

**Minutes of a Meeting of Carham Parish Council held in St Cuthbert's Church, Carham at 6.30pm  
on Tuesday 9 July 2024**

- 515 Present:** Cllrs. P Feerick, V Poland, J McGregor, County Councillor M Mather and Mrs A Changleng (Clerk)
- 516 Apologies:** None
- 517 Chair's Welcome:** Cllr. Feerick welcomed all those present to the meeting and thanked County Councillor Mather for organising the North Northumberland Local Area Committee Meeting and Planning Training Meeting held in Wooler in May and June. Two councillors and the clerk were able to attend.
- 518 Declarations of Interest:** Cllr. Poland and the clerk declared an interest in item 526, as they were the Secretary and Treasurer of Carham Parish Defibs.
- 519 Parishioners' Questions:** None
- 520 The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting** on 14 May were approved as read and signed.
- 521 Matters Arising:** There is no registered title for Wark Castle but the land is owned by Wark Farm Estate and a local resident. Councillors agreed to approach Wark Farm Estate for a donation to replace the damaged information board. County Councillor Mather offered to make a donation from his small schemes pot. Councillors will prepare a history of Wark Castle to be put on the new board.
- 522 Correspondence:**
- Polling district and polling places statutory review – this does not affect Carham Parish.
  - Police Report - There has been no crime or anti-social behaviour reported and there are no current crime trends that would have a direct effect on the residents of Carham parish.
- 523 To pass a resolution to sign up the civility and respect pledge.** Councillors agreed not to sign up to the pledge because its objectives are already in the Code of Conduct.
- 524 Planning Application:** Erection of new building at 2 Courtyard Gardens, Wark TD12 4FH has been granted permission.
- 525 LTP Programme 2025/2026:** Footpaths that enclose the remains of the keep of Wark Castle on three sides (footpaths 002, 014 and 029 on the definitive map) will be added to the programme for future maintenance by the Countryside Team.
- 526 Carham Parish Defibs:** An inaugural general meeting has been held, a committee formed and the constitution signed. It is now an unincorporated association and a bank account has been opened. Currently there is £5,291.97 in the account. Funding applications have been made to supplement what has been raised locally. Residents of the parish are regularly updated on the progress of the project. The next fundraiser will be a raffle. Tickets will be sold at Cornhill Village Fair on 28 July when committee

members are running the Pimm's Stall to raise money. Carham Parish Council agreed to give a donation of £500.00 to Carham Parish Defibs this year with a further donation next year.

- 527 Wark Play Park:** The Annual Inspection by RoSPA Playsafety took place on 1 July. Councillors discussed the repairs and maintenance raised on the report and Cllr. McGregor suggested that a local tradesman could be asked to carry out the work. He will get a quote. A resident has reported dog mess being left on the grass verge at the road gate and the clerk will contact NCC's Green Dog Walking Scheme for appropriate signage. Persistent offenders can be reported on NCC's website Fix My Street accompanied by a photograph. The law states that anyone who fails to clear up after their dog can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100. If the case goes to court this could cost the owner or person in charge of the animal up to £1,000. The law also states that being unaware a dog has fouled or not having a suitable bag is not a reasonable excuse.
- 528 Finance:** There is £2790.66 in the bank. Approval was given to pay the Playsafety invoice for £93.60. Councillors agreed not to take out a maintenance contract for the Swarco VAS. The AGAR has been completed with no queries from the auditors.
- 529 Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 17 September in St Cuthbert's Church, Carham at 6.30pm.