CARHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council website: https://carhamparish.org

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7th September 2026
In St Cuthbert's Church Carham at 6.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman M De Fusco
Parish Councillors J Chubb, J McGregor, J Moore & D Wells
County Councillor M Mather
Clerk I Hunter
1Member of public

Public Question Time: None

Community Police: The Clerk read out the following report
Since the last meeting on 13th July there has been no crime or disorder recorded within the Carham parish.
Since this date within wider North Northumberland there have been a few incidents of rural thefts with motorbikes and vehicles being specifically targeted. These reports remain under investigation. There have also been incidents of poaching whereby the poachers have caused damage to farm boundaries to gain access to fields. As a result, can I please ask all residents to secure their property as best they are able. Can I ask that they report any suspicious persons and or vehicles particularly those that may be paying attention to farm premises. I remain contactable via the usual means but if there are incidents going on at the time and directly being witnessed could it be ensured that residents report those at the time and via the appropriate means.
County Councillor M Mather advised the meeting that people should ring 999 if the incident is happening now or report an issue via 101 or online if it is not a live incident.

Min 756-Chairman's welcome- The Chairman welcomed everyone to the September Parish Council meeting. Parish Councillors agreed to remove the Chairman's welcome from future agendas as the Chairman always welcomes everyone to the Parish Council meeting.

Min 757- Apologies for Absence: None

Min 758- Declaration of Interest: Parish Councillors J McGregor & D Wells declared a personal & prejudicial interest in Agenda No 14 the transfer the play area from Northumberland County Council to the Parish Council & Planning Application No 26/03015/FUL for a village hall in Wark as they are both Trustees of Wark-on-Tweed Charity.

Min 759- Request for Dispensation- None

Min 760- Minutes of the Meeting: The previously circulated Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th July 2026 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 761- County Councillor report- County Councillor M Mather provided the following updates:
The summer break is coming to an end, therefore, meetings etc are just restarting.

Road resurfacing- The 2026 surface dressing programme is coming to an end, works have been undertaken on the A697 & A698, thank you for your patience during the disruptions.
I am looking to see if additional funding can be found to extend the proposed structural patching in Wark to go further north.
There will be nighttime closures on the A697 in the Milfield & Wooler area soon to allow works to be undertaken.

Police- I have submitted a FOI to the Police to ascertain how many Police Officers in the north area are available at any one time especially at night-time.
The Police & Crime Commissioner undertook a visit to the Wooler ward recently, however, I as the local member was not invited to meet her.
I am meeting with Northumbria Police & Northumberland County Council officers, about installing speed cameras in locations in Northumberland which will include the A697. Cornhill may be considered as a possible location, and it is hoped in the future to have mobile locations for the cameras.

Winter preparedness- Northumberland County Council have started their preparations for the 2026/27 winter season.

Min 762- Annual Review of Clerk's salary 2026/27

- Parish Councillors agreed the latest SLCC/NALC pay scales for 2026/27. The Clerk is on SPC 8.
- Parish Councillor agreed the payment of 34 hours@ 45p per hour back pay

Min 763- Financial Statement

- Current Account £1,900.23
- Instant Access Savings A/c £2,008.77

Min 764- Receipts-

- Bank of Scotland £ 1.70 Instant Access Savings A/c- Interest

Min 765- Accounts for Payment

• Bank of Scotland	£ 12.75	Monthly service charge x 3
• St Cuthbert's Church	£ 190.00	Annual room hire fee
• E I Hunter	£ 153.83	Salary 16.75 hours @ £14.36 per hour + back pay.
• HMRC	£ 102.00	PAYE
• J Lauder	£ 228.07	Repairs to the play areas & noticeboard

Min 766- Planning Applications- Parish Councillors ratified the Parish Council's submission of "No Objections" to the following planning applications.

26/02304/FUL- Temporary access and vegetation clearance to enable works at Bridge Pier 3. The works involve temporarily diverting the watercourse using cofferdams and a pipe to dewater the work area, excavating riverbed and

bank material, and installing geotextile and rip-rap erosion protection. On completion, the riverbed and banks will be reinstated using site-won material, topsoil, biodegradable geotextile, and grass seeding to restore the area and encourage vegetation growth. Street Record Panama Viaduct Carham Berwick Borough Footpath 011 Carham

26/02305/LBC - Listed Building Consent is sought for temporary access and vegetation clearance to enable works at Bridge Pier 3. The works involve temporarily diverting the watercourse using cofferdams and a pipe to dewater the work area, excavating riverbed and bank material, and installing geotextile and rip-rap erosion protection. On completion, the riverbed and banks will be reinstated using site-won material, topsoil, biodegradable geotextile, and grass seeding to restore the area and encourage vegetation growth. Street Record Panama Viaduct Carham Berwick Borough Footpath 011 Carham Northumberland.

Parish Councillors agreed as the following planning application had only just been received that the 3 Parish Councillors who do not have a personal & prejudicial interest will consider this planning application via email. The response to the planning application will be reported to the November meeting.

26/03015/FUL- Construction of a single storey building for use as village hall for the local and surrounding community. Wark Play area Wark

Min 767- Planning Withdrawals

26/01442/FUL-Construction of single storey building for use as a village hall for the local and surrounding community-Wark Play area Wark

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Min 768-Play Area-

- Parish Councillor J McGregor advised the meeting that the noticeboard had been repaired and is now back in situ and the fence repairs identified in the Annual ROSPA report had been completed.

Parish Councillor J McGregor requested permission for the timber climbing frame to be removed due to its deteriorating condition.

- Parish Councillors agreed that Parish Councillor J McGregor organise the removal of the timber climbing frame.
- Parish Councillors agreed the payment of £228.07 to J Lauder for repairs to the noticeboard & play area fence.
- Parish Councillor J McGregor provided a verbal update on the Expression of Interest for the land to be transferred to Carham Parish Council from Northumberland County Council.
  Parish Councillors agreed in principle for the land to be transferred to Carham Parish Council depending on the wording within the terms of transfer.
  Parish Councillors agreed that the Clerk to submit the previously circulated draft Expression of Interest form to Northumberland County Council.
- Parish Councillors agreed instead of the Parish Council nominating one Parish Councillor to be the lead Parish Councillor to work on the terms of reference for the transfer, that all 3 Parish Councillors who did not have a personal & prejudicial interest would meet with the members of Wark-on-Tweed Charity in October to consider the draft Head of Terms. Parish Councillor J McGregor to be the lead member for the Wark-on-Tweed Charity Committee.

Min 769- Public Rights of Way-

- Parish Councillor J Chubb advised the meeting that she had been in dialogue with the Northumberland County Council Rights of Way Officer, about the state of the Piperdean Bridle Way which is overgrown and floods. She went on to say that the Northumberland County Council Rights of Way Officer, had told her that Northumberland County Council does not have a statutory duty to reimburse Parish Councils for works undertaken on Public Rights of Ways within their parish, and if any works are to be funded it has to be part of the Northumberland County Council, budget, value for money and any funds would be for one cut only.
  Parish Councillor J Chubb advised the meeting that she been trying to obtain quotes for the following works to be undertaken on Piperdean: the vegetation to be cut and a drain to be installed. So far, the only estimate she had received was £100 from The Perennial Gardener to top the Bridle Way.
- Parish Councillors agreed as a first step Parish Councillor J Moore & the Clerk try to ascertain the landowner before the November Parish Council meeting

Min 770- Trees- Parish Councillor J McGregor advised the meeting that he was going to undertake a site visit with former Parish Councillor V Poland to ascertain the requirements for replacing the plaques on the trees at 3 locations within the parish known as "The Queens Green Canopy 2022".
Parish Councillors agreed Parish Councillor J McGregor to provide an update at the November Parish Council meeting

Min 771- Speed Warning Sign-

- Parish Councillors considered the quote of £658 from Swarco to attend the site and ascertain the problems with the sign, noting that this would not cover any repair costs.
- County Councillor M Mather offered to provide £2k from his County Council Small Member Improvement funding towards the purchase of a new speed warning sign, as Northumberland County Council are working with speed warning sign providers to offer a provision to Parish Councils are a reasonable cost.

- Parish Councillors agreed Parish Councillor J McGregor speak to Swarco to see if they would reduce their call out charge to investigate the issue with the sign.
- Parish Councillors agreed to delegate a budget of up to £300 to Parish Councillor J McGregor for the sign to be repaired.
- Parish Councillors agreed if the sign cannot be repaired for £300 the Parish Council accept the offer of £2k from County Councillor M Mather for the purchase of a replacement speed warning sign.

Min 772- Wark Telephone box area

- Parish Councillors agreed that £528 for a seat from Glasdon was out with the Parish Council's budget. Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk obtain costs for a backless seat ahead of the November meeting.

Min 773- Conclusion of Annual Audit 2025/26

- Parish Councillors agreed that the Annual Audit for 2025/26 is now concluded
- Parish Councillors agreed that the Parish Council Accounts for 2025/26 are now approved.

Min 774- Correspondence- Parish Councillors noted the following correspondence

- **NCC-** Email- Update on the distribution of dog poo bags
- **Resident-** Email- Update on Right of Way appeal.
- **Resident-** Email- Feedback from attending July Parish Council meeting
- **NCC-** Email- Invite to Town & Parish Council Conference on 8th October.
- **Resident-** Emails- Re mirror on edge of the road in wark village
- **NCC-** Email- Northumberland Libraries August Newsletter.

Any Other Business.

Min 775- Wark Farm sale- Parish Councillor J McGregor advised the meeting that there is a small area of land for sale in Wark village near the play area and suggested it may be worthwhile having a conversation with the selling agent.
Parish Councillors agreed that Parish Councillor J McGregor have a conversation with the selling agent and report back to the November meeting.

Min 776- Christmas get together- The Chairman proposed that Parish Councillors could have a Christmas get together in December or January. Parish Councillors agreed this was a good idea and suggested January may be a better option.

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be on 9th November 2026 at 6.30p.m.
in St Cuthbert's Church Carham

Chairman_____