

Conserving our Past: Building Our Future

Chairman Cllr. Harvey Neve

Minutes of the Parish Meeting of Bishop Middleham Parish Council held
Wednesday 9th July 2025, in Bishop Middleham Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr. H. Neve (Chair), Cllr. J. Brownlee, Cllr. V. Cooke, Cllr. E. Sparks,

County Councillors: Cllr. I. Catchpole and Cllr. C. Lines

PCSO: PCSO Walbey

Member of the Public : 2

Mrs. A. Hall (Parish Clerk)

ITEM NO.	MINUTES	ACTION
1.7/25	Notice of Meeting - It was moved by Cllr. Neve to open the meeting at 7pm	
2.7/25	Apologies: Cllr. Anderson, Cllr Jacobs, Cllr. Turner, Cllr. MacCallam	
3.7/25	Declarations of Interest - Cllr. Brownlee for Item 6. And 8d) regarding The Green	
4.7/25	Minutes - The minutes of the meeting held on 11 th June 2025 were reviewed and approved as a true record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Neve, Seconded Cllr Brownlee	
5.7/25	Public Participation Two members of Bishop Middleham Football Club attended to discuss the 2025/26 season fees, grant funding, and facility improvements. The Clerk issued the new invoice along with the 2025/26 Annual Agreement. When the Club asked about accessing a Community Grant to help cover those costs, the Clerk advised them to submit an application for the September meeting. Finally, the Club raised the issue of a new pavilion/changing room; the Council confirmed that various options are under review and that the Club will be invited to participate once detailed proposals are available. Members of the public left the meeting.	
6.7/25	County Councillor Report: Cllr. Catchpole gave an update on the work he had been carrying out in the parish, which included: a) Cllr Catchpole was involved in planning meetings and b) Working with a resident regarding public transport issues c) Visited The Green to look at the improvement problems and how they can be resolved. It was discussed what options were available. Cllr Lines and Cllr Catchpole had received information from DCC on what work had been carried out (see report from Cllr Lines) and what was proposed - completion of tree/shrub work and options for the fencing.	

	<p>Cllr. Lines had given a report to the Clerk which was distributed to Members, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Issues around the proposed housing estate for Sedgefield at Buttery Lane and the potential implications for Sedgefield and the surrounding area. b) Issues around the Incinerator Planning Application at Heighington Lane and the potential issues wider afield. c) Travel Plan – this was initially only in the Sedgefield area but now that the County Council area had changed, discussions would be taking place for requirements in Bishop Middleham. A meeting had been arranged for 28th July and the Clerk would be attending. 	
7.7/25	<p>PCSO Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Pop-up PACT / meet-your-PCSO – Idea floated to trial informal drop-in sessions around the village to capture local intelligence and give residents an easy way to raise small issues. b) Current policing issues – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off-road motorbike nuisance continues; targeted patrols and an operation are in the pipeline. • Speed Watch training was continuing – PCSO Walbey was informed that Cllr Cooke had the materials for Speed Watch but did not have volunteers to support the project. PCSO Walbey to work with Cllr Cooke to move this forward. • Isolated anti-social behaviour incidents: shed and vehicle fires, abandoned vehicles awaiting removal. • Residents encouraged to report sightings with as much detail as possible. 	
8.7/25	<p>Events and Outdoor Activities</p> <p>The following issues were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Coronation Garden: No further work had been carried out on this project. Clerk to progress this as much as possible before the next meeting. b) Michaelmas Fair: Plans are underway and most of the bookings have been confirmed. A meeting to be arranged for early in July to discuss Michaelmas Fair. c) Football <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A conditions survey to be arranged for the pavilion changing rooms to clarify the issues with the building and requirements. b. A request had been received from West Cornforth Miners to use our football facilities for their team, which are all under 18s. Members discussed the options and approved their request. Clerk to contact the team to make the necessary arrangements, meet with the management and move this forward. It was noted that this team would play on a Saturday morning and would like to do training on a Tuesday evening. c. Cllr. Catchpole informed the Members that he was looking at setting up a funding pot aimed at Youth and Community Development which may benefit the work needed on the pavilion. 	<p>AH</p> <p>AH</p> <p>AH</p> <p>AH</p>

	<p>d) The Green: See details in County Council report section regarding the Green</p> <p>e) Park Gates: a suggestion was made to contact a local security firm who may be able to support with opening and closing the gates - Clerk to investigate and give details at next meeting.</p> <p>f) Dogs in the Park - This was an ongoing issue and options were discussed. The Clerk was asked to produce wording and get prices for new signage stating the dogs must be kept on a lead at all times and owners must clean up after their dogs. Information should also be included on the new signage at the main gates. New sign information and pricing to be brought to the September meeting.</p> <p>g) Plant Watering - members were informed that our Contractor (SE Landscaping) had contacted the Clerk regarding the current weather conditions and the impact on plants. To this end, the contractor may need to include extra watering of all plants, which takes up to 2 hrs and would be charged at £60 per time. Members approved extra spend up to £600 for these watering sessions.</p> <p>h) Martyn's Law - Members were shown a video giving information on Martyn's Law and how it would impact the Parish Council. Clerk to keep up to date with developments and bring the necessary legislation and policies to the Council.</p>	<p>AH</p> <p>AH</p> <p>AH</p>
9.7/25	<p>Finance Members were given Appendix 1 payments report with all payments from 11th June 2025 to the date of the meeting. This report was approved by all.</p>	
10.7/25	<p>Health and Safety: Members were informed that a tree in the park area (near to the car park) had large branches that had snapped. SE Landscaping were contacted and this was resolved very quickly.</p>	
11.7/25	<p>Policies: Nothing new to report</p>	AH
12.7/25	<p>Planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Anaerobic Digestion Plant, Sprucely Farm - Members were informed that a date of 27th August had been given as the hearing date. Regular meetings were being held with the interested parties to plan an organised way forward, including publicity and attendance on the day. b) Housing estate at Buttery Lane, Sedgefield - see County Councillor's report above. c) Planning application - DM/25/00917/FPA - 2 storey extension and balcony - members discussed this application and felt it was appropriate. 	
13.7/25	<p>Councillor Vacancy: Cllr Anderson had been appointed as the new councillor. Unfortunately he was unable to attend this meeting.</p>	
14.7/25	<p>Correspondence: None to report</p>	AH
15.7/25	<p>Member Sharing: Deferred to next meeting due to the items left to be discussed.</p>	
16.7/25	<p>Next Meeting:</p>	

	The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 10 th September 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall	
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The meeting closed 9.10pm

Signed: - Chair.

Date: