

Lanchester Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held at Lynwood House on Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 7.00pm

Present Cllr. K Harrison (Chair)

Cllr. A Gray, Cllr. V Jackson, Cllr. D Smith, Cllr. T Jones, Cllr. I Tute,
Cllr. P Jackson, Cllr. O Johnson, Cllr. L Montgomery, Cllr. L Walker

3xMembers of the public

Apologies Apologies for absence were received as follows:

Cllr. D Toner – work commitments
Cllr. S Walker – family commitments
Cllr. E Hepplewhite – away
Cllr. B McDermid – work commitments
Cllr. J Smith – away

50/26 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

51/26 **Public Participation**

Members of the public were welcomed to the meeting.

52/26 **Minutes of the last meeting**

Resolved that:

- (i) the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10th February 2026 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson and any recommendations contained therein be approved and accepted.

53/26 **Communities in Focus group**

George and Chris from the Communities in Focus Group attended the meeting to provide some background about the group and outline an opportunity for a potential collaboration. The group are working with Lanchester partnership on this project, called Lanchester: Community in focus. This is a year long project documenting people, groups, businesses etc from the Parish of Lanchester. George took some photos of the Clerk and Councillors.

Resolved – a £500 donation was approved and the group will be in touch with the Clerk, Handyman and Chairman to take more photos.

- 54/26 Former Ashfield Veterinary Surgery**
A request to remove a tree in the allotments that is causing subsidence to the former Ashfield Veterinary Surgery was received.
- Resolved** – councillors approved the removal at the residents own cost and permission would need to be requested from DCC as the tree is in a conservation area.
- 55/26 Police Report**
Members were updated on the recent PACT reported for February.
- Resolved** – that the information be received.
- 56/26 Correspondence**
A request was received from a resident about concerns they had with the road surface on Kitswell Road – councillors noted the concerns and advised the resident contact Durham County Highways about the issues.
- 57/26 Durham County Councillor**
County Cllr A Gray provided an update on the areas she has recently been working on, these included
- Rural Crime – there has been a rise in burglaries on farms in the Burnhope area. Drones are being used to scope the areas before the burglaries take place
 - Meeting with Jane Davis at Lanchester EP, the school is part of the Schools Rebuilding Programme and is in the next phase, hopefully more parking is included in the rebuild
 - The recent litter pick that took place revealed issues at Malton. More bins and dog waste bins have been requested
 - A sign has been purchased for the Catholic Church car park
 - The dropped kerbs at the Kings Head and Oakwood have been chased up
- 58/26 Haystax**
Councillors were updated on the correspondence received from Mr Warnes.
- Resolved** – clerk to write a letter informing Mr Warnes that no Councillors have been to site.
- 59/26 Ornsby Hill**
Councillor Gray updated Councillors on the development at Ornsby Hill.
- Resolved** – that the information be received.

60/26 Grants and Donations
Councillors considered the grant/donation applications received.

Resolved - that the following donations be approved:

- i. Church Clock - £300
- ii. Lanchester Young Farmers - £150
- iii. Communities in Focus - £500
- iv. Village Bus - £500

Cllr. O Johnson left the meeting

61/26 Village Green Path
The quote to repair the Village Green path was approved.

Resolved – Clerk to request the repair carried out in two stages so Councillors can inspect the work.

62/26 Animal Wood Carvings
Councillors considered the quote for the Totem Pole and installation of the wood carvings.

Resolved – approved.

63/26 Cricket Club
Councillors were updated on the size of the fence required and that two gates to be included in the fence.

Resolved – that the information be received.

64/26 Solar Walk Project
Councillors were given an update on the project.

Resolved – that the information be received.

65/26 Tree work/Christmas lights
Clerk updated members on the meeting with DCC about the replacement of the Christmas lights

Resolved – agreed to put on Septembers agenda to discuss further.

66/26 Financial Information
The Clerk presented the report.

Resolved – that the report be approved.

67/26 Accounts for Payment

Resolved - that the following accounts be approved for payment:

David Maddox	Salary (February)	£723.78
Laura Dodd	Salary (February)	£1650.89
DCC	Pension (February)	£509.83
HMRC	PAYE/NI	£1592.04
Post Office	Post	£6.80
Jewitt	Tree Work	£950.00

68/26 Chairperson's Announcement

There were no Chairpersons announcements.

69/26 Date of next meeting

Resolved – that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council will take place on Tuesday 14th April at 7.00pm

Meeting ended at 8:25pm