Shadforth Parish Council

Shadforth Parish Council
Sherburn Hill Community Hub
Front Street
Sherburn Hill
DH6 1PA

Minutes - Shadforth Parish Council

In accordance with Paragraph 7 & 10 (2)(b) of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972, Members are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Shadforth Parish Council at 6pm on Tuesday 1st September 2026.
Location: *Sherburn Hill Community Hub*

01-0926 Attendees: Cllrs Herbert, Heron, Thompson, Nixon, Taylor and the Parish Clerk

02-0926 Apologies: Cllr Brown

03-0926 Declarations of Interest: Cllrs Herbert, Thompson and Nixon declared an interest in Sherburn Hill Hub. Cllr Heron declared an interest in allotments and garage at Sherburn Hill.

04-0926 To consider approval of minutes of the last Parish Council meeting, held Tuesday 2nd June 2026: Minutes are approved and will be published on the Parish Council noticeboards.

05-0926 Agree date of next meeting: Date agreed Tuesday 10th November 2026. Venue to be confirmed once booked.

06-0926 To receive updates from County Councillors: Cllr Taylor discussed mid-term financial planning and changes to the Planning Department. She also discussed the local solar farms and the dangers of lithium batteries. There is potential for overheating (thermal runaway) which could lead to catastrophic failure and toxic vapor leaks.

07-0926 To receive public questions,10 minutes: None

08-0926 Update from the Clerk:
The Clerk thanked Cllr Nixon for his refurbish work to Sherburn Hill noticeboard. New locks have been purchased and will be fitted shortly. He will turn his attention to Ludworth's noticeboard soon.
The annual garage and allotment rent letters have been prepared and will be issued this week.
Clerk is waiting for a reply from Shadforth Village Hall regarding the purchase of a Christmas planter.
P3 – all 4 paths cuts are now complete so we will submit the claim form for a re-imbursement of £3,600 from DCC. Also regarding P3, we have been notified that we may only apply for 3 cuts to the paths and bridleways next year. This could cause issues, so we will re-visit this in Spring 2027.

External audit of the AGAR is now complete. The Notice of Completion will be available in due course and displayed on website.

09-0926 To agree any payments that need to be made:

Clerks Salary	£426.29
HMRC	£284.00
Hugofox DD	£11.99
Zurich Insurance	£1,148.68
CDALC Membership	£393.79
Cemetery Cut	£630.00
P3 Paths (To be re-imbursed)	£900.00
Ludworth Cenotaph	£60.00

10-0926 To consider small grant applications from Sherburn Hill Hub and Shadforth Community: The councillors resolved that both small grant applications involved the Parish and the wider communities and were worthwhile events. Both were approved - £300 each.

11-0926 To discuss erecting a small fence along the external side of allotments 7 & 10 adjacent to George Street – continued from previous meeting: The first quote is deemed too expensive so we will review further quotes next meeting.

12-0926 To discuss items relating to allotments at George Street: The issue of a large, excavated hole on one allotment was discussed and we need to come up with a plan to safely fill this in. It was agreed a letter should be written to an allotment tenant regarding issues with their plot. Also discussed were large conifers that have been an issue for several years.

13-0926 To consider purchasing poppy wreaths from Royal British Legion rather than making a £60 donation as previous year: The Cllrs agreed we will purchase 3 wreaths going forward for each of the 3 villages within the Parish, rather than giving the RBL a donation.

14-0926 To consider a further £500 donation to Durham Area Youth (DAY) as previously discussed 11-0626: DAY used the first donation to support a bake-off where our own Cllr Herbert was a judge. They also held a Minecraft themed day with laser tag, fruit kebab making, sword and shield making and green lemonade! They are planning on celebrating Neurodiversity month and a Halloween party in October. There are trips planned to see Billy Elliott and a Christmas activity day.

15-0926 Discuss recurring accidents at Sherburn Hill Crossroads – continued from previous meeting: Ref: Case FS 836695861. Highways will not introduce further traffic calming measures in this area as it is a main route for public transport etc. We will monitor the situation.

16-0926 To discuss an enquiry from a member of the public who would like to install a plaque in Shadforth Cemetery. Further update: It is suggested we purchase the necessary materials and advertise for someone to carry out the remedial

works. The metal benches in the Cemetery need prepping and painting and we hope this work to be carried out in the next month.

17-0926 Discuss Shadforth Cemetery and a plan of action for any work required: The entrance gates to the Cemetery require painting. Cllr Nixon is going to get quotes to have the gates shot blasted and powder coated. We will await the quotes. We are also re-visiting the idea of a new horizontal path needed at the top end of the Cemetery and we will start gathering quotes for this work in early Spring.

18-0926 Discuss new intern area within Shadforth Cemetery: It is agreed we need to prepare a new area for the intern of ashes within the Cemetery. This needs to be wider than the current ashes plot area. We will contact our contractor to get a quote for clearing and preparing the ground and the annual upkeep of the area.

19-0926 Planning Application: DM/26/00873/PA56 – Proposal to access track in field – continued from previous meeting. Update: Nothing is happening with the application and permission has not yet been granted.

20-0926 To receive updates and any other business, 5 minutes: The wildflower meadow has been lovely this year. DCC who have adopted the area, will rotavate the ground in October. Several fallen branches require removing from the Cemetery.

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We are planning on holding the Parish Council meeting in Shadforth, Sherburn Hill and Ludworth, periodically. Please keep an eye out here for further updates.

There will be no meeting of the Council in October 2026.