

WARK PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr Edward Jeffrey **Contact:** clerk@warkparishcouncil.gov.uk

Meeting to be held 10th September 2026 at 7pm in Stonehaugh Community Hall

Draft Minutes

29/26 Welcome, declare the meeting is being recorded for the purpose of the minutes: Present Councillor Edward Jeffrey (EJ) (**chair**), Councillor Judith Weir (JW), Councillor Sean Miles (SM), Councillor Lisa Lorraine (LL), Chris Reid (CR) (Clerk) and one MOP

30/26 Apologies for Absence Councillor Jason Riches (JR), County Councillor Antonia Azocar-Nevin (AAN) Councillor Steve Batey (SB) apologies arrived after the meeting.

31/26 Notification of Other Business: None

32/26 Declarations of Conflicts of Interest: None

33/26 Approval of Minutes: Minutes from 9th July 2026 (already circulated in advance of meeting) – EJ signed.

34/26 Report from County Councillor Antonia Azocar-Neven: AAN was unable to attend the meeting. The report below was sent after the meeting.

Wark PC report 10.09.26

- 1. Someone to show residents how to access the data from speed signs.** I got a reply from Paul Armstrong saying that he has reached out to Swarco about the data collection feature on the speed sign. It is possible to add it on, they are going to send a quote through next week but obviously the Parish Council would need to pay for this.

I wasn't aware of some speeding signs not having the software so I have asked for him to clarify which speeding signs you can get the data from and why the council asked for this data from certain PC if they didn't already have the software built in.

Paul also said that Phill Hall was on leave so once he's back, he will get in touch with him to discuss the verge issue and the issue with the developer.

And as promised after speaking with Edward and Sean at the site visit with Paul Armstrong, here is the email I received from Phil Hall regarding the flooding issue.

Firstly, apologies for not responding to you in relation to your enquiry about the new footpath.

I am currently awaiting the results of a survey on it as NCC has received a complaint about a garden flooding as a result of the construction.

When I have more information then I can update you on the outcome.

The development itself was never intended to be adopted by NCC and the properties were sold on that basis. There is no S38 agreement for the development other than of the footpath connection to the village nor were adoption details for the development ever discharged as part of the planning process.

The construction of the internal road was never inspected by NCC, or approved on a technical basis.

I can only recommend that the residents refer questions over adoptability to the developer.

2. Library consultation. On the 27th of July I attended the communities and place oversight and scrutiny meeting that I sit on. We discussed the proposed changes that will be put forward to cabinet in September. What I focused on asking about:

- **Local needs assessment.** In the report it draws that this project will need to be reviewed by a local needs assessment which when asked about to see the results, they responded saying: that this has been on going since around 2020 and is still on going. Before any major decisions are made final, the **LNA** will be reviewed.
- **Adapting and maintaining.** The team at NCC were very aware of how younger generations are becoming increasingly reliant on digital systems however they do recognise that we still have lots of people that rely on physical systems and that libraries offer a safe space for communities.

Through the consultation people mentioned how the library should be open for longer on a Saturday and so the council have decided to have it open for 5 hours.

- **The mobile library.** The council received multiple concerns regarding the suggested 6 week schedule and have now said that this will operate on a 4 weekly basis. The one mobile library will accommodate the whole of Northumberland. I did question this and asked about the wear and tear of one van for the whole county and what should happen in the case of the ML being out of service. Their response was that they would make sure the ML would have routinely services to make sure they caught anything asap. They also said they would need a contingency in place incase it was out of service for a longer period of time. I would like to make sure this is in place and acceptable for cabinet agrees to anything. Finally, NCC looked at areas where the ML was not being used at all and the length of time it would stay in an area. This will be to focus the ML in higher demand areas. I did ask which areas will be affected but at this moment in time, this and the routes are still being looked at.

Here you can view the agenda and the Libraries consultation report followed by the presentation under agenda item 5.

<https://northumberland.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=4430>

35/26 Public and Police participation (10 mins maximum): Chair of Stonehaugh Community Hall gave update about the hall. Summer BBQ went well, toilets are getting refurbished and after a lot of work refund for the heating pellets has been secured.

36/26 Matters Arising

36/26.1 External Audit - CR to work out actions needed and then confidential meeting to be arranged to discuss further.

36/26.2 Email from MOP concerning Stonehaugh play area and dogs – signs are visible at both gates, campsite will inform campers that no dogs are allowed in the park and will be monitored.

36/26.3 Wooden Bench move from the north side of Westacers entrance to the grass on the south side of the entrance – following discussion land own by Karbon, food vans are not going to be coming as regular as they have been, decision to leave as is for now and discuss again if needed.

36/26.4 Measures to prevent vehicles from parking on the grass at the village green in Wark – following discussion CR to price up signs, A5 size, to put on poles around the green.

36/26.5 Are flood wardens insured when on duty? Following discussion CR to Email insurers.

36/26.6 Any updates from previous meeting –

New bin has not been ordered yet, possibility of getting bins from another source at no cost.

Wark village green road - new electric cable is going to be laid underground, from the substation to the green box on the green. Residence have been assured the road, which they dig up, will be as good as new.

Update on shed in play area – shed has been emptied and EJ was told that the Hall owned the shed and were planning on moving it closer to the hall to use for storage. Chair of Hall not aware. Shed staying where it is for now.

37/26 Financial Matters

37/26.1 AGAR – final audited AGAR to be up on website by the 30th September 2026

37/26.2 Financial forecast – circulated during meeting – Tree work has been carried out on the horse chestnut on Wark village green, money was allocated in forecast, clerk was unaware

and pointed out more quotes are needed in future. Following a discussion it was decided to hold a confidential financial meeting, date to be arranged.

37/26.3 Approve payment schedule - circulated during meeting

Date	Cheque Number	Amount	Person/company	Detail	Invoice No.
08/07/2026	DD	£2.99	Gocardless Hugofox	.gov.uk email	
16/07/2026	DD	£23	EDF	Electric Wark toilets	
19/08/2026	BACS	£299.64	XXXXXXXX	Wages	
19/08/2026	BACS	£83.76	XXXXXXXX	Wages	
10/09/2026	BACS	£104.50	XXXXXXXX	Wages	
10/09/2026	BACS	£374.55	XXXXXXXX	Wages	
10/09/2026	001821	£4.80	HMRC	PAYE	
10/09/2026	001822	£55.50	E Jeffrey	Toilet rolls and soap-Wark toilets	
10/09/2026	BACS	£860	Stonehaugh Campsite Ltd	Grass cutting Stonehaugh	SCM0005
10/09/2026	BACS	£845.41	The Monday Club	Maintenance/grass cutting consumables	
10/09/2026	BACS	£360	Tynerede Accountancy	Year end accounts, VAT claim	9365

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38/26 Items for Discussion at Future Meetings

39/26 Dates for Next Meeting -

14th October 2026 confidential financial meeting

10th November 2026 Parish council meeting 7pm Wark Town Hall 7pm

Meeting closed at 20.40

Chris Reid

Clerk to Wark Parish Council