

Newton on the Moor & Swarland Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Swarland Village Hall, Swarland
Wednesday 28th January 2026

1.	<p>Questions and comments from Parish residents (Max 15 minutes in total):</p> <p>a. Two Newton -on-the-Moor residents spoke about their concern with Planning Application 26/00206/FUL – The installation of 18 solar panels to a pitched roof at the Jubilee Hall. Both were strongly opposed to the application in connection with a building that is the centrepiece of the village, and Grade 2 listed. It was mentioned that the architects report accompanying the application referred to black panels on a slate roof, when the roof is red pantiles. Cllr R. Simpson said he agreed with her entire speech. Although he was in favour of solar panels, they sit badly on such an important building. One of the residents said she recalled the great lengths that were needed to obtain second hand matching tiles when repairs were needed to the roof in question, to comply with NCC requirements. Both residents said they had submitted their objections to NCC and provided copies of their objection to the Clerk for circulation to the PC.</p> <p>Donna Corbin said she had been asked to speak about this application. The Neighbourhood Plan team recommends objecting to both JH applications. Cllr Thorne said he is asking for this item to go to the Planning Committee for decision. Copy of the PC's response to go to the two residents.</p> <p>See also Planning Application 26/00206/FUL later in the agenda at item 11c.</p> <p>b. A resident raised the topic of the speed limit on the eastern length of Leamington Lane in Swarland which is 40 mph even within village sign. Cllr Whiteley said that a few years ago NCC carried out speed monitoring on Leamington Lane and cars were travelling at 40-45mph. The PC had asked for the speed limit to be reduced to 30 mph. NCC said that that if anything the limit should be 50 mph and they endorsed keeping 40 mph.</p> <p>The resident asked if the speed limit could be reduced in the back roads where currently the limit is 30 mph. Clerk to contact NCC to query reduction to 20 mph. The resident said the lighting of the slip road coming off the A1 south of Swarland was very low. Could this be increased. The Clerk pointed out that this was in Felton Parish. Clerk to contact Felton PC.</p> <p>The resident will email the Clerk if he has any other issues.</p>	
2.	<p>Appointment of New Parish Councillor:</p> <p>There were two applicants for the vacant Parish Councillor post, Donna Corbin and Karen Howard-Row. A vote was taken by secret ballot (see item 5 below), and Donna Corbin was elected.</p>	
3.	<p>Present: Cllr M. Whiteley (Chairman), Cllr S. Woolfrey, Cllr G. Anderson, Cllr D. Rixon, Cllr E. Simpson, Cllr R. Simpson, Cllr D. Francis, Cllr N. Mansfield, Cllr L. Murray, and Cllr D. Corbin.</p> <p>County Cllr Trevor Thorne was present and six members of the public.</p>	
4.	<p>Apologies for absence: None.</p>	
5.	<p>Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda: Cllr Francis declared an interest in item 2 and didn't vote. Cllr Anderson declared an interest in connection with the Jubilee Hall.</p>	
6.	<p>Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th November 2025:</p> <p>Agreed.</p>	

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	<p>that the Jubilee Hall Trustees had asked for help from SNAC in making a wildlife garden which is being looked at.</p> <p>c. <u>Neighbourhood Plan</u> – Cllr Corbin said that there have been a small number of representations. The only thing holding up progress is delay in the contract for the examiner due to a backlog at County Hall. The examiner has seen the documentation and may have carried out a site visit. It is expected that he will produce the examination report shortly. It is hoped that the contract will be issued by the end of this week. The next steps are that the examiner will get back to NCC and us with comments then the examination report will be published. Changes will be made to the Reg.16 Plan (if needed). At this point the referendum will be organised by NCC and take place on a date agreed with Electoral Services with the formal election process ideally before the end of March.</p> <p>Cllr Rixon commented that there was obviously a lot of awareness about the Neighbourhood Plan, it would be good to get a good turnout in support of the plan when the referendum takes place.</p> <p>d. <u>Jubilee Hall Request for payment for room hire by the PC</u> – Letter from JH Cttee previously circulated. Cllr Francis said that the PC hadn't budgeted for the increase in budget needed to pay for room hire. The general feeling was that the PC should not have to pay for room bookings at the JH. Reducing or not giving a grant would affect the help currently given by the PC in maximising VAT benefit. Letter to be drafted to the JH.</p> <p>e. <u>Provision of Secretary for Vyner Park Charity</u> – The current unpaid secretary is resigning from the role with effect from March. Consideration needs to be made regarding arrangements for a replacement on a paid basis. This was discussed. Traditionally the role has been paid. The cost will need to be added to the PC budget- around £1000. It was agreed that this would continue the same basis as with the current Secretary.</p> <p>f. <u>Parish Council Draft Budget and Precept for 2026/27</u> – See Appendix A attached. For discussion and decision on Budget and precept. The current precept is £27,000. If the precept is £40,000 this will be an increase of nearly 50%. There is an expectation that this will decrease in 2027/28 by £5K although inflation will need to be considered, and Cllr Whiteley said he wanted to build up the PC reserve to about £17,000.</p> <p>A precept of £40,000 was agreed. Cllr Corbin didn't vote</p> <p>g. <u>Commemoration of Bryan Stanley</u> –Cllr Francis will contact Mrs Stanley about this when appropriate.</p> <p>h. <u>Vyner Park Constitution Review</u> – For discussion and agreement on way forward. See Appendix B for copy of the current Constitution. Cllr E. Simpson said that when the Constitution had been amended, it had not been minuted fully and this needed to be rectified. Originally VPC had 5 Parish Cllrs and 4 Community Representatives (voting) on the Committee. In 2021 this was changed to 4 Parish Cllrs, and 5 Community Representatives (voting). In addition, Community Reps without a vote can also attend.</p> <p>It was agreed that the 2021 Constitution should be confirmed and a copy sent to the Charity Commission.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cllr Francis</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Clerk</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Report by County Councillor and meetings attended by Councillors: Cllr Thorne said that the Northumberland Local Plan is under review. Central Government is looking for an extra 500 houses/yr and in response NCC has sent out invitations for suitable housing sites throughout Northumberland.</p>	

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	<p>Cllr Thorne confirmed he would push for a meeting about the Swarland back roads before the end of March.</p> <p>Cllr Thorne said the interactive road signs are working well and Cllr Whiteley confirmed there had been a positive response from residents. With regard to speeding, Cllr Thorne said that Old Swarland is becoming a 'rat run' for heavy vehicles. Signs are needed to say the road is not suitable for heavy vehicles. The Northumberland Line continues to be very successful, and talks are taking place about a possible extension to Newbiggin by The Sea.</p> <p>The NCC budget process is very hard. The Council received a poor settlement compared with other areas with an increase of £12 Million over three years.</p> <p>Cllr Rixon said that in the push for new housing there were traffic rat runs through villages. He asked if there was anything in the new core plan to accommodate the extra traffic. Cllr Rixon said he had been watching the interactive sign and noticed vehicles – including NCC vehicles – completely ignoring it. There is a need to get the message across re minor roads.</p> <p>Cllr Francis said the North Northumberland Community Partnership meeting due tomorrow has been cancelled, and was there a new date? Cllr Thorne said the new style meetings had been successful and the last two meetings were well attended. The date of the next meeting hadn't been decided yet.</p> <p>Cllr Thorne kindly indicated that he would have a word with procurement at County to chivvy the contract for the Neighbourhood Plan Examiner.</p>																									
<p>10.</p>	<p>Finance:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">a. Clerk's salary for Dec 25 and Jan 2026</td> <td style="text-align: right;">= £1037.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Payment to HM Revenues & Customs PAYE</td> <td style="text-align: right;">= £207.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Payment to Clerk = £1037.40 + expenses £101.98 - £207.60</td> <td style="text-align: right;">= £931.78</td> </tr> </table> <p>Note: Expenses include £50 reimbursement for SNAC room hire 2026.</p> <p>c. Receipts: None.</p> <p>d. Other payments:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Lloyds Bank Service Charges for December & January (£4.25)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£8.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ratification of Invoice paid - Rural Building Supplies (2nd Delivery)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£480.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reimbursement to Liz Clark for SNAC website & domain registration</td> <td style="text-align: right;">a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£74.40 inc VAT</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Forvis Mazars (for external audit 24/25) inc VAT</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£252.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Felton PC Charges for Column and War Memorial</td> <td style="text-align: right;">tbc.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Invoices have been provided by Felton PC but need correcting.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>George Carins & Partners (Xmas trees)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£245.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>e. Account balance as at 21st January 2026</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;"></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£18,708.35</td> </tr> </table> <p>All the above were noted/agreed.</p>	a. Clerk's salary for Dec 25 and Jan 2026	= £1037.40	Payment to HM Revenues & Customs PAYE	= £207.60	Payment to Clerk = £1037.40 + expenses £101.98 - £207.60	= £931.78	Lloyds Bank Service Charges for December & January (£4.25)	£8.50	Ratification of Invoice paid - Rural Building Supplies (2 nd Delivery)	£480.00	Reimbursement to Liz Clark for SNAC website & domain registration	a	£74.40 inc VAT		Forvis Mazars (for external audit 24/25) inc VAT	£252.00	Felton PC Charges for Column and War Memorial	tbc.	Invoices have been provided by Felton PC but need correcting.		George Carins & Partners (Xmas trees)	£245.00		£18,708.35	
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<p>11.</p>	<p>Planning:</p> <p>a. Applications decided by NCC or the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>25/04031/FELTPO – Tree works - Field House, Studley Drive, Swarland, NE65 9JT. The Parish Council has no objections. Application GRANTED 9.1.26.</p> <p>b. Applications pending decision by NCC:</p> <p>20/02884/CCMEIA - Land North Of Shiel Dykes, U3050 Swarland Junction to Stouphill</p>																									

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	<p>Junction, Swarland, Northumberland. Phased extraction of approximately 5 million tonnes of hard rock and importation of inert material for use in restoration using overburden from site and imported inert materials over 30 year period . This application is not within the Parish but may impact on the area. The Parish Council did not object to the application subject to a range of comments. As at 21.1.26 decision still awaited.</p> <p>25/01332/FUL – Inert construction and demolition waste recycling facility (Use ClassB2) - Whittle Colliery, Hampeth, Northumberland, NE66 9LG. The Parish Council objected to this application for a range of reasons including disturbance of the tranquillity of nearby residents. As at 21.1.26 decision still awaited.</p> <p>25/02820/FUL – Relocation and Construction of a single dwelling and associated works. Land south of workshop and plant storage – High Hazon Farm, Acklington , Morpeth, NE65 9AT. As at 21.1.26 decision still awaited. Cllr Whiteley to contact applicant to clarify what is planned regarding about the business relocation s.e is it just an office or will there be large scale traffic movement.</p> <p>25/04076/FUL - Reconfiguration of the existing golf course, change of use of the 7 northernmost golf holes to accommodate up to 180 additional new static caravans/lodges and creation of a new leisure hub building with associated access, parking, drainage ponds and landscaping works. - Land South West Of Chalets Percy Wood Golf Club and Country Retreat, Coast View, Swarland, Northumberland. The Parish Council objected strongly to this application. As at 21.1.26 decision still awaited.</p> <p>25/04612/VARYCO - Trafalgar House, Old Park Road, Swarland Northumberland NE65 9HJ. Removal of Condition 3 (Remove PD Rights) on approved application 25/01338/VARYCO in order to remove permitted development rights due lack of significant backing to impose. Comments invited until 26th January 2026.</p> <p>c. Planning matters for Parish Council to consider</p> <p>26/00207/LBC - Jubilee Hall Newton-on-the-Moor Morpeth Northumberland NE65 9JY. Installation of 18 solar panels to pitched roof. Comments invited until the 11th February 2026.</p> <p>26/00206/FUL - Jubilee Hall Newton-on-the-Moor Morpeth Northumberland NE65 9JY. Installation of 18 solar panels to pitched roof. Comments invited until the 11th February 2026.</p>	<p>Cllr Whiteley</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>Correspondence: NCC Community Resilience Forums 19th March 2026 12-30-4.30pm Craster Memorial Hall. Alnwick medical Group Newsletter for December 2025. Interactive Speed signs not working in Leamington Lane or NotM – both now working. NCC Revised Council Tax Base 2026-27. NCC Joint Town and Parish Spring Conference 5th March 2026. Request from resident of Felton Parish for copies of minutes. Information sent. Neighbourhood Crime - Cybercrime survey.</p>	
<p>13.</p>	<p>Requests for next agenda:</p>	
<p>14.</p>	<p>Urgent Items:</p>	

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15.	Date of Next Meeting: 25.2.15 (JH), 25.3.26 (SVH),22.4.26 (JH).	
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Meeting Finished at: 21:03