

Harbottle Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 15th September 2025 at The Star Inn

Present: Cllrs. S. Bolam (Chairman), S. Kenny, J. Ormston, A. Stripp,

1. Apologies for Absence: S. Wardlaw
2. Declarations of Interest: None
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th July 2025 were approved.
4. Matters Arising: SB reported that the legal challenge to the process by which the planning application at Sharperton for Change of Use had been approved had been successful in that the County Council admitted “procedural irregularities” and were prepared to quash the approval, subject to ratification by the court. It was noted that the planning application for a house in Alnham (same company) had been withdrawn and it was understood that the company had also withdrawn their offers to buy both of the houses.
5. Finance: Balance of £4,451.09 in the General Fund and £976.59 in the Emergency Support Fund were noted.
6. Local Transport Plan: It was agreed to submit a request for passing places to be designated in Harbottle village, or the development of a bypass for Harbottle.
7. County Council Meetings with Parish Councils. It was noted that the Leader of the County Councils was to hold meetings in September with Parish Councils in Belford, Cramlington and Hexham. Because of the locations of the meetings it was felt they would not be appropriate for the parish council to attend.
8. Consultation on Governance. It was noted that the County Council were carrying out a review of the governance of parish councils. This to involve consideration of numbers of councillors per council, parish boundaries and grouping of councils. It was agreed that five

councillors for Harbottle was appropriate and that our parish boundary did not need amending. However, members felt it would be beneficial to explore a grouping with Alwinton Parish Council.

9. Any Other Business: __ Recent issues with problems at Wilkinson Park, on the border of our parish and impacting on it, involving police and ambulance service were discussed. It was agreed to find out the appropriate body to complain to.

Noting the balance in our account it was suggested that we could contribute to the legal costs of the Sharperton case, if permitted under local government regulations.

10. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 3rd November

Chairman