

CARHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10th November 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
7 Members of public

Public Question Time: A member of the public asked if there were any updates on the changes to the bus service.
County Councillor M Mather replied he would provide an update within his County Councillor report.

Community Police: The Chairman read out the following report:
Since the last meeting on the 8th of September there has been no crime recorded within Carham. Furthermore, there have been no incidents of specific anti-social behaviour. There has been a low level of reported incidents within the wider area and as we reside in a rural community it is worth noting that there have been some incidents of poaching reported. I would remind residents to report any suspicious vehicles and provide any relevant registration numbers if they are able and it is applicable to do so. There are no other further crime trends that I need to pass on currently

Min 654- Chairman's Welcome- The Chairman had no updates.

Min 655- Apologies for Absence: None

Min 656- Declaration of Interest: Parish Councillor V Poland declared a personal & prejudicial interest in Agenda item No 11 – defibrillators as a member of the Carham Defibs committee.

Parish Councillor J McGregor declared a personal & prejudicial interest in Agenda item No 10- Play Area as Chairman of Wark on Tweed Charity.

Min 657- Request for Dispensation- None

Min 658- Minutes of the Meeting: The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th September 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- None

Min 659- County Councillor report- County Councillor M Mather provided the following updates:
Winter preparedness- Northumberland County Council are ready to go, we are testing a on spot treatment new system, where we will treat target areas on evenings when it is marginal if roads need to be treated which will be a cost saving and better for the environment.

Highways- The Leader of Northumberland County Council & I have had meetings with National Highways about the non-dualling of the A1 raising concerns about the impact this is having on the A697, asking if they will provide any support for the repairs and maintenance of the A697 as National Highways have stated there will be no improvements until 2029-2030 and that will only be safety works at junctions etc.

We are pushing the North-East Road Safety Partnership to provide Northumberland County Council with funding for average speed cameras; however, the first step is to investigate the legalities about the use of the cameras with the Police.

Flags- There has been an influx on the flying of flags, therefore Northumberland County Council have agreed if a community would like to fly a flag, they would be supportive to the community when they make an application for the installation of a flagpole.

Local Transport Plan- A big thank you to the Parish Councillors who attended the recent workshop, there are 1000's of different sites which need to be visited and assessed.

Recycling- The South-East & Central Northumberland will receive food waste bins; the scheme cannot be rolled out across the whole of the county due to the size of the county and level of funding received. However, every house will receive an additional bin for cardboard & fibrous materials which will be separated from other plastics. Also, we will start to collect glass.

Use of streetlights- Northumberland County Council have agreed under a Service Level Agreement Town & Parish Councils will be able to use streetlights to power speed warning signs & defibrillators.

Bus Service- The new bus timetable has only just arrived; Border Buses will provide 1x additional service on a Saturday.

Bus passes will be valid on both sides of the border.

The new service will come into effect in early 2026.

The bus service to Wooler will be available on a Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday.

I recognise that at the present time the proposed amended bus service does not link with the bus service heading to Berwick, we are investigating if the services can be linked.

Dr's Surgery- There is currently a consultation in relation to the Wooler Dr's Surgery offering to extend their provision of services up to the Scottish border.

Min 660- Financial Statement- Bank Balance £ 4401.40

Min 661- Accounts

Receipts

- Northumberland CC £1250.00 ½ Annual precept

Payments

- Bank of Scotland £ 12.75 Bank charges – 3 months
- E I Hunter £ 96.37 Salary 11.5 hours @ £13.91 per hour
- HMRC £ 63.60 PAYE
- E I Hunter £ 21.62 Expenses

Min 662- Play Area

- Parish Councillor J McGregor spoke as Chairman of the Wark-on-Tweed Charity. The Charity is currently undertaking research on what people would like on the area as we need to know this before we can apply for grants. However, in the meantime the current play equipment will be maintained/repared as and when required. Northumberland County Council have stated that the lease must remain with the Parish Council, however, Wark-on-Tweed Charity can be a sub-tenant.

A planning application for the site will be submitted by the end of 2025.
The Parish Council will need to consider at a future meeting who will pay for and maintain the play park in the future.

Min 663- Defibrillator- Parish Councillor V Poland provided the following updates:

- The defibrillators at West Moneylaws & Carham have now been installed and are registered with The Circuit. There are 2 registered guardians for each of the defibrillators.
- 25 people attended the defibrillator & CPR training session on 18th September.
- We still need to install a defibrillator at Mindrum Station & Wark car park.
- We need to purchase a cabinet for the Wark defibrillator.
- I have submitted a funding application to NEAS for a defibrillator.
- I will be attending the Cornhill Christmas Fair.

Min 664- Wark Telephone box

- The Chairman provided the following update on the ground's maintenance around the telephone box:
The land around the telephone box is unregistered, therefore if we can demonstrate we have looked after the area for approx. 11 years we can claim ownership.
- The Chairman proposed the Parish Council consider the following quotes for works to the area around the telephone box, stating that Wark-on-Tweed Charity is willing to make a £250 donation towards the works.
 - 1- Gordon Laing £430 + VAT to gravel & pave the area behind telephone box
 - 2- 1x bag of bark to suppress weeds £76 + VATParish Councillors debated the proposal, noting there had been continual expenditure on works to the area over the previous 5-years.
Parish Councillors agreed by a majority vote to accept the quotes.
- Parish Councillors agreed the Chairman to place the order and organise the proposed works
Parish Councillor J McGregor advised the meeting that local volunteers are willing to maintain the area once the proposed works are completed.

Min 665- Correspondence

- **NALC-** Email- Invite to AGM 15th November
- **Citizens Advice-** Email- Invite to AGM 1st December
- **Residents-** Emails – Re Bus service
- **Ad Gefrin-** Email- Nominations for Community Awards by 28th November.
- **NCC-** Email – Re free tree giveaway
- **NCC-** Email- Elected members Prevent handbook
- **NCC-** Email- Information on winter preparedness

Min 666- Highways- No updates

Min 667- Consultation- Parish Councillors completed the current Northumberland County Council Parish Pre Consultation Questionnaire for the Community Governance Review. Parish Councillors agreed that they would be willing to extend the Parish boundary to include local unparished areas.

Min 668- Parish Council gov.uk website & email addresses-

- The Clerk advised the meeting that the Parish Council had to have a gov.uk website & gov.uk email address for each Parish Councillor + the Clerk by March 2026.
The Clerk provided the following options:
 - 1- Northumberland County Council would offer the provision for a cost of £350 per year + 1 one off payment of £100 to register the domain.
 - 2- NALC can offer the provision for £359.28 per year; however, the Parish Council will not own the domain.
- Parish Councillor V Poland stated that the current Community website is used to communicate with residents, and the Parish Council would need to know what information will be available on the gov.uk website.
- Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk obtain answers to Parish Councillor V Poland's questions, agreeing that Northumberland County Council is the preferred option for a gov.uk website & email addresses.

Min 669- Parish Council budget 2026/27

- Parish Councillors commenced the budget setting process for 2026/27.
- Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk investigate if the Parish Council can open a Savings Account.
- County Councillor M Mather stated there may be funding available for the footpaths in the Wark Castle area
- Parish Councillors agreed to consider what they would like included within the budget ahead of the January meeting where the final budget will be agreed.

Any Other Business. None

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be on 12th January 2026 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.

Min 670- Minutes of the Confidential Parish Council Meeting held on 8th September 2025

Parish Councillors received and endorsed the Minutes of the Confidential Parish Council Meeting held on 8th September 2025 previously circulated.

Chairman_____

Date_____