

Simonburn Parish Council

DRAFT Minutes – Tuesday 2nd June 2026 Venue – Simonburn Village Hall

Chairman: Mrs JE Lamb

Clerk: Miss K L Heaney

Meeting started at 18:06pm

Present Cllrs Mrs JE Lamb (Chairman), Cllr Peter Rowcroft, Cllr N Ridley, Cllr A Langford, Cllr A Azocar-Nevin and Clerk Miss K Heaney. Absent – Cllr D Bulman.

02-06-01 **Declaration of Interest** No declarations received.

02-06-02 **Apologies** – Cllr A Mardell – no other apologies received.

02-06-03 **Minutes** – Minutes for Tuesday 10th March were approved and signed to be filed.

02-06-04 **Clerk's Report** – Members received report prior to meeting. Members accepted the clerks report however held a brief discussion regarding Teckett Lane and the ongoing issues/concerns raised by residents. Concerns still grow regarding winter weather months – after discussing members questioned would birds mouth fencing be suitable option for now until the tress grow? Cllr A Azocar-Nevin to investigate information regarding the scheme status brief – design and start date to be agreed general highways scheme report by Northumberland County Council. The council will await further information and take discuss again at a future meeting.

02-06-05 **Reports** – Village Hall, Usual events running successful, very busy bacon buttie mornings, funds go to a charity called Chrisy Liss. First Aid event also went well, around 12 people attended, and feedback was positive, people found it very useful and full of information. Would be good to run more of these in the future. PCC, church fete coming up on the 25th of July starting around 2pm, Lynchgate is finished and everyone's happy. Members/residents all happy with the grass cutting, nothing else to report.

NCC – summarised report below,

1. Library consultation: The consultation received 5,801 responses. Staff consultation begins in June, with proposals due to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July and Cabinet in early September. A new model is expected by early 2027.

The councillor noted concerns about the reduced mobile library service, particularly fairness between rural areas in the north and west of the county, and will continue to raise this through scrutiny discussions. NCC confirmed that consultation responses will be analysed by area, including rural and urban locations, before final proposals are agreed.

2. Bus drop-in event: A public bus drop-in event is being organised at Hexham Library on 27 June, 1:30–4:30pm. NCC bus team representatives, bus companies and Tynedale County Councillors have been invited. The event will include a Q&A panel and smaller group discussions to gather concerns and suggestions, particularly around rural bus services.

Library consultation and mobile library van for more rural communities 27th June 12:30—16:30 Hexham Mart

02-06-06 Matters Arising (not on agenda)

Email received from Cllr A Langford circulated – regarding flooding works. Replaced under the concrete pad (back drive of the rectory) stone pipe had collapsed, it has been replaced and has a new gulley at the beginning. Cleared an additional chamber out the front which was also blocked with leave and debris. Ditches along Castle Lane have all been dug out and had new grips. Also done some work along Ward Lane. Residents reported they were happy with the work completed and the ditches are now clear. Nothing else to report.

- *Dog poo bin asks NCC to see would be responsible got emptying them and can we investigate some prices/quotes (Cllr Azocar-Nevin and Clerk K Heaney to investigate)*
- *Horsechestnut tree loose branch?*
- *Disability aid for steps in village hall – banisters/handrails for assistance quotes (Cllr Azocar-Nevin and Clerk K Heaney to investigate) possibly contact NCC regarding this.*

02-06-07 Accounts & Balances up to 2nd June 2026

Accounts and balances up to the 2nd of June 2026 and Income and Expenditure as of the 2nd of June 2026 – Total income up to the 2nd of June 2026 is £2,494 Expenditure is £1,266.21

Balances as of 29th May 26 – Current Acc £3,319.64 Business Saver £3,394.58

The accounting statements for the Annual AGAR:

The annual Internal Audit report is received and noted – Clerk and Council members reviewed the report received from the Internal Audit, planned for next year's financial audit to improve some policies, the website and general record keeping practices. Members happy with the progress made with the Audit this year, and approve the report received.

The Annual Governance statement is approved – Signed by Cllr J Lamb and Clerk & RFO Katie Heaney dated 2nd June 2026

The Accounting Statements are approved - Signed by Cllr J Lamb and Clerk & RFO Katie Heaney dated 2nd June 2026

The Certificate of exemption is approved Signed by Cllr J Lamb and Clerk & RFO Katie Heaney dated 2nd June 2026

Parish to review and confirm assets March 2026 – Council members reviewed assets owned and agreed the updated asset register on file for 2026. Any changes to be updated when required.

Balances and accounts were approved along with the Audit report.

02-06-08 **Date of next meeting** – Parish Council Meeting – **Wednesday 2nd September 2026 6:00pm**
Venue Simonburn Village Hall. Future meetings are on the website.

Signed Chairman

Date