

CARHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council website: <https://carhamparish.org>

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10th March 2025 In St Cuthbert's Church Carham at 6.30p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman P Feerick
Parish Councillors V Poland, J Chubb, M De Fusco, & D Wells
County Councillor M Mather
Clerk I Hunter
3 members of public

Min 571- Chairman's Welcome- The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting and welcomed Isabel Hunter the new Clerk to Carham Parish Council.

Min 572- Apologies for Absence: Parish Councillor J McGregor & retiring Clerk A Changleng

Min 573- Declaration of Interest: None

Min 574- Public Question Time- None

Min 575- Minutes of the Meeting: The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th January 2025 previously circulated were agreed as a true record, the Chairman to sign a hard copy.

Matters arising from the minutes if not already on the agenda-

Min 576 (Min 564) Public transport meeting- Parish Councillor V Poland advised the meeting that she had attended the public transport meeting. She reported that she had advised the Northumberland County Council Public Transport Officer that residents of Carham parish are more orientated towards Coldstream & connections to Kelso & Berwick rather than towards Wooler.

Also, any bus service operating along the B6350 would only provide for about 1/3 of the Carham parish residents.

County Councillor M Mather advised the meeting that the public transport meeting was well attended, and all representations were taken onboard.

Northumberland County Council & County Councillor M Mather were having a meeting with Scottish Borders Council on 11th March and would be asking if the bus service which currently stops at Sprouston could be extended to Carham.

Also, Northumberland County Council are currently investigating the 266 service to see if the service which currently runs from Kilham to Kirknewton could be adapted 2-days a week to travel to Carham instead of Kirknewton.

County Councillor M Mather said they were unsure if the Northumberland £2.50 charge will be valid to travel into Scotland where the current fare is approximately £7. He will keep the Parish Council updated.

Min 577 (Min 567)- Wark Castle & surrounding footpaths- County Councillor M Mather informed the meeting that a funding bid had been submitted to Northumberland

County Council Regeneration Department, and was currently awaiting to find out the level of funding available as Northumberland County Council Highways Department had used some of the available funding.

County Councillor M Mather informed the meeting that there is a Heritage fund online course which may be of value, he agreed to share the information in relation to the course.

The Chairman referred to the 2012 Flodden document which included Wark Castle. Parish Councillors agreed a Steering Group could be set up to lead on the big project, which would include access, signage (as there is no signage to Wark Castle), parking & seating, which are all interlinked.

Parish Councillors agreed to wait to see the level of contribution available from Northumberland County Council 1st, work out the vision, then prioritise the projects within the vision. Once the projects are known the Parish Council will need to liaise with local landowners.

County Councillor M Mather stated once the Wooler & Highway project budgets have been agreed he will know the level of funding available for Carham & Milfield.

Min 578- Correspondence- previously circulated

- Leitholm, Eccles and Birgham Community Led Plan
- Northumberland Wheeled Action Sports Survey
- Northumberland Open Space Assessment – Draft for Consultation
- Parish Council and Local Government Training Dates

Min 579- Employment of New Clerk- Parish Councillors approved the model employment policies. The Chairman signed the hard copies. The Chairman & Clerk signed the Clerk's employment contract.

Min 580- Planning Applications- Parish Councillors noted the following planning applications
25/00253/OHL- Re-build an existing Overhead Line with new poles and materials that sits to the south of Coldstream & Wark- 02 Communication Mast, Shidlaw Lane, Cornhill on Tweed.

25/00267/FUL- Side and rear extension, with the demolition of outbuilding- Carham Hall Lodge, Carham Northumberland TD12 4RW.

Min 581- Defibrillator- Parish Councillor V Poland advised the meeting that the Carham Parish Defibs were receiving a donation of £4300 from County Councillor M Mather's small grant funding which will cover the purchase of 2 defibrillators.

Min 582- May Newsletter- Parish Councillors agreed the May newsletter would include the following subject to space:

- New Parish Councillors.
- New Parish Clerk
- New meeting dates.
- Update on Wark Castle project.
- Update on defibrillator project.
- Mindrum Gardens
- What the Parish Council have lobbied for over the last year i.e. Bus Services, Highway's issues, signage & footpaths.

County Councillor M Mather to provide a copy of Wooler Parish Council's Do's & Don'ts to let residents know what the Parish Council are responsible for.
The Clerk to print 160 copies & Parish Councillors to undertake the deliveries.

Min 583- Parish Council Elections- The Clerk distributed a copy of the blank nomination form to each Parish Councillor present and explained how to complete the nomination form. The Clerk informed Parish Councillors that the completed nomination forms need to be submitted between 24th March & 1st April, there is a drop off point in Berwick. The Chairman offered to submit the completed nomination forms for Parish Councillors.

Min 584- Finance- Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk set up a free Gmail, email account at the present time and the Parish Council review the situation of email addresses for Parish Councillors after the May elections.

Min 585- Meeting dates- Parish Councillors agreed that Carham Parish Council will meet bi-monthly on the 2nd Monday of the month.

Date of the Annual Parish & Parish Council Meeting will be held on 12th May 2025 at 6.30p.m. in St Cuthbert's Church Carham

Meeting closed at 19.24 p.m.

Chairman_____