

# Lanchester Parish Council

## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held at Lynwood House on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7.00pm

**Present** Cllr. K Harrison (Chair)

Cllr. A Gray, Cllr. V Jackson, 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. J Smith

Lisa Baldini & Sonny Shephard

**Apologies** Apologies for absence were received as follows:

Cllr. D Toner – Away  
Cllr. L Walker – ill  
Cllr. L Montgomery – ill

### **32/26        Declarations of Interest**

The following declarations of interest were received:  
Councillor D Smith – item 6 min 36/26

### **33/26        Public Participation**

Members of the public were welcomed to the meeting.

### **34/26        Minutes of the last meeting**

#### **Resolved that:**

- (i) the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson and any recommendations contained therein be approved and accepted.

### **35/26        Committees**

#### **Resolved that:**

- (i) the minutes of the Finance, Development & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson and any recommendations contained therein be approved and accepted.

- 36/26 Lanchester Tree Planting Group**  
The Councillors received a presentation from Lanchester's tree planting group about the groups mission and if there were any areas we could identify for tree planting.
- Resolved** – The Councillors directed them to our Neighbourhood Plan and advised them to speak to Burnhope and Greencroft Parish Council and Haystax Holiday Park.
- 37/26 Correspondence**  
**Food Waste Collection** – Councillors were informed that a presentation was available about the food waste collection that is being implemented by Durham County Council – Councillors decided a presentation was not necessary.
- 38/26 Police Report**  
No police report for the month of January. The Clerk informed Councillors that David our handyman had cleaned up the excrement at the allotments.
- Resolved** – that the information be received.
- 39/26 Durham County Councillor**  
County Cllr A Gray provided an update on the areas she has recently been working on, these included
- Lanchester Medical Centre – a meeting was held with Dr Kalra and the ICB's multidisciplinary team – any complaints are to be sent to the Practice Manager
  - Further traffic regulations are being implemented around the Village, these include Front Street, Fenhall Park, Kitswell Road, Station Road and the A691 & A6076
  - The School Crossing Patrol Officer that has been appointed outside of Lanchester EP School is still waiting on checks before they can start
  - Meeting scheduled with Jane Davis regarding parking
- 40/26 Solar Planet Walk**  
Cllr A Gray was notified of the information planning need to approve our planning application.
- Resolved** – Clerk to contact the contractors with this information
- 41/26 Planning Application**  
Councillors considered the following planning applications
- Installation of a ground mounted photovoltaic solar development, electrical substation and associated infrastructure - DM/24/03466/FPA – Land To The South Of Wagtail Lane Craghead DH7 0DT

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

**Resolved** – that the information be received.

**42/26**

**Social Media**

Members were informed that a Facebook page for the Parish Council has been created. The Clerk will be the only person to update the page and all comments will be permanently disabled.

**Resolved** – Clerk will update Councillors with how this progresses.

**43/26**

**Christmas Window Display**

Members discussed the Christmas window display.

**Resolved** – Clerk to put on October Agenda

**44/26**

**Internal Audit Arrangements**

Members considered and reviewed the policy.

**Resolved that:**

- (i) the Internal Audit arrangements be approved.
- (ii) Mr Gordon Fletcher be approved as the internal auditor.

**45/26**

**Risk Assessment Schedule**

Members considered and reviewed the policy.

**Resolved** - that the Risk Assessment Schedule be approved.

**46/26**

**Financial Information**

The Clerk presented the report.

**Resolved** – that the report be approved.

**47/26**

**Accounts for Payment**

**Resolved** - that the following accounts be approved for payment:

David Maddox	Salary (January)	£723.78
Laura Dodd	Salary (January)	£1650.89
DCC	Pension (January)	£509.83
Brass Band	Donation	£100.00
Choir	Donation	£100.00
ICO	Data Protection Fee	£47.00

Post Office	Post	£7.83
BT	Telephone & Broadband	£167.94
Laura Dodd	Expenses	£53.43
Batson	Tree Survey	£780.00

**48/26**

**Chairperson's Announcement**

Lanchester Properties brought a legal case against the Forestry Commission regarding the Forest Development in Lanchester and the High Court ruled that a judicial review will take place.

Jewitt Arboriculture have removed the high priority tree. Councillors approved Jewitt Arboriculture to carry out the rest of the tree works in the Village.

The fencing has been ordered for the Cricket Club and will be installed in the Spring. Some Councillors will visit the Cricket Club to determine if more fencing is needed to extend to Fenhall Park.

**49/26**

**Date of next meeting**

**Resolved** – that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council will take place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm

Meeting ended at 8:35pm