

Lanchester Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held at Lynwood House on Tuesday 14th October 2025 at 7.00pm

Present Cllr. K Harrison (Chair)

Cllr. A Gray, Cllr. V Jackson, Cllr. L Montgomery, Cllr. P Jackson,
Cllr. I Tute, Cllr. B McDermid, Cllr. T Jones, Cllr. S Walker, Cllr. J Smith,
Cllr. O Johnson

PC Kat Joyce

Apologies Apologies for absence were received as follows:

Cllr. L Walker – other commitments
Cllr. E Hepplewhite - away
Cllr. D Toner – away
Cllr. D Smith - ill

The above apologies were received and approved.

154/25 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

155/25 Public Participation

Members of the public were welcomed to the meeting.

156/25 Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved that:

- (i) the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9th September 2025 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson and any recommendations contained therein be approved and accepted.

157/25 Police Report

Members were updated on the recent PACT report for September. We also had PC Kat Joyce attend the meeting who discussed a number of topics these included rural operations that were taking place in the Parish, quadbikes, parking and the criminal damage caused to the bus stops. PCSO Paul Egan has now left the police force and we will hopefully have a replacement PCSO soon

Resolved that:

- (i) that the PACT report be received.

Councillor A Gray arrived at the meeting at 7:20pm

158/25

Correspondence

- (i) OASES – A letter was received thanking the Parish Council for funding the Summer Holiday Family Activities this year, which wouldn't have been able to go ahead without our donation. The sessions were a success and highly attended by many families.

Resolved – received.

159/25

Durham County Councillor

County Cllr A Gray provided an update on the areas she has recently been working on, these included

- Alison is on the 'Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee'
- Met with the Clean and Green Team from DCC regarding trees in the Village
- Attending a coffee morning regarding getting more people to travel on buses
- Attended the Longvicium open evening
- Met with the parking team to discuss the parking problems at Fenhall Park and Front Street
- Dealt with complaints about scaffolding causing problems, speeding on Station Road and dog attacks
- Meeting with Joy Allen regarding the problems with quadbikes around the Village
- Contributing towards a drone
- A speeding sign is being installed on Durham Road
- AAPs have been taken over by Local Networks, they have a larger area to support

Resolved – Councillors asked Alison if she could look into the maintenance schedule for the Village and update at a future meeting.

Councillor B McDermid left the meeting at 8:15pm

160/25

Haystax Holiday Park

Councillor Keith Harrison attended the Committee meeting for this planning application which was approved. Some concerns were raised from the Committee meeting:

- Static caravans were being called lodges at the meeting, giving a false description of the application

- The planning consultant stated that there were only four councillors at our Council meeting dated the 9th of September as documented in our minutes there were ten Councillors in attendance

Resolved – The Council has sent a letter of objection.

161/25 Planning Applications

Members were updated on the following planning applications:

- Land East Of Edge Lane Maiden Law DH7 0RY - Installation and operation of a ground mounted photovoltaic (PV) solar energy generation system (solar farm), battery storage facility, electrical substation and associated infrastructure - DM/22/01769/FPA

Resolved – The Clerk to work with and support Burnhope Parish Council

- Land South East Of Hollinside Hall Lanchester DH7 0RN - New stable block with associated grazing and recreation area within the gardens of the existing hall - DM/22/03802/FPA

Resolved – Councillors were updated that this planning application had been approved.

162/25 Unadopted Trees

Councillors discussed trees at Valley Grove that residents had concerns about but Durham County Council were not taking responsibility for.

Resolved – that the information be received.

163/25 Potential Collaboration on Village Life Project

Members were advised on a project regarding Lanchester

Resolved – Councillors are happy to help with the project

164/25 Tree Surveys

Members voted on which company should be given the tree works contract.

Resolved – Batson Groundcare Environment Experts won the vote.

165/25 Emails – gov.uk/Assertion 10

Members were advised that for the Council to comply with Assertion 10 Councillors need to change their email address' to a 'gov.uk' address

Resolved – The Clerk attending a training course on Assertion 10 and will give Councillors more information at a future meeting.

166/25 Christmas Light Switch on

Members discussed the event, decisions were made on who would switch on the lights this year.

Resolved – that the information be received.

167/25 Annual Return 2024/25

Councillors received the papers returned from external audit. External audit confirmed that no matters had come to their attention which gave cause for concern.

Resolved - that the Annual Return be approved and accepted.

168/25 Financial Information

The Clerk presented the report.

Resolved – that the report be approved.

169/25 Accounts for Payment

Resolved - that the following accounts be approved for payment:

Durham County Council	Festive Lighting	£2056.82
David Maddox	Salary (September)	£817.28
Laura Dodd	Salary (September)	£1861.22
Durham County Council	Pension (September)	£588.88
Friends of Longovicium	Grant	£200.00
P Snowdon	Hanging Baskets	£264.00
L Dodd	Expenses	£70.93

170/25 Chairperson's Announcement

A donation of £150 towards the printing costs and wreath was approved for the Remembrance Sunday Service.

171/25 Date of next meeting

Resolved – that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council will take place on Tuesday 11th November at 7.00pm

Meeting ended at 9:00pm