

# CARHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025 In St Cuthbert's Church Carham at 6.30p.m.

**PRESENT:** Chairman P Feerick, Vice-Chairman M De Fusco,  
Parish Councillors J Chubb, J McGregor, V Poland & D Wells  
County Councillor M Mather  
Dan Perry Constable Neighbourhood Policing (Rural)  
Clerk I Hunter  
3 Members of public

**Public Question Time:** None

**Community Police:** Dan Perry provided the following verbal update:

No Crimes or ASB

Even though there are no crime trends locally at present time please can everybody remember to be vigilant.

Parish Councillor V Poland asked about the status of Northumbria Connected. Dan Perry replied there had been deficiencies within the system, however a new scheme is to be rolled out.

Dan Perry Constable Neighbourhood Policing (Rural) left the meeting at that point.

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the Parish Council meeting and proposed that the Parish Council held 1 minute's silence in memory of Agnes Changleng the former Clerk who had passed away recently.

One minute's silence was held in memory of Agnes Changleng.

Parish Councillor J McGregor advised the meeting that a Memorial Service would be held in the Volunteer Hall Galashiels on 24<sup>th</sup> July at 1pm for Agnes Changleng if people would like to attend.

**Min 610- Apologies for Absence:** None

**Min 611- Declaration of Interest:** Parish Councillor V Poland declared a personal & prejudicial interest in Agenda item No 15 – defibrillators as a member of the Carham Defibs committee.

**Min 612- Request for Dispensation-** None

**Min 613- Minutes of the Meeting:** The Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 previously circulated were agreed as a true record, The Chairman signed a hard copy.

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**Matters arising from the minutes if not already on the agenda-** None

Ch's Initials \_\_\_\_\_



**Min 615- County Councillor report-** County Councillor M Mather provided the following updates:

I am the Portfolio Holder for Highways, which also, covers footpaths, toilets and other services. We are hoping to work with Town & Parish Councils an example is investigating if Northumberland County Council could provide a gov.uk website & gov.uk email addresses for Parish Councils as the current offer from NALC is too expensive for some of the smaller Parish Councils.

Town & Parish Councils will receive a letter in the next week or so explaining how the annual request for 3 priorities for the Local Transport Plan will change to asking for 3 priorities on a 3-yearly basis, starting from September 2025, This will allow Northumberland County Council Highways Officers time to design, develop & deliver the schemes over the 3 year period, However, the quick wins may be delivered in year 1. There will be training available for Town & Parish Councillors as well as Clerks. There will be a small % of the budget retained each year in case unexpected work must be undertaken for health & safety reasons.

Please keep reporting issues on Fix my Street.

Berwick School Partnership- There was an open meeting at Berwick Academy on 9<sup>th</sup> July where 4 design options for the new High School building were on display.

Bus Service- The lobbying from Carham Parish Council has been noted, Northumberland County Council & Scottish Borders Council continue to hold monthly meetings. We are looking to find a workable solution for the whole of the parish and surrounding area. I hope to have a further update for the September Parish Council meeting.

**Min 616- Annual Insurance Premium-** Parish Councillors ratified the payment of £333 to Zurich Municipal for the 2025/26 Annual Insurance Premium.

**Min 617- Website-** Parish Councillors ratified the payment of £ 62.40 to Wordpress for the annual Parish Council website fees.

**Min 618- Financial Statement-** Bank Balance £ 3815.01

**Min 619- Receipts-**

- |        |           |            |
|--------|-----------|------------|
| • HMRC | £ 1299.73 | VAT Refund |
|--------|-----------|------------|

**Min 620- Accounts for Payment**

- |                    |         |                                    |
|--------------------|---------|------------------------------------|
| • Bank of Scotland | £ 12.75 | Bank charges – 3 months            |
| • Wordpress        | £ 62.40 | Website- Annual fees               |
| • Zurich Municipal | £333.00 | Annual Insurance premium           |
| • Playsafety Ltd   | £ 96.00 | Play Area- Annual ROSPA Inspection |

**Min 621- Public Right of Way-** Parish Councillors considered the current consultation for the proposed diversion on Public Footpath No 27. Parish Councillors agreed the following response.

The private road needs to be sign posted and the Right of Way needs to be clearly marked at 3 strategic points.

**Min 622- Play Area-**

- Parish Councillors received the Annual ROSPA inspection report of the play area, which raised some points however none of the items of play equipment are deemed unsafe, but some play equipment is nearly it's end of life.



- Parish Councillors noted that the play area is not well used and agreed that the options for the future of the play area need to be investigated.
- Parish Councillors asked Parish Councillor J McGregor if the Wark-on-Tweed Charity would consider replacing some of the play equipment, suggesting if this was not an option the Parish Council may need to consider what options are available to the Parish Council.
- Parish Councillor J McGregor agreed to investigate the request and told the meeting that Wark-on-Tweed Charity had submitted a Community Asset Transfer request to Northumberland County Council for the land, stating that locally we do not wish to lose the asset.
- Parish Councillors agreed the payment of £96 to Playsafety Ltd for the Annual ROSPA inspection for the play area.

**Min 623- Defibrillator-** Parish Councillor V Poland provided the following updates:

- The late Agnes Changleng was the Treasurer for the Carham Parish Defibs.
- The committee had managed to access electric power for the West Moneylaws & Carham defibrillators; therefore, the committee are purchasing 2 defibrillators.
- The next fundraising event is on 20<sup>th</sup> July at the Cornhill Village Fair.
- We need an electric access point for the Wark defibrillator and Northumberland County Council are asking for approx. £1k to use a streetlight. County Councillor M Mather agreed to ask about the possibility of using a car charging point.

County Councillor M Mather agreed to run a training session in the summer, if he was available.

**Min 624- Speed Warning Sign-** Parish Councillor J McGregor read out the update he had received from Swarco and questioned that he did not think there had been a visit by the engineer recently. Parish Councillors agreed that Parish Councillor J McGregor should continue to take the lead on this project.

**Min 625- Parish Council noticeboard-** Parish Councillor D Wells advised the meeting that the local Men's Shed group had advised him that due to the current condition of the noticeboard it will need to be rebuilt, which will cost approx. £80.  
Parish Councillors agreed to accept the quote of £80 to rebuild the noticeboard. Parish Councillor D Wells to continue to take the lead on this project.

**Min 626- Correspondence**

- **Citizens Advice-** Email- request for a donation- Parish Councillors agreed to consider this request at the March 2026 Parish Council meeting
- **NCC-** Email- Invite to QTS Data Centre Briefing 30/7- The Vice-Chairman agreed to attend the event.
- **Bywell Parish Council-**Email- Invite for Chairman to attend a Parish Council Chairman's meeting. Parish Councillors agreed Carham Parish Council would not attend the meeting and would like the Parish Council's name removed from the emailing list.

**Min 627- Local Transport Plan 2026/27-** Following the update from County Councillor M Mather at Min 615 it was agreed to defer this agenda item until the September Parish Council meeting.

**Min 628- Parish Council gov.uk website & email addresses-**



- Parish Councillors noted that as of March 26 all Parish Councils must have a gov.uk website & gov.uk email address for each Parish Councillor + the Clerk.  
The Clerk advised the meeting that as a County Councillor she is working with County Councillor M Mather to see if Northumberland County Council can provide a service to enable Parish Councils to meet the necessary requirements.
- Parish Councillors agreed to receive an update at the September Parish Council meeting.

**Any Other Business.**

**Min 629- Planning Application**

25/02039/VARYCO- Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) on approved application 23/03442/FUL in order to change opening windows from Top Sash to Side Hung. Pressen Farm Cornhill-on-tweed Cornhill-on-Tweed Northumberland TD12 4RS  
Parish Councillors considered the above planning application and agreed to submit no comments to the planning application

**Min 630- Planning Approvals**

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

24/03649/FUL- Erection of 3 custom/self-build town houses Land at Courtyard Gardens Wark Cornhill-On-Tweed Northumberland TD12 4FH

**Min 631- St Cuthbert's Church Carham-** The Chairman advised the meeting that

Mr Straker-Smith had informed him that the PCC are investigating the installation of toilet facilities within the Church to allow it to have an increased usage, and the first step is to investigate the Archaeology etc.

**Min 632- Local Issues-** Parish Councillor J McGregor raised concerns about access from Wark village onto the B6350 due to visibility, suggesting the installation of a mirror at the junction.

County Councillor M Mather advised the meeting that Northumberland County Council do not support mirrors and suggested that the Clerk contact Northumberland County Council and request a site meeting with Highways Officers to look at the road markings and signage at the junction in question. This was agreed.

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 6.30p.m.  
in St Cuthbert's Church Carham

Meeting closed at 8p.m.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Ch's Initials \_\_\_\_\_