

# CARHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 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  
Clerk I Hunter  
4 Members of public

**Public Question Time:** None

**Community Police:** The Chairman read out the following report:

**Crimes and incidents** – Nothing had been reported since the last meeting

**Local issues** - No new reports of anti-social behaviour and or speeding in the village which is monitored on a general basis around the rural areas when demand allows.

**Community engagement** – Nothing to pass on this month.

Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk make the Police aware of the theft of books & DVDs from the Wark Telephone Box. Parish Councillor J McGregor to be copied into the email.

**Min 633- Chairman's Welcome-** The Chairman welcomed everybody to the Parish Council meeting and proposed that the Parish Council hold 1 minute's silence in memory of Bill Potts a former Parish Councillor who had passed away recently.

One minute's silence was held in memory of Billy Potts.

**Min 634- Apologies for Absence:** None

**Min 635- Declaration of Interest:** Parish Councillor V Poland declared a personal & prejudicial interest in Agenda item No 13 – defibrillators as a member of the Carham Defibs committee.

Parish Councillor J McGregor declared a personal & prejudicial interest in Agenda item No 12- Play Area as Chairman of Wark on Tweed Charity.

The Clerk declared a personal interest in Agenda item No 8 the Annual National pay rise for 2025/26.

**Min 636- Request for Dispensation-** None

**Min 637- Minutes of the Meeting:** The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025 previously circulated were agreed as a true record, The Chairman signed a hard copy.

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

**Min 638 (Min 621)- Public Right of Way-** The Chairman reported that Northumberland County Council will install signposts on the Public Footpath No 27. However, it will be up to the landowners to erect signage on the private road to say “No Access”

**Min 639- County Councillor report-** County Councillor M Mather provided the following updates:

**Berwick School Partnership-** There was a public consultation event recently where 3-4 design options for the new High School building were displayed. The next step is for a report to go to Northumberland County Council Cabinet. We still have had no communication from DfE in relation to the extra £13m

**Local Transport Plan-** There is a guidance workshop at Alnwick on 29<sup>th</sup> September and each Parish Council in the north can send up to 2 Parish Councillors.

**Gov.uk website & email addresses-** I have had meetings with a Northumberland County Council IT Officer to see if Northumberland County Council could provide a reasonable priced secure provision for Parish Councils. Currently the IT Officer is investigating an alternative provider for email addresses as Microsoft are unable to provide discounts for Local Government departments which include Parish Councils: the price offered by Microsoft is too expensive. Northumberland County Council IT Department hope to provide a costed option shortly.

**Highways-** There are works proposed to be undertaken to the highway through Wark.

**Bus Service-** Thank you to the residents who have responded to the consultation so far. The 266 Wooler to Berwick service will be replaced with the 34 & 34A which will travel from Wooler to Kelso via Carham & Wark. At the request of residents Coldstream had been added to the 34 service.

We are currently looking at the ticket prices as it is hoped that the prices will be the English £3 per trip even if going over the border. As well as considering the charging for under 18's as all youngsters under 18 in Scotland go free.

We are investigating if the school bus could take members of the public.

We are looking into having an additional later bus on a Saturday as it is not required for school transport as well as investigating if that bus service could link up with Tweedbank Rail Link.

The changes will come into effect on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

**Min 640- Annual Review of Clerk's salary 2025/26-** Parish Councillors considered and agreed the latest SLCC/NALC pay scales for 2025/26. The Clerk is on SPC 10.

**Min 641- Financial Statement-** Bank Balance £ 3710.51

**Min 642- Accounts for Payment**

• Bank of Scotland	£ 8.50	Bank charges – 2 months
• E I Hunter	£ 369.05	Salary 3.5 hours @ £13.91 per hour + 28.75 hours @ £14.35 per hour
• HMRC	£ 92.20	PAYE
• E I Hunter	£ 9.36	Expenses
• D Wells	£ 80.00	Noticeboard - repairs

**Min 643- Planning Approval**

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 TD12 4RS

**Min 644- Play Area-**

- Parish Councillor J McGregor spoke as Chairman of the Wark-on-Tweed Charity. We have held a site meeting with Northumberland County Council officers in relation to a new facility within the play area.  
We will need to remove some play equipment, and some play equipment will need to be replaced with longer lasting play equipment.  
We have met with the Architect/Project Manager, and Northumberland County Council are in favour in principle of our proposals.  
We will be raising funds for the building only. Therefore, there will need to be some consideration and research on how funds could be raised for new play equipment.

**Min 645- Defibrillator-** Parish Councillor V Poland provided the following updates:

- The committee had purchased 1 defibrillator each for West Moneylaws & Carham
- We are awaiting an electrical solution for Wark defibrillators. The options for locations could be the play area & telephone box.
- The committee had received £155 donation, which is a share of the collection for the Late Agnes Changleng.
- There will be a defibrillator & CPR training session on 18<sup>th</sup> September

**Min 646- Speed Warning Sign-** Parish Councillor J McGregor advised the meeting that the speed warning sign in Wark is now working. The Chairman thanked Parish Councillor J McGregor for his hard work on this issue.**Min 647- Parish Council noticeboard-** Parish Councillor D Wells advised the meeting that the local Men's Shed group had repaired the Parish Council noticeboard at a cost of £80, and the noticeboard is now back in situ.  
Parish Councillor D Wells advised the meeting that he had paid the £80.  
Parish Councillors agreed to reimburse Parish Councillor D Wells with the £80.**Min 648- Correspondence**

- NCC- Email- Corporate Performance Report + letter from Leader
- NCC- Email- Introduction to Portfolio Holder for Highways
- NCC- Email- Invitation for Town and Parish Councillors to attend a meeting re Budget and Corporate Priorities

**Min 649- Highways**

- Parish Councillor J McGregor advised the meeting that Parish Councillors had attended a site meeting in Wark with Northumberland County Council Highway's Officer, who had agreed to investigate options.
- Parish Councillor J McGregor proposed that the Wark residents consider the feedback from Northumberland County Council Highway's Officer as this is not a Parish Council matter. This was agreed.
- The Vice-Chairman asked about the weight limit on the bridge coming from Cornhill. County Councillor M Mather responded to say that the weight limit on the bridge complies with National standards.

**Min 650- Local Transport Plan 2026/27 to 2028/29**

- Parish Councillors considered the feedback from Northumberland County Council in relation to the Parish Council's 3 priorities for 2025/26.

- Parish Councillors agreed to submit the following 2 Priorities as the Parish Council's priorities for the Northumberland County Council 2026/27 to 2028/29 Local Transport Plan.
  - 1- Public Right of Way improvement at Wark Castle (210/002)
  - 2- Public Right of Way improvement at Piper Dean Lane.
- The Vice-Chairman & Parish Councillor V Poland agreed to attend the Local Transport Programme guidance workshop at Alnwick on 29<sup>th</sup> September

**Min 651- Consultation-** Parish Councillors considered responding to the consultation from Northumberland County Council Northumberland Local Plan 'Call for Sites'. Parish Councillors agreed to respond to the Clerk before 30<sup>th</sup> September if they wished any sites to be included within the Northumberland Local Plan.

**Min 652- Parish Council gov.uk website & email addresses-** This was covered at Min 639.

**Any Other Business.** None

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 6.30p.m. in St Cuthbert's Church Carham

### **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Parish Councillors passed the following resolution:

**The Council may be recommended to pass a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the media and public from the discussion of the following business on the basis that public discussion may prejudice the Council's position and/or staffing issues may be discussed.**

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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