

Norham Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th December 2025

Bill White (Chair) (BW), Louise Cockburn (Vice) (LC), Moira Graham (MG), John Grahamslaw (JG) Paul Thompson (PT), Catherine Lorigan (CL)

1. Apologies for absence

Victoria Mann

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Members of the Parish Council present approved the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Precept payment

Two options were considered for the 2026-2027 precept:

- i) No increase to the precept compared to 2025-2026 (£6800)
- ii) An increase in line with inflation

For the current year a small amount of favourability is forecast (in the region of £600). However, in 2024-2025 expenditure was £4085 in excess of income, largely as a result of unplanned tree work in Castle Street.

It was also noted that the contribution from Paton and Co would cease in 2026-2027. The desirability of building up contingency funds to provide for unforeseen expenditure and for future elections was also considered.

Taking all of the above into account, a modest increase was proposed and it was agreed to submit the amount of £7000 for 2026-2026.

4. Parish Clerk

The resignation of the Parish Clerk was reported. Options are being considered for interim arrangements, with members of the Parish Council undertaking day-to-day responsibilities of the clerk between them. The post will be advertised locally through Norham Newsround and also through NALC.

5. Responsible Financial Officer

It was agreed that the Vice-Chair (LC) would undertake the role of RFO temporarily, for finance only (governance functions still TBD).

6. Planning Applications

An application relating to land southwest of Newburn Holdings (Planning Consultation 25/04390/OUT) was discussed. It was agreed that no comments would be submitted by the Parish Council.

7. Any Other Business

No new business was raised. A number of updates were provided on the following:
Grit bins – have been reported to Fix My Street for replenishing
Public conveniences – blockages in the drains repaired (with many thanks to BW, LC and Mr G Straughen)

The Parish Council Website will be ready to go live in the next couple of weeks. It will have its own domain name and will be searchable via the usual search engines. There will also be a link from the Norham Life website and vice versa.

The meeting was closed at 6.45 pm

Date of the next meeting is 26th January at 7pm