

## Conserving our Past: Building Our Future

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### **Chair Cllr. Harvey Neve**

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held  
Wednesday 8 April 2026 at 6.00pm  
Location: Bishop Middleham Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr. H. Neve (Chair), Cllr. A Anderson (arrived at 6.10pm), Cllr. J Brownlee, Cllr. V. Cooke (arrived at 6.50pm), Cllr. G. Jacobs

**Parish Clerk:** Mrs. A. Hall

**County Councillor:** None in attendance

**Members of the Public:** 0

#### **1. Notice of Meeting**

Public notice of the meeting was given in accordance with Schedule 12 paragraph 10(2) of the Local Government Act 1972. The meeting opened at 6.00pm.

#### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies received from Cllr. MacCallam, Cllr. Sparks, Cllr. Turner

#### **3. Declarations of Interest**

Declaration of interest received from Cllr. Brownlee for item 8d) - Community Grant application.

#### **4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 March 2026**

Members confirmed the minutes were a true account of the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** Minutes approved.

#### **5. Public Participation**

No members of the public were present.

#### **6. County Councillors Report**

No County Councillors in attendance, no reports received.0

#### **7. PCSO Report**

No written or verbal report received.

#### **8. Finance**

##### a) Payments & Invoices

Payments made since 11 March 2026 were reviewed and approved.

See table overleaf.

<b>Bishop Middleham Parish Council - 11.3.26 -7.4.26</b>		
<b>Who To</b>	<b>What For</b>	<b>Cost</b>
BMVH	Community Grant - Staging	£500.00
BMVH	Meetings Mar 26 (4th and 11th)	£36.00
SE Landscaping	Grounds March 2026	£2,937.32
BMVH	Youth Club room hire Mar 26 (Comm Grant)	£80.00
Parkinsons UK	Donation from tombola - Michaelmas Fair	£75.00
	Wages	£586.23
	PAYE NI Pensions	£394.24
CDALC	Training AH (Meetings ), Cllr A (New Cllr)	£40.00
St Michael's Church	Community Grant (craft & bloom event - June 26)	£215.00
BMVH	Mtng 21.1.26	£30.00
Caspian	Updated, incl travel	£214.80
BMVH	Youth Club room hire Feb 26 (Comm Grant)	£90.00
Pakatak Ltd	Encrypted Wildlife Cameras	£339.98
SELandscaping	Repairs to boardwalk - wildlife garden	£102.00
Eon	Elec - Feb 2026	£25.71
Unity Trust Bank	BACS Charges	£16.75
Unity Trust Bank	Bank Charges	£7.00
O2	Mobile Phone	£20.64

#### b) Governance Documents

The following documents were reviewed:

- IT Policy - updated to include the revised WhatsApp paragraph.
- Data Protection Policy - updated to reflect the same WhatsApp clarification.
- WCAG 2.2 Accessibility Update (Assertion 10) - Members noted significant improvements to the website's accessibility following recent work.
- Internal Controls - reviewed and approved.
- Risk Register - to be circulated to Members and brought back for approval at the May meeting.

**RESOLVED:** The updated IT Policy, Data Protection Policy, WCAG 2.2 update, and Internal Controls were approved. The Risk Register will be considered in May.

#### c) Appointment of Internal Auditor

**RESOLVED:** To reappoint Mr G. Fletcher as Internal Auditor for the 2026-2027 financial year.

#### d) Community Grant Applications

Bishop Middleham Village Hall requested £500 towards the purchase of Q-Build staging units (total project cost £1,500). Members discussed the community benefit and versatility of the staging.

**RESOLVED:** To approve the grant of £500.

**ACTION:** Clerk to notify the Village Hall and process payment.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 9. Community & Outdoor Events

### a) Bacchanalia - Michaelmas Fair

Members discussed the draft programme and budget outline. Items included:

- Storytelling sessions
- Dog show
- Children's activities
- Craft stalls
- Mini-golf
- Live music
- Food and bar provision
- Fairground rides

Members noted the need for clarity on funding sources and the breakdown of the £6,000 contribution.

**ACTION:** Clerk to request a detailed funding breakdown from Bacchanalia.

### b) Dog Fouling - Update

- Encrypted cameras have been purchased. Clerk awaiting site visit from Neighbourhood Warden to determine installation points.
- Additional signs have been ordered, including smaller signs for trees around the park.

### c) Coronation Park

Contractor has begun preparatory work, including trimming and shaping shrubs. A full plan will be brought to the May meeting.

### d) Changing Rooms Renovation Group

Clerk to re-establish contact with the builder who has offered support.

**ACTION:** Clerk to arrange meeting with builder.

### e) Traffic Assessment

Members were informed that speed strips had been installed on High Road.

The Council is awaiting the result of this and also the traffic assessment carried out in conjunction with Cllr Catchpole

**ACTION:** Clerk to follow up with DCC.

### f) Parking on the Village Green

Concerns were raised about vehicles parking on the Village Green and damaging the grass.

Members discussed:

- Installing clearer "No Parking" signage
- Exploring physical deterrents such as boulders or posts
- Checking land ownership to confirm what measures are permitted

**ACTION:** Clerk to confirm land ownership, explore signage and deterrent options, and report back.

## 10. Health & Safety

Information regarding the cost of Stress Testing through Durham County Council was given to the Council who were concerned at the price. Clerk to contact CDALC and see further clarification from DCC.

## 11. Correspondence

a) Parkinson's UK Thank-you letter for the £75 donation noted.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## b) Mainsforth Resident Suggestions

Some suggestions had been received from a Mainsforth resident, some of which had already been highlighted by the Clerk:

- Renovating / rejuvenating the village signage
- Explore more Xmas lights
- Looking at the area next to the bus shelter to see if it can be tidied up and tended more.
- Replacing the old and damaged noticeboard on the bus shelter.

**ACTION:** Clerk to obtain prices for noticeboards and signage improvements.

## c) Planning Enforcement - Spruceley Farm

Members received an update regarding the planning conditions attached to the establishment of the pig farm at Spruceley Farm. Planning Enforcement confirmed that the original approval required hedge planting to provide screening, and although this planting had previously been removed during later building extension works, the required hedge has now been reinstated. Enforcement officers have confirmed that the site is **fully compliant** with the conditions of the original permission, and no further action is required.

## 12. Planning

DM/26/00456/FPA - 48 dwellings at Sedgefield.

**RESOLVED:** Objection submitted.

## 13. Member Sharing

Items raised:

- Signage at South View / Hawthorn Terrace signposting residents/visitors to the amenities (shop, pub, park, village hall, etc) in the centre of the village.
- Quarry dust and rock issues

## 14. Date of Next Meeting

Annual Assembly 6pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May, followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting at 7pm a Bishop Middleham Village Hall.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair) Date: \_\_\_\_\_