

Featherstone Parish Council

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and Ordinary Meeting of the Council

Wednesday 27 May 2026 at 7:30pm
Featherstone Village Hall

Present: Cllr. T. Teasdale (Vice-Chair), Cllr. A. Sharp, Cllr. A. Whitehead, Cllr. G. Patterson, William C Reay (co-optee, attending for co-option) Also Present: Jan Birks (Clerk)

13/26 Co-option of Councillor To consider the application received for the vacant office of Parish Councillor and to agree the co-option of a candidate to fill the vacancy

CO-OPTION TO FILL CASUAL VACANCY

The Clerk reported that an application had been received from William C Reay.

RESOLVED unanimously that William C Reay be co-opted as a member of Featherstone Parish Council.

William C Reay signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Vice Chair and took his seat on the Council.

The Clerk advised that William C Reay must complete and submit the Register of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests to Northumberland County Council's Monitoring Officer within 28 days.

14/26 Election of Officers

14/26.01 Election of Chair - Cllr. Elaine Wigham was proposed to remain Chair. (Cllr Wigham was not present at the meeting.) In her absence, the Vice-Chair presided over the election of Chair
Proposed: Cllr T Teasdale Seconded: Cllr G Patterson - Approved

RESOLVED that Elaine Wigham be re-elected as Chair of Featherstone Parish Council for the ensuing year.

The Clerk advised that Elaine Wigham would be required to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chair at or before the next meeting.

14/26.02 Election of Vice-Chair - Cllr Tom Teasdale was proposed to remain Vice Chair.
Proposed: Cllr A Sharp Seconded: Cllr A Whitehead -Approved

RESOLVED that Cllr Tom Teasdale be re-elected as Vice Chair of Featherstone Parish Council for the ensuing year.

15/26 - Apologies for absence were received from Cllr E Wigham

16/26 Appointment to Outside Bodies and Committees

16/26.01 Haltwhistle & District Joint Burial Committee – 1 member
Proposed: Cllr T Teasdale Seconded: Cllr G Patterson

-Approved

The Clerk presented the following policies and risk assessments for review and adoption. Members considered each in turn.

RESOLVED that the following be approved and adopted:

- 25/26.01 Standing Orders
- 25/26.02 Freedom of Information Policy
- 25/26.03 Social Media & Press Policy
- 25/26.04 Co-option Policy
- 25/26.05 Financial Regulations
- 25/26.06 IT Email Policy
- 25/26.07 Risk Assessments

Proposed: Cllr A Sharp.

Seconded: Cllr T Teasdale

-Approved

26/26 Correspondence - No correspondence requiring action was received

27/26 Any Other Business (AOB) To raise any items not on the agenda.

The Clerk reported a request received from parish resident Craig Jackson regarding the bench situated at the Hump Back Bridge, which bears a plaque recording its donation by the Trustees of the Smith (Haltwhistle and District) Trust for the Queen's Jubilee.

Mr Jackson requested that the existing plaque be removed and transferred to the Glasdon bench by the footbridge, and that a replacement plaque of the same dimensions, bearing his late father's name and a short verse, be installed on the Hump Back Bridge bench. Mr Jackson confirmed he would meet the cost of the new plaque and offered to undertake annual maintenance of all seats within the parish, including cutting back encroaching vegetation and strimming around the bases.

RESOLVED that the existing Smith Trust plaque be removed from the bench at the Hump Back Bridge and relocated to the Glasdon bench by the footbridge, and that a memorial plaque in memory of Mr Jackson's late father be installed on the bench at the Hump Back Bridge.

Proposed: Cllr A Sharp

Seconded: Cllr A Whitehead

-Approved

Grounds meeting - Issues to follow-up

All drainage issues: Wallace Arms

Craigsbank - road sliding away

Area by Peat Gate Bank ditch dug away, concrete drain installed by NCC.... not tapped in, due to overflow of water creates unsafe road, and ice during winter.

Drainage & overgrown ditches in Crystal Well

Proposed site meeting coordinated with Cllr Rachel Mathieson with NCC representative to review all emergency road/ditch/flooding/overgrowth in Featherstone Parish Council.

28/26 Dates of Next Meetings

Extraordinary Meeting of the Council - Members are asked to note that an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council will be held in **June 2026 (date to be confirmed)** to consider and approve the 2025/26 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 26th August 2026 at 7.30pm – Featherstone Village Hall

Meeting adjourned: 8:55 pm