Hall.</p>	
7.3/25	<p>Website Members were informed this would hopefully be up and running by Friday 21st March 2025.</p>	
8.3/25	<p>Community / Events / Outdoor a) Coronation Garden update b) Pavilion - update from working group?</p>	

	<p>c) Footpath to Hardwick via golf course d) Volunteer Hedge Laying e) Hedgehog Signs</p> <p>All items above were deferred to a future meeting.</p> <p>f) Spring Clean - Litter Pick arrangements It was proposed to hold a litter pick event on Saturday 5th April. Clerk to produce the necessary publication and promote as soon as possible. Agreed: all agreed to the date</p>	
9.3/25	Health and Safety - nothing to report.	
10.3/25	Correspondence - None to report	
11.3/25	<p>Planning Further to the representation by members of the public during the public participation item, Members felt it was important to respond. It was reported that the Planning Application was going back to Committee on 2nd April and we had been informed by the Planning Officer that the final date to submit comments was Friday 21st March 2025. To this end, Members discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Members agreed that an Objection to the application should be submitted. • Further Consultation: To put a post on our Facebook page explaining the situation and asking for comments as soon as possible. • Council to meet with a representative of the developer of the site on Wednesday 19th March 2025 to ask questions. • Chair to draft a letter to the Planning Department and circulate to Members and the Parish Clerk ready for submission, highlighting the key areas of concern. • Cllr. Peeke and Cllr. Neve to speak to the Planning Department to request an extension to the application deadline so that further consultation can be undertaken. 	
12.3/25	Finance a) Payments and Receipt February 2025 - Deferred to April meeting.	
13.3/25	<p>Councillor a) Dates for Annual Meeting following election and Parish Meeting - deferred to April meeting. b) Nomination packs - given to Councillors c) Dates and other information - dates reinforced when the nomination papers need to be submitted to the Returning Officer - which is between 10am on 21st March 2025 and 4pm on 2nd April 2025.</p>	
14.3/25	<p>Policies: 1) Public Participation at Meetings 2) Scheme of Delegation 3) Officer Member Protocol 4) Health and Safety Policy All deferred to a future meeting.</p>	
15.3/25	Member Sharing Nothing reported	
16.3/25	Next Meeting: Wednesday 9 th April 2025 at 7pm	

The meeting closed 9.15pm

Signed: - Chair.

Date: