

WARK PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr Edward Jeffrey **Contact:** clerk.wark@gmail.com

Meeting to be held 10th March 2026 at 7pm in Wark Town Hall

Draft Minutes

- 1. Welcome, declare the meeting is being recorded for the purpose of the minutes.** Councillor Edward Jeffrey (EJ) (**chair**), Councillor Judith Weir (JW), Councillor Jason Riches (JR), Councillor Sean Miles (SM), Councillor Lisa Lorraine (LL), Councillor Steve Batey, Chris Reid (CR) (Clerk)
- 2. Apologies for Absence.** Councillor Brenda Murray has handed in her resignation in writing and this has been excepted, County Councillor Antonia Azocar-Nevin (AAN)
- 3. Notification of Other Business** None
- 4. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest** JR declared a conflict of interests with 8.1, road around the Green in Wark, councillor and resident
- 5. Approval of Minutes** Minutes from 6th January 2026 (already circulated in advance of meeting) – EJ signed.
- 6. Report from County Councillor Antonia Azocar-Neven.** Not present, no report received at the time of writing minutes.
- 7. Public and Police participation (10 mins maximum)** None present, JR is going to find a contact for the police in hopes of getting their contribution.
- 8. Matters Arising**
 - 8.1 The road around the Green in Wark. A meeting was held with residents, homeowners and businesses who use the road around. Various options were discussed. Cold tar and stones was going to be the cheapest option, but this was still going to be £2600 plus the equipment hire.

JR and SM went to the Town and Parish meeting at County Hall and highways had a display. A discussion was held to see if there was any help, guidance or support available. In 2028/2029 highways are looking at resurfacing part of Wark, so could

look at doing something to the road around the Green then. Their suggestion was to get an excavator to scrape and fill in potholes, with a hope this would last the next 2 winters. Discussion continued with other options to regrade and fill holes, road plannings and wacker plates. Discussed finding out who has legal responsibility.

8.2 Activity centres lighting, white strip light strobing. White strip light is strobing after about 10 minutes of being on, been less than a year since installation. JW will contact the electrician and ask him to come out and have a look and resolve the issue

8.3 Policies – approval – policies were distributed before the meeting and a hard copies brought to the meeting. Councillors decided to arrange a closed meeting just to discuss policies. Date to be arrange at the end of the meeting.

8.4 Action up date from previous meetings:

Stonehaugh composting toilet, the roof has been repaired and is now watertight. Next time will probably need totally replaced.

The memorial bench being donated in Stonehaugh by a MOP. EJ, JR and CR met the gentlemen on site on the 8th March. Discussed different places where it could be sited. A site was chosen, next to the stargazing pavilion, which works for his family and the council and he has agreed to maintain the bench.

The contractor who is cutting the grass at Stonehaugh has requested a slight increase for the coming year. **Proposed SB, seconded SM.**

Councillors discussed looking at the contracts for grass cutting in Wark and Stonehaugh to make them uniform going forward. Choose date at end of meeting.

8.5 Set date to discuss assets register and risk assessments, set date at the end of the meeting.

9. Financial Matters

9.1 Financial forecast and remaining cash – circulated at meeting and discussed. Less money in the bank now than was forecasted. Discussed cash book, shared at meeting.

9.2 Accounts and Approve Payment Schedule – circulated at meeting, cheques sighed.

9.3 Uncashed cheques – do they get reissued, couldn't find date for 2 cheques being cashed, JR confirmed one of the cheques had been cashed. EJ going to check the remaining cheque number online, if this hasn't been cashed a new cheque will be issued.

10. Reports from Representatives to Other Bodies (Wark Town Hall, Stonehaugh Community Hall and Giles Heron Trust) Giles Heron don't meet until May. Stonehaugh Community Hall has a new chair, SB going to contact him to see if he would like to write a report next time. Town Hall has their AGM on 27th April 2026.

11. Highway Matters EJ reported residents are concerned about the entrance to Westacers, with vehicles parking near the junction making it difficult to see to get out. Also problems at the EV chargers with people parking none EV vehicles and preventing people being able to charge their car. One of the EV chargers doesn't work properly and the road markings are not complete. CR to contact AAN.

Rubbish bin over the bridge needs replacing and the one at the doctors needs a new clip.

12. Other Business – Not for Decision SM Annual meeting in Wark. Community plan. Fitness class, solar panel help.

EJ, now have online banking, need to look into setting up BACS.

13. Items for Discussion at Future Meetings

14. Dates for Next Meeting Policy and Assets meeting 21st March 2026

Closed meeting, (financial, contracts) 14th April 2026

AGM 14th May 2026 Wark Town Hall 7pm

Meeting closed 20.45

Chris Reid

Clerk to Wark Parish Council