

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting on: 12th May 2026
Meeting at: Longframlington Memorial Hall
Meeting Time: 7.00 p.m.
Present: Cllrs: Steve Bray (SB), Lesley Hall (LH), David Owen (DO), Jackie Scarpa (JS).
In attendance: Clerk: Garth Rhodes

The meeting opened at 7.08 p.m.

1. Election of Officers

DO stood down as Chair of the meeting. LH acted as Chair for item 1 a.

a. **Election of the Chair.** DO indicated that he was willing to stand as Chair for a further year or stand down if there were other nominations. There were no further nominations. DO suggested that the Council consider some succession planning for the role of Chair for the future. (Proposed JS, seconded SB. All in favour.)

DO resumed the position as Chair.

b. **Election of the Vice-Chair** LH agreed to stand as Vice-Chair. (Proposed DO, Seconded SB. All in favour.)

2. **Confirmed Bank Account Signatories for the forthcoming year** DO, LH and the Clerk to remain as bank signatories for the forthcoming year.
3. **Apologies of Absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Jamie Whicker (JW) and accepted.
4. **Minutes of the last Annual Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 13th May 2025** were approved as a correct record and signed as such (Proposed LH, Seconded SB, All in favour).
5. **Annual Review: Cllr Owen will give a summary of issues from the past year.** DO gave a brief summary of the year's activities:

Flood Plan & Volunteers The Parish was lucky to have such a good team of volunteers. All situations that had arisen over the year had received a great response. The Chair was aware that the Environment Agency staff were impressed with the flood plan work within the Parish. The team were now well equipped (including two-way radios), to respond to emergencies even when landline and mobile signals were inoperative.

Climate Change & Biodiversity The Committee and its volunteers had undertaken some sterling work. The playground was looking good and the trees that had been planted had given the field a focus. The hedge-laying had been a great success, and the laid hedge would be ready for cutting in the Autumn. Last year the wildflower area had been disturbed by the hedge-laying activity but now looking forward to seeing the plants in full bloom this summer. It was good to note that NCC had delayed their verge cutting until later in the year, which was a good compromise between health and safety requirements and biodiversity. The water monitoring group had provided baseline data which had given a good base from which to work. Litter collection and numbers of volunteers involved had been impressive. Thanks to all those involved.

Roads NCC Highways had been more responsive to the need of road repairs in the Parish, but many stretches of roads throughout the Parish still required a lot of work. Road closures had helped to get the work done more promptly.

Freedom of the Parish. The introduction of the freedom award had worked well, and the award ceremony had been an excellent event. The recipients and their families were very happy with the recognition they had received.

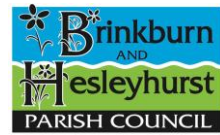
Planning There had been no significant planning issues over the year. There was to be a general relaxation of planning regulation, and it would be interesting to see how this develops.

The Chair expressed his thanks to the Clerk and to the internal auditor; Des Barker.

6. **Council Membership.** Brinkburn Parish now had a vacancy following the resignation of Richard Elphick
7. **Councillor responsibilities for the coming year were agreed:**

- Climate Change & Biodiversity Committee JW/JS/MF
- Cluster Meetings: JS
- Highways and Footpaths JS
- Rothbury Joint Burial Committee JW
- Longframlington Cemetery MF
- Millennium Field JW
- National Park DO
- Wingates Wind Farm Community Fund Committee SB
- Parish Noticeboard SB

Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst Parish Council



- Defibrillator SB
- Longframlington Emergency Planning Group DO
- Communication & Media DO
- Rothbury Emergency Planning JW
- Emergency Flood Plan MF (Lead Flood Warden). All Cllrs are wardens.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.27 p.m.

Garth Rhodes

Clerk

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