

Lanchester Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held at Lynwood House on Tuesday 9th December 2025 at 7.00pm

Present Cllr. K Harrison (Chair)

Cllr. A Gray, Cllr. V Jackson, Cllr. P Jackson, Cllr. I Tute,
Cllr. B McDermid, Cllr. T Jones, Cllr. S Walker, Cllr. O Johnson,
Cllr. E Hepplewhite, Cllr. D Toner, Cllr. D Smith

Apologies Apologies for absence were received as follows:

Cllr. J Smith – away
Cllr. L Walker – family commitments
Cllr. L Montgomery – ill

The above apologies were received and approved.

188/25 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

189/25 Public Participation

There were no members of the public at the meeting.

190/25 Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved that:

(i) the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11th November 2025 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson and any recommendations contained therein be approved and accepted.

191/25 Police Report

Members were updated on the recent PACT report for November

Resolved – that the information be received.

192/25

Durham County Councillor

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

- Solar Farm at Burnhope may go to appeal
- Lanchester Medical Centre – ongoing concerns, another meeting is being held in early January. AG writing a letter on behalf of the Parish Council with our concerns
- Drone has been funded by 5 County Councillors
- Meeting with Maxine Stubbs regarding the concerns with traffic near Station Road
- A 'Keep Clear' sign has been requested in the car park behind the Spar
- Fly tipping on Peth Bank is still a problem. Malcolm Whittaker the Neighbourhood Warden to be informed of the issue

Resolved – that the information be received.

193/25

Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan Review

Members were updated on the information received from a Chartered Town Planner on reviewing our Neighbourhood Plan.

Resolved – Clerk to seek advice from other Parish Councils who have a Neighbourhood Plan and from CDALC.

194/25

Christmas Light Switch on Event 2025

The event was another success. Hanleys won the £200 prize for the best Christmas window.

Resolved – A donation of £100 to the Brass Band and Lanchester Male Voice and Friends Choir was approved. Next year's Christmas Light Switch on Event will be held on 28th November.

195/25

Animal Wood Carvings

Councillors were given the price to update the animal wood carvings on the Village Green.

Resolved – Clerk to organise a site visit with Tom from T W Fiddes Sculpture and Councillors in the New Year.

196/25

Buskers and Friends for Willow Burn Project

Members received a request for the Parish Council to donate to the Buskers and Friends project to raise money for Willow Burn. Councillors

asked if the request could be brought to the March meeting when all other donation requests will be considered. Some members agreed to make a personal donation to the cause.

Resolved – that the information be received.

197/25 Grass Cutting Contract

Members were informed that in order for the grass cutting contract to be awarded that tenders would need to be sought and brought back to full Council meeting.

Resolved – The Clerk to go out to tender for the 2026 contract. The Clerk to also obtain a quote for the hanging baskets.

198/25 Lanchester Medical Centre

Members discussed the ongoing concerns at the Medical Centre.

Resolved – County Councillor Alison Gray to write a letter on behalf of the Parish Council and the Clerk to distribute the letter to the relevant organisations.

199/25 Planning Enforcement – Front Street

Members were informed of concerns a resident had regarding building works taking place on Lanchester Front Street.

Resolved – County Councillor Alison Gray to contact Durham County Council to receive more information.

200/25 Solar Planet Project

Councillors were given an update on the project

Resolved – that the information be received.

201/25 Tree Planting

Councillors were informed of a request received by the Tree Planting Volunteers.

Resolved – The Clerk to invite the group to a future meeting.

202/25

The Pension Regulator

Councillors were updated on the information received.

Resolved – that the information be received.

203/25

Budgets 2026/27

The Clerk presented report B.

Resolved – small changes be made to a couple of sections and the proposed budget for 2026/27 be approved.

AG left meeting.

204/25

Financial Information

The Clerk presented the report.

Resolved – that the report be approved.

205/25

Accounts for Payment

Resolved - that the following accounts be approved for payment:

David Maddox	Salary (November)	£723.78
Laura Dodd	Salary (November)	£1650.89
DCC	Pension (November)	£509.83
Npower	Electricity Nov 24 – Jan 25	£466.05
Lanchester Country	Card	£2.15
Post Office	Post	£3.40
Etsy	Gifts – Xmas lights	£254.00
Cotton Twist	Gifts – Xmas lights	£492.50
Amazon	Cups – Xmas lights	£17.87
Andersons	Gift Bags – Xmas lights	£66.04
Hancocks	Chocolates – Xmas lights	£169.15
Post Office	Post	£3.15
HMRC	PAYE/NI	£1680.44
Post Office	Post	£4.35
P Snowdon	Watering Hanging Baskets	£486.40
Damascus	Sound System – Xmas lights	£65.00
AD Purves	Grass Cutting	£4661.34
Tribune	Stationery	£416.39

206/25

Chairperson's Announcement

The Chairman discussed a request for works to be carried out at the Cricket Club. This work will consist of a new disabled

entrance, replacement of a door, and replacement of fascias and guttering.

Resolved – that the request be approved.

207/25 Date of next meeting

Resolved – that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council will take place on Tuesday 13th January at 7.00pm and Finance and Development meeting will take place on Thursday 29th January at 7:00pm

Meeting ended at 9:10pm