

## Newton on the Moor & Swarland Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Swarland Village Hall, Coast View,  
Swarland  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026

1.	<b>Questions and comments from Parish residents (Max 15 minutes in total):</b>	
2.	<b>Present:</b> Cllr M. Whiteley (Chairman) Cllr D. Francis, Cllr G. Anderson, Cllr D. Rixon, Cllr E. Simpson, Cllr L. Murray, Cllr N. Mansfield, and Cllr D. Corbin.	
3.	<b>Apologies for absence:</b> Cllr R. Simpson, and Cllr S. Woolfrey.	
4.	<b>Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda:</b> None.	
5.	<b>Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026:</b> Agreed.	
6.	<p><b>Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026:</b></p> <p>Cllr Whiteley thanked Cllr Francis for chairing the previous meeting in his absence.</p> <p>a. <u>Condition of Swarland Estate Roads (update)</u> – Cllrs Francis and Rixon had attended the NCC/Parish Conference (5<sup>th</sup> March) where Cllr Francis said he had spoken to County Cllr Mather on this issue. There is no date yet for the planned site meeting but Cllr Francis said that we are expecting positive outcomes and an action plan from it.</p> <p>b. <u>War memorial/garden of remembrance</u> – Cllr Simpson had provided an update. Poor weather had halted progress but there is a volunteer day planned for 29<sup>th</sup> March to finish the gravel work. Currently waiting for the funds that have been promised by Cllr Thorne. Once secured, the plaque will be fixed to the memorial stone. Cllr Francis said he had spoken to Mrs Stanley re commemorative gesture for Bryan Stanley, and she has suggested a bench in Vyner Park (east facing at lower end of the site). Cllr L. Simpson said she would put this on the next VP agenda.</p> <p>c. <u>Lease renewal Swarland Village Hall</u> – The Clerk advised the work is complete and once the invoices have been paid, we will receive the paperwork. The fees to be paid (9d) will be paid from the £10,000 allotted by the PC for the SVH windows. An invoice of 681.50 will be issued to SVH. Cllr Corbin said the SVH Management Committee are aware of this.</p> <p>d. <u>Request for improved road safety of road near Column to the A1</u> – The Clerk said that Felton PC had agreed to a joint letter being sent.</p> <p>e. <u>Request for speed monitoring/signs on road between Old Swarland and Felton</u> – The Clerk said she had emailed NCC explaining the problem and requesting speed monitoring.</p> <p>f. <u>Contact with the Environment Agency re: issues in Old Swarland</u> – A response had been received from the EA suggesting the PC write to the property owner. Letter to go asking for the area to be cleared and stopped with immediate effect referring to the EA case. EA and residents to be copied in to the letter.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Requested Agenda Items:</b></p> <p>a. <u>Vyner Park Update</u> – Cllr L Simpson provided an update. She said the VPC had been discussing issues around the Show liaison. It was agreed there would be a meeting in January for the Show to discuss their plans, budget etc.</p>	

## Newton on the Moor & Swarland Parish Council

Cllr Simpson said that everything in Vyner Park is aging, and it is a constant challenge to maintain equipment, which is expensive. £2000 has been agreed for the maintenance of the playground.

The restrictions attached to the original Sports Lottery grant have now come to an end. The VPC team is finding it difficult to get grants as grant making bodies seem to be getting more demanding. VPC is trying hard to engage new people.

b. Swarland and Newton on the Moor Action on Climate (SNAC) – Cllr

Anderson provided an update. At the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> March, there was a presentation by Dr Mike Jeffries from Newcastle University on 'The Power of Ponds' which was really interesting. Dr Jeffries is very passionate about ponds, and described how ponds develop and how they can be carbon sinks.

SNAC had a volunteer day on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March at the old boating lake.

There were 9 volunteers and Forestry England, and it was very productive. The next SNAC Meeting is in June.

c. Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Corbin gave an update on the plans progress. The report of the Independent Examiner of the Plan has been received, approved and signed off. Rob Naples will speak to the Elections team about a date for the referendum which has to be within 56 days of the report. It could possibly be the end of April. Cllr Corbin said she will know more next week. Rob Naples is keeping Jon Sharp up to date with the NP progress regarding planning matters. Cllrs agreed to accept the Independent Examiners Report.

d. NCC Community Governance Review – Running until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026. For discussion and decision on response. Cllrs discussed possible changes to the Parish Boundary and/or changes to the number of Parish Cllrs. Cllr Francis said that the PC needs a spread across the Parish, and used to have 12 Cllrs. Cllr Francis suggested including Shield Dyke within the PC boundary, plus the area the pc suggested some time ago (Rashercap & grain dryer) and offer the small isolated triangle to the east of the A1 to Felton PC. Cllr Francis said he'd look at the proforma provided by NCC and will pull together the PC's response.

e. Launch of new Parish Council website – Discussion and decision on launch date. Arrangements for going forward including access to the site in case of the Clerks absence etc.

Note: Netwise contract ends 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026.

It was agreed to keep both sites running at present as it gives the PC time to check the new site. Cllr Corbin recommended retaining the Netwise domain name. This was agreed.

Clerk to get the PC's .gov.uk email address up and running by the end of March. The new site to be publicised on Facebook and in the June edition of the Column. Clerk to sent Cllrs a link to the new site.

f. Review of Policies and other PC documents (Cllr Corbin) See Appendix A for current documents. Proposal to review and update PC policies, identify gaps (eg defibrillators) where policies are needed and terms of reference for various sub committees such as the Finance Cttee and SNAC. The Clerk asked if the Asset Register and Risk Assessment could go to the May meeting, and then look at the other policies etc. Cllr L Simpson said that the PC could use Chat GPT to generate basic policies as she had done for VPC. Cllr agreed that the PC's policies should be reviewed. Cllrs L. Simpson and Corbin agreed to lead with this and will come to the next meeting with their thoughts.

## Newton on the Moor & Swarland Parish Council

8.	<p><b>Report by County Councillor and meetings attended by Councillors:</b></p> <p>a. <u>NCC/Parish Conference (5<sup>th</sup> March)</u> – Cllrs Francis and Rixon had attended the Conference. There were several presentations including contacts for manager, NCC leisure centres and outreach work the leisure centres will carry out in village halls. There was a presentation by Rob Murfin on the Review of the Local Plan, and he'd said that housebuilding targets in the County will be challenging, and settlement boundaries won't be sacrosanct. Cllr L Simpson commented that at the previous PC meeting, Cllr Thorne had talked about this, and he'd said he thought Longframlington had done enough. Cllr Corbin said that we might seek conservation area status for parts of Swarland.</p> <p>Also at the Conference there was an announcement about glass/food recycling bins. Cllr Francis said that we will get black bins for glass this autumn and will circulate the report confirming this.</p> <p>b. <u>Cemetery Committee</u> – Cllr Anderson had attended the meeting which had mentioned the figures with NotM &amp; S were sorted out. The Committee is looking at ways to reduce big ticket items like grounds maintenance. There is a digitised map now for the Cemetery linked to the register. The current register dates back to 1971, and older ones to 1923 which will be archived at Woodhorn shortly. The Cemetery information is now on Felton PC's new website.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Finance:</b></p> <p>a. Clerk's salary for March 2026 = £518.70          Payment to HM Revenues &amp; Customs PAYE = <b>£103.80</b>          Payment to Clerk = £518.70 + expenses £58.28 - £103.80 = <b>£473.18</b></p> <p>c. Receipts:          HMRC VAT reimbursement 2023/24 £6806.32          Reimbursement from Hugo Fox £111.99</p> <p>d. Other payments:          Lloyds Bank Service Charges for March £4.25          Adamdouglas llp (For the new SVH lease) inc VAT £725.00          Warcup Law Firm Ltd (new SVH Lease) inc VAT £2336.00          [Note: Swarland Village Hall to be invoiced for £681.50]          Northumberland &amp; Newcastle Society membership £35.00          NCC Printing of The Column 2025/26 printing inc VAT. £540.00          Reimbursement to Vyner Park Charity of VAT 2023/24 £3538.01          Reimbursement to the Show Cttee of VAT 2023/24 £1009.55          Felton PC for Maintenance charges obelisk &amp; war memorial £356.26          Northumberland County Council (Column printing) inc VAT £540.00</p> <p>e. Account balance as at 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026 £20,561.34</p> <p>f. In connection with the repayment of VAT to Vyner Park and to the Show Cttee, a further two sums are expected shortly from HMRC. It is requested that repayments of the relevant proportion of the VAT claim be authorised in advance to help with cash flow issues.</p>	

## Newton on the Moor & Swarland Parish Council

	<p>All the above were noted/agreed. There was a discussion about the legal requirements for reclaiming VAT. Clerk to remind Show Cttee of the requirements for full details of the items claimed for.</p> <p>It was agreed that there would be a meeting of the Finance Group towards the end of April.</p>	
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>Planning:</b></p> <p><b>a. Applications decided by NCC or the Planning Inspectorate.</b></p> <p><b>b. Applications pending decision by NCC:</b></p> <p><b>20/02884/CCMEIA</b> - Land North Of Shiel Dykes, U3050 Swarland Junction to Stouphill 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 17.2.26 decision still awaited.</p> <p><b>25/01332/FUL</b> – 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 17.3.26 decision still awaited.</p> <p><b>25/02820/FUL</b> – 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 17.3.26 decision still awaited.</p> <p><b>25/04076/FUL</b> - 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 17.3.26 decision still awaited. This application is to be decided at the NCC Strategic Planning meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April. Cllr Francis said he would be surprised if the Committee decided to have a site meeting. He would have expected Cllr Thorne (as Chairman) to have asked for this beforehand. Cllr Corbin offered to represent the PC at the meeting. The amount of time the PC rep will have to speak will depend on whether Cllr Thorne speaks. Clerk to advise Jackie Stent that Application going to Strategic Planning.</p> <p><b>26/00207/LBC</b> - Jubilee Hall Newton-on-the-Moor Morpeth Northumberland NE65 9JY. Installation of 18 solar panels to pitched roof. The Parish Council objected to this application. Application REFUSED 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026.</p> <p><b>26/00206/FUL</b> - Jubilee Hall Newton-on-the-Moor Morpeth Northumberland NE65 9JY. Installation of 18 solar panels to pitched roof. The Parish Council objected to this application. Application REFUSED 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026.</p> <p><b>26/00316/PRUTPO</b> - 4 Trafalgar Drive Swarland Morpeth Northumberland NE65 9LJ. Tree Preservation Order Application to T1 Beech remove large overhanging limb over garden, T2, T10, T12, T14 &amp; T16 Beech crown lift to 4 metres and thin crown by 10%, T3 &amp; T7 Sycamore crown lift to 4 metres and thin crown by 10%, T5 Oak crown lift to 4 metres and thin crown by 10%, T11 Oak remove deadwood, T13 Larch fell, T15 Beech</p>	

## Newton on the Moor & Swarland Parish Council

	<p>remove deadwood, T17 Larch remove deadwood. The Parish Council objected to the application. As at 17.3.26 decision still awaited.</p> <p><b>26/00317/FELTPO</b> - Land North Of 4 Trafalgar Drive Leamington Lane Swarland Northumberland Tree Preservation Order application: T4 Larch &amp; T8 Ash - Fell; T6 Sycamore - Crown lift to 4 metres and thin crown by 10%; T9 Beech - Remove deadwood. The Parish Council objected to the application. As at 17.3.26 decision still awaited.</p> <p><b>26/00545/FUL</b> – Apple Tree Lodge and Lime Tree Lodge, Swarland Old Hall, Old Swarland, NE65 9HU. Change of use 2no holiday lodges to be used as residential units, not restricted to holiday letting. The Parish Council objected to this application. As at 17.3.26 decision still awaited.</p> <p><b>c. Planning matters for Parish Council to consider</b></p> <p><b>26/00880/PRUTPO</b> - Tree Preservation Order Application to G1 (consists of 6no and 3no horse chestnut) lift trees to 4m in height and T1 Oak remove old stub cuts 1 Old Park Road Swarland Morpeth Northumberland NE65 9HJ. Comments invited until 1st April 2026.</p> <p><b>26/01023/LBC</b> - Listed building consent for Installation of 16 solar panels to south facing roof with external battery cabinet - Swarland Village Hall, Coast View, Swarland, Northumberland, Comments invited until 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026.</p> <p><b>26/01034/VARYCO</b> - Variation of condition 1 (Approved Plans) on approved application 22/01325/VARYCO in order to make changes to siting, scale, layout and external appearance. Land West Of 36 Park Road, Park Road, Swarland, Northumberland NE65 9JD. Comments invited until 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026.</p> <p><b>26/01032/FELTPO</b> - Tree Preservation Order Application: T1(Sitka Spruce) - Fell to near ground level. W2 (Ash) - Remove those Ash showing signs of stage 3+ Ash Dieback (marked to NE side with pink paint spot, approximately 30-50cm above ground level). Equates to 8-10 sub canopy trees with stem diameters less than 150 mm. T4 (Scots Pine) - Fell to ground level, T5 (Hybrid Larch) - Fell to ground level T6 (Ash) - Fell to ground level. Studley House, Studley Drive, Swarland, Northumberland, NE65 9JT, Comments invited until 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026.</p>	
<p><b>11.</b></p>	<p><b>Correspondence:</b> NCC Consultation on future of Library Services in Northumberland 2026 – until 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 Jubilee Hall – Have been successful in National Lottery Community fund for refurbishment. Neighbourhood Plan - Independent Examiner report. Resident complaint about motorcycles in Swarland Woods. Age Concern Scams awareness talks – Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup> 10.30-12 Noon Felton Village Hall. Feedback from Joint Town and Parish Council Spring Conference March 2026. North East War memorials project – invitation to become ‘Friend’ minimum donation £15. Northumbrian Water – Felton Environmental Improvements. Meeting to be arranged. Query from resident about survey of neighbouring field in Swarland.</p>	

## Newton on the Moor & Swarland Parish Council

12.	Requests for next agenda:	
13.	Urgent Items:	
14.	Date of Next Meeting: 22.4.26 (JH), 27.5.26 (SVH) Annual Parish Meetings, 24.6.26 (JH).	

**Meeting Finished at: 20:56**