

WARK PARISH COUNCIL

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

Meeting to be held 6th January 2026 at 7pm in Wark Town Hall

Draft minutes

- 1. Welcome, declare the meeting is being recorded for the purpose of the minutes: PRESENT:**
Councillor Edward Jeffrey (EJ) (**chair**), Councillor Judith Weir (JW), Councillor Jason Riches (JR), Councillor Sean Miles (SM), Councillor Lisa Lorraine (LL), County Councillor Antonia Azocar-Nevin (AAN) Chris Reid (CR) (Clerk)
- 2. Apologies for Absence:** Councillor Steve Batey (SB), Councillor Brenda Murray (BM)
- 3. Notification of Other Business: None**
- 4. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest: None**
- 5. Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from 11th November 2025 (already circulated in advance of meeting) – EJ signed.
- 6. Report from County Councillor Antonia Azocar-Neven.** Antonia present and read out report. ANN to send to CR for distribution with minutes.

Wark PC REPORT 06.01.26

1) Wark practice. When I first started I was told that the Wark practice was looking at closing however I can no confirm that they won't be now. I spoke to James Martin the strategic head of primary care and this is what he said when I asked him how has it changed and what it means moving forward:

I managed to find a small amount of one off resilience funding which was to help the practice to stabilise their practice manager situation but also to free up some time for the Partners from patient facing duties to look at their model of providing services. I'm hopeful that's gone some way to helping them to look at how things are working and how to keep that going in the future but I can't say for sure.

Moving forwards for now it means that both branches of the practice remain open and the practice aren't looking to change that. It's still a relatively small practice and like most businesses that comes with less flexibility to managing unexpected issues (workforce/funding etc) than those with more

critical mass. So it's always something that may come up again in the future but for now it's good news.

2) Ask about the forestry thing.

3) Sanctuary. I have been contacted again by a resident living in these sanctuary houses and unfortunately the inspections have only resulted in the possibility of providing panel heaters, which I feel doesn't really rectify the problem. I was also informed that if there are power cuts, the storage heaters don't work until the following evening. I will continue pressing this issue with sanctuary and NCC.

4) School parking. I haven't heard anything back yet.

5) Pot holes not on NCC land. They said to put it on fix my street. I did mention how this wasn't on NCC land but they haven't responded to that. Maybe it can be put on 'Fix my street' and if nothing comes of this, and they still haven't responded to me then ill email again.

7. Public and Police participation (10 mins maximum): None. Discussed asking police for a report, which could be read out, informing the parish what has been going on in the parish. Look into who to contact. Community Officer

8. Matters Arising

8.1 Action up date from previous meetings

Reduction in election costs, Warks election costs have been reduces from £2708.01 to £1292.34. JR and EJ have a meeting on Friday to discuss how to move forward, looking at a formular for costings or % of the precept.

8.2 NALC website and gov.uk email

Discussed different options, providers, NALC HugoFox, NCC and costs and reasons why.

Following a discussion it was agreed to go with NALC HugoFox

Proposed by SM and seconded by JR

Current website needs to be up to date so the information to be transferred to new website provider. Polices need to be reviewed/updated.

County Councillor Antonia Azocar-Nevin left the meeting.

9. Financial Matters

9.1 Wark PC Financial Forecast meeting – 13th October 2025

Repairs to Stonehaugh toilet roof £300 estimated on forecast in Feb and also July, EJ to get

estimate for repair

9.2 Accounts and Approve Payment Schedule – circulated at meeting and cheques were signed.

9.3 Financial forecast and remaining cash – circulated at meeting

Change Election costs on forecast sheet to £1292.34

Change Wark tree maintenance £350 + VAT

9.4 Precept forms for 2026-2027

Decision to increase the Precept for 2026-2027 Proposed SM and seconded JR

10. Reports from Representatives to Other Bodies (Wark Town Hall, Stonehaugh Community Hall and Giles Heron Trust)

Wark Town Hall doing all right, been busy winter period with quizzes, private partys, bingo and senior dinner. Waiting for an inspection on roof on the old part of the town hall for the solar panels, to check the roof trusses. Builder to come and create small inspection hatch to check timbers for the weight of the panels. PAT tests and fire extinguisher checks have been completed.

Giles Heron Trust everything is ok. Thers a few jobs to do around the farm and they are looking to put up another shed, waiting for the winter weather to be over to decide where things are going to go. Didn't have to many applicants for donations this year.

11. Highway Matters

Road around the Green, pot holes and in need of repair. JR has been onto NCC and they have said they will help with man power and machinery if people pay for the cost of the tarmac. JR will draft a letter and hopefully arrange a meeting with landowners, homeowners and business owners to discuss pulling together to resolve this issue.

Junction where River Medows joins Church Lane. There are problems seeing what vehicles are approaching from the right, this is due to a rise in the road. SM follow up with email to AAN MVS not working correctly on the Stonehaugh road. EJ has spoken with the Monday Club and they are happy to trim the hedge. EJ going to approach land owner to see of the cuttings can be burnt on their land.

MOP has mentioned that the hedge near Warkshaugh Farm is encroaching onto the road making the road narrow when going around the bend. Could it be put on fix my street? JR is going to look into it.

12. Other Business – Not for Decision

Does Kielder have a warning system in place if the dam bursts? Email AAN and ask the question

Land Registry. What does it cost for the Parish Council

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13. Items for Discussion at Future Meetings

New bin required at the other side of the bridge

14. Dates for Next Meeting – 10th March 2026, 7pm at Wark Town Hall

Meeting closed 20.40 hrs

Chris Reid

Clerk to Wark Parish Council