

Conserving our Past: Building Our Future

Chairman Cllr. Harvey Neve

**Minutes of the Parish Meeting held
Wednesday 8th October 2025 at 7.00pm
Location:** Bishop Middleham Village Hall

Chair: Cllr. H. Neve

Present: Cllr. H. Neve (Chair), Cllr. J Brownlee, Cllr. M MacCallam, Cllr. E Sparks and Cllr. G Turner

Parish Clerk: Mrs. A. Hall

County

Councillor: Cllr. Chris Lines

Members of the Public: None

ITEM	MINUTES	ACTION
1.	Notice of Meeting - Meeting opened at 7.10pm. Public notice confirmed as issued in accordance with Schedule 12 of the LGA 1972.	
2.	Apologies - Received from Cllr. G Jacobs (Holiday) and Cllr. A Anderson (Work Commitments). Cllr. V Cooke was not in attendance and not explanation given.	
3.	Declarations of Interest - None formally declared.	
4.	Minutes - Minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2025 were reviewed and approved as a true record. Proposed: Cllr Neve. Seconded: Cllr Brownlee. Clarification noted regarding polio reference linked to Crocus planting.	AH
5.	Public Participation - No members of the public present.	
6.	County Councillor Report - Cllr. Lines provided a detailed verbal update. Topics included: Cabinet call-ins (athletics track and solar panel project), EDCAT funding reversal, Section 106 allocations, scrutiny and governance changes, and local network/AAP status. Members discussed implications for parish funding and community engagement. A full copy of Cllr. Lines report will be available on our website.	
7.	PCSO Report - Apologies received. No report submitted.	
8.	Community and Outdoor Matters: a. Michaelmas Fair - Widely praised as most successful to date. Attendance estimated at around 1,000. Council approved overspend of £300 offset by unused VJ Day budget. Feedback included layout improvements, signage, and potential sponsorship. Future ideas: PA announcements, banners, wider advertising. b. Football Clubs - Management changes noted and it is expected there to be improved communication. Storage issues for goalposts discussed; unused garage to be reviewed next meeting. Juniors signed and paying monthly. c. Pavilion Conditions - Following the conditions survey report presented at the September meeting, the Council agreed to close the pavilion immediately due to safety concerns. The Parish Clerk	AH

	notified all football clubs via email and posted signage to confirm the closure, and arrangements were made for key collection and equipment retrieval. On Friday following the meeting, a builder attended the site to assess the structure. While the builder noted that the pavilion required attention, it was not deemed unsafe for use. After discussions with councillors who were present during the inspection, the Clerk agreed to reopen the pavilion for limited use. The Council requested that the Clerk obtain quotes for: i. Replacement of the flooring ii. Repairs to the guttering and roof Further investigations and planning for long-term refurbishment are ongoing. Builder assessed structure post-closure; deemed safe for use. Quote received for full replacement of the floor, repairs to the guttering and the roof: £4,260. Council agreed to explore reconfiguration and long-term options. Separate meeting to be arranged to move this forward. d. Electrical inspection revealed issues; emergency lighting not working, trip switch not working, broken socket covers and exposed wires in electrical cabinet. Quote for work being obtained. e. Park Signage - Deferred. f. Playground Inspection - Roundabout shaft to be replaced by DCC. Gym equipment repairs hindered by lack of parts (Turkish manufacturer). Council agreed to monitor and decommission only if unsafe. g. Wildlife Garden Water Contamination - 70% of misconnections resolved. No current signs of contamination. Further inspection by DCC pending.	
9.	Finance: a) Payments and invoices since 10th September approved. b) External Audit and AGAR - Clean audit received. No issues identified. Members expressed appreciation for Clerk's work. c) Community Grant - Bishop Middleham Football Club - Request for £1,072 reviewed. Concerns raised over sustainability and engagement. Council agreed to invite club representatives to next meeting (12 November) for further discussion. d) Gov.uk Domain - Current registrar ceasing service. Parish Online proposed as new provider at £100/year. Approved.	AH AH
10.	Projects and Planning - Clerk presented report of outstanding and proposed projects. Council agreed to hold a separate meeting to prioritise and plan. Clerk to arrange	AH
11.	Health and Safety - Tree leaning near park entrance to be removed. Fallen tree in Wildlife Garden under review.	AH
12.	Planning: a) Anaerobic Digestion Plant - Awaiting Inspectorate decision. b) Mahon House Boarding Kennels - No objections raised; viewed as fabric updates. c) Members discussed the current planning application for 176 houses at Beacon Avenue, Sedgefield. Clerk was asked to pull together information regarding the impact on our parish so that further discussions can take place. Clerk was also asked to find out when it is expected the deadline will be for this application.	AH

13.	Councillor Vacancies - One vacancy remains. Council expressed interest in recruiting younger members.	AH
14.	Correspondence - Verbal discussion with the Chair, Cllr Neve raised by resident regarding open access to Wildlife Garden from play area. Council agreed to revisit risk assessment and seek advice as required before considering gate installation.	AH
15.	Member Sharing - - Cllr. Brownlee: Concerns raised over potential cancellation of 113 bus service. Clerk to contact County Councillors. - Cllr. MacCallam: Golf course footpath improvements discussed; Harriers praised for clearing trip hazards.	AH
	Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 12th November 2025 at 7.00pm, Bishop Middleham Village Hall.	

The meeting closed 9pm

Signed: - Chair.

Date: