

Lanchester Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held at Lynwood House on Tuesday 13th January 2026 at 7.00pm

Present Cllr. K Harrison (Chair)

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

Stuart Carter

Apologies Apologies for absence were received as follows:

There were no apologies.

1/26 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2/26 Public Participation

Members of the public were welcomed to the meeting.

3/26 Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved that:

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

Cllr. J Smith entered the meeting

4/26 Neighbourhood Plan Review

Stuart Carter DCC's Principal Planning Officer with the Spatial Policy Team attended the meeting to discuss how we progress with our Neighbourhood Plan Review.

Resolved – Stuart is hoping to hold a seminar that the Parish Council can attend and following that we can hopefully progress with our review.

5/26 **Police Report**
County Councillor Alison Gray provided an update she had received from the police.

Resolved – that the information be received.

6/26 **Correspondence**
Lanchester Partnership Environment Group – a request to use the Village Green on the 7th of March 2026 for the annual litter pick was – approved.

7/26 **Durham County Councillor**
County Cllr A Gray provided an update on the areas she has recently been working on, these included –

- Lanchester Medical Centre – ongoing concerns, having a meeting with Amanda Healy the Director of Public Health
- Buses – a new tracking device is coming out so people can see the location of bus they are waiting for, new buses are being bought, if you are disabled and the bus you are waiting for is full a taxi should be called to take you to your destination, there is also a ‘Link2 Dial-a-Ride bus service’ Link2 is an accessible dial-a-ride bus service for people who do not have a suitable bus service, or are unable to access regular bus services due to mobility issues, this can be booked 14 days in advance, more information is available on DCC’s website
- Meeting with Maxine Stubbs regarding the concerns with traffic near Station Road, Newbiggen Lane and to discuss the Parking Scheme
- A food waste bin may be rolled out in July
- Excrement has been left near the allotments, trying to get DCC to clear it away

8/26 **Lanchester Medical Centre**
County Councillor Alison Gray gave us an update under agenda item ‘Durham County Councillor’

9/26 **The Pensions Regulator – Automatic Enrolment Duties**
Members were informed that the Parish Council has completed a re-declaration of compliance with The Pensions Regulator.

Resolved – that the information be received.

10/26 **Tree Surveys**
Members were informed of a high priority tree that was identified from a recent tree survey. Although the tree was high priority the work to be done wasn’t imminent.

Resolved – Clerk to obtain further quotes and then a decision will be made.

11/26

Social Media

Councillors discussed the Parish Council opening a Facebook page.

Resolved – Clerk to contact Burnhope Parish Clerk to discuss their Facebook page.

12/26

Christmas Window Display

Members discussed if the Parish Council would be involved in the Villages Christmas Window Display events in the future.

Resolved – Clerk to add to a future agenda to discuss further.

13/26

Precept Report 2026/27

The Clerk presented report B.

Councillors considered and discussed the options for the precept.

Resolved - that the precept be set at £82923.28 for 2026/27.

14/26

Financial Information

The Clerk presented the report.

Resolved – that the report be approved.

15/26

Accounts for Payment

Resolved - that the following accounts be approved for payment:

David Maddox	Salary (December)	£723.78
Laura Dodd	Salary (December)	£1650.89
DCC	Pension (December)	£509.83
Post Office	Post	£1.70
Tesco	Gifts – Xmas lights	£196.50
Amazon	Cups – Xmas lights	£35.90
Post Office	Post	£10.80
Tesco	Gifts – Xmas lights	£12.90
RBLI	Poppy Appeal Donation	£100.00
MK Print	Printing Newsletter	£85.00
CDALC	Training	£20.00
Mazars	External Auditor	£378.00
Hanleys	Christmas prize winner	£200.00
Wel Medical	Defibrillator accessories	£177.43

16/26

Chairperson's Announcement

A site visit has been arranged with TW Fiddes Sculpture on the 20th January at 1pm to discuss the wooden animals on the Village Green.

17/26

Date of next meeting

Resolved – that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council will take place on Tuesday 10th February at 7.00pm

Meeting ended at 9:00pm