

Minutes of the first Annual General Meeting of Carham Parish Defibs, held at Cornhill village hall at 11.00 am on Saturday 10 May 2025.

Present: Committee members Kevin Alsey, Victoria Poland and Jude Smith, and seven other members of Carham Parish Defibs.

1. Welcome

Jude welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their support. Apologies had been received from Agnes Changleng and Willa Straker-Smith.

The minutes of the Inaugural General Meeting held on 11 May 2024 were agreed.

2. Annual Accounts

Victoria gave an overview of the project's finances, on behalf of Agnes:

Carham Parish Defibs had opened a bank account in May 2024 with funds raised up to that date and held by the Glendale Gateway Trust (£4,418.76) and in cash (£573.21).

Since then, individuals have donated a total of £536.47. Carham Parish Council has donated £500 and County Councillor Mark Mather has donated £4,300 from the Members Local Improvement Scheme. Cornhill Village Hall has donated the proceeds of a quiz (£122) and our own fundraising efforts have raised £426 (Cornhill Village Fair), £751 (the Big Summer Raffle) and £346 (the Christmas Craft Fair). We have also successfully applied for grants from Northumberland County Council's Community Chest (£1,750) and the Joicey Trust (£1,000).

To date, our expenditure has been low: hire of Cornhill Village Hall (£36), printing raffle tickets (£57.60) and buying Pimm's, fruit, etc for Cornhill Village Fair (£147.84). The bank introduced bank charges in March this year, amounting to £4.25 a month.

We have £14,473.50 in the bank.

3. Annual Report

Victoria reported on the last year's progress:

Carham Parish Defibs became an unincorporated association on 11 May 2024. At that point the project had been running for a year. It had been really well supported by the community – it had raised almost £5,000 and had a membership of 51. In a community of fewer than 300 people, these are both more than creditable numbers.

This last year has seen that support continuing. Membership hasn't grown, but our funds have - to a fantastic £14,473.50 after expenses of about £250. We had a very successful

raffle in the summer, with some really good prizes donated by local businesses and residents. Lots of people supported the raffle by buying tickets, raising £751. We also ran the Pimm's stall at Cornhill Village Fair and ran a stall and raffle at Cornhill Village Hall's Christmas Craft Fair in November. We were able to do this thanks to the generosity of a resident who gave us a large quantity of Christmas decorations to sell.

Other residents have supported us by making one-off donations, and one generous person has set up a monthly standing order in our favour. We've also been supported by Carham Parish Council and County Councillor Mark Mather, who have given generous donations amounting to £4,800. We're very grateful for all this support.

The Carham Parish Defibs committee has had four meetings since it was set up last May. It has organised the fundraising events, managed the admin and finances, and applied for grant funding. Two of the three applications were successful. Northumberland County Council's Community Chest gave us £1,750 and the Joicey Trust gave us £1,000. Our application to the Co-op Local Community Fund wasn't successful. This is a large, nation-wide fund, and we knew that our chances of success weren't very high.

In July, the committee invited the communities of the parish to apply for a defibrillator, with an application deadline of 6 September. We explained that it didn't matter how large or small the community was; the important thing was its commitment to the project. Four applications were received, from Carham, Mindrum Station, Wark and West Moneylaws.

All of this has been communicated via our newsletters and email lists. We've distributed three newsletters this year, to every household in the parish. Copies are available on the Carham Community Website www.carhamparish.org in the Community area of the site.

We had hoped to buy and install the first four defibrillators by now, but we're all volunteers with limited time available, and it's taken more time than we expected to work out the details and get the technical and other support we need. For example, we had planned to put the Wark and Carham defibs into the phone boxes there, but we discovered that neither of them has a power supply. So we're now having to look for other possible places, with power, for these two defibs. We've also been held up by our need for an electrician who could do the installations at a reduced rate. I'm glad to say that we think we now have one. So we're getting there, and we hope to be able to get our order in before too long.

4. Election of committee members

Kevin Alsey, Agnes Changleng, Victoria Poland, Jude Smith and Willa Straker-Smith were all willing to stand for re-election to the Carham Parish Defibs committee and were elected unopposed.

5. Any other business

Kevin said that he would install the defibrillator cabinets so that they were ready for electrical installation. Willa has said that she'll install any posts that are needed.

Member Ian Reed thanked the committee for their work and encouraged them to keep applying for funds and to buy and install the defibrillators one at a time. Victoria said that this was more or less what was planned, as the project is a five year rolling programme.

Member Richard Bell observed that Carham Parish Defibs had enough money to buy more than the four that had been applied for. Victoria said that further applications would be invited. He questioned whether very small communities needed a defibrillator. Kevin said that he knew of communities of as few as five houses that had one. Victoria said that community buy-in was a more important than the size of the community.

Member Ashley Shaw offered to run a quiz night at Cornhill village hall to raise funds for the project. Jude accepted the offer with thanks. Carham Parish Defibs had been invited to run the raffle at Cornhill Village Fair, which was another opportunity to raise funds.

Member Pete Smith asked whether training would be provided for everyone. Kevin said that he would ask ambulance service colleagues in Jedburgh for the loan of training equipment. He and Jude were both able to provide the training.

Jude suggested putting a CPR and defibrillator pictogram on or in with the next newsletter to show residents what they needed to do if someone's heart stopped or fibrillated. A video demonstration could be sent to members as a link in an email.

6. Close of Annual General Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

CARHAM PARISH DEFIBS
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AS AT 10 MAY 2025

INCOME

Opening balance	£ 573.21
Funds transfer from Glendale Gateway Trust	£ 4,418.76
Individual donations	£ 536.47
Donation - Carham Parish Council	£ 500.00
Donation - County Councillor Mark Mather	£ 4,300.00
Donation - Cornhill Village Hall	£ 122.00
Fundraising - Cornhill Village Fair	£ 426.00
Fundraising - Big Summer Raffle	£ 751.00
Fundraising - Christmas Craft Fair	£ 346.00
Grant funding - Community Chest	£ 1,750.00
Grant funding - Joicey Trust	£ 1,000.00

£ 14,723.44

EXPENDITURE

Hire of hall	£ 36.00
Printing costs	£ 57.60
Expenses - Cornhill Village Fair	£ 147.84
Bank charges	£ 8.50

£ 249.94

Carried forward

£ 14,473.50

£ 14,723.44