

Newton on the Moor & Swarland Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Jubilee Hall, NotM
Wednesday 25th February 2026

1.	<p>Questions and comments from Parish residents (Max 15 minutes in total):</p> <p>a. <u>Speeding through Old Swarland</u> – One of the residents said residents area concerned about vehicles including HGV’s speeding through Old Swarland at about 60mph. There are also horse-riders and cyclists coming through. There is no street lighting or pavements so pedestrians are at risk. Residents have met with County Cllr Thorne and Neil Snowden (Highways) and NS said that there were not enough houses and no streetlighting, so a reduced speed limit was not possible. Since then, the resident had looked at guidance and Local Authorities have some flexibility. Would the PC support residents in asking NCC for a 30mph speed limit? Cllr Francis said that this seemed like a valid request. Normally speed monitoring is carried out first which NCC would need to liaise with residents about the best location. In response to a query from Cllr Corbin the resident said he was happy to share the documents he had with the PC.</p> <p>b. <u>Fires and waste at property in Old Swarland</u> – The resident said that residents in Old Swarland are also bothered by fires occurring every day despite an Environment Agency (EA) prosecution in December 2025. There is also an enormous pile of rubbish. The property is not licensed. The EA have met with residents and are working with NCC and the Police Can the PC put any pressure on? (Suggested by EA). The resident advised that the Fire Brigade are being called out regularly to stop the fires because of the smoke.</p> <p>Returning to the speeding issue, Cllr Thorne said that a second meeting is needed with NS to see what evidence he has been able to collect. Cllr Thorne thought that signage needed to be improved to say that the road is not suitable for heavy vehicles. NS was looking at this from both the Felton and Old Swarland ends of the road. Cllr Thorne said he would chase up NS re speed survey and signs,</p>	
2.	<p>Present: Cllr D. Francis (Acting Chair), Cllr G. Anderson, Cllr D. Rixon, Cllr E. Simpson, and Cllr D. Corbin. County Cllr Trevor Thorne was also present and two members of the public.</p>	
3.	<p>Appointment of Meeting Chair: It had been agreed at the previous meeting that in the absence of Cllr Whiteley (PC Chair) and Cllr R. Simpson (PC Deputy Chair), that Cllr Francis would Chair the meeting. This was confirmed.</p>	
4.	<p>Apologies for absence: Cllr M. Whiteley, Cllr L. Murray, Cllr N. Mansfield, Cllr R. Simpson, and Cllr S. Woolfrey.</p>	
5.	<p>Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda: Cllr L. Simpson and Cllr D. Corbin declared an interest in item 7c the SVH Lease.</p>	
6.	<p>Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28th January 2026: Agreed.</p>	

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7.	<p>Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting held on 28th January 2026:</p> <p>a. <u>Condition of Swarland Estate Roads (update)</u> – Cllr Thorne said the meeting with NCC officers was definitely happening before the end of March. The only hold up at present is legal matters. Cllr Thorne will make sure that an officer attends the meeting.</p> <p>b. <u>War memorial/garden of remembrance</u> – Details of the costed items for the project have been sent to NCC. Cllr R Simpson has spoken with Stephen Sams, Senior Programmes Officer at NCC. The PC request is only £1500 and the minimum for the grant is £2000. SS has suggested changes. Cllr Thorne said all was in hand.</p> <p>c. <u>Lease renewal Swarland Village Hall</u> – The only thing needed now is to confirm the full name of the PC’s signatories. Clerk to send to Solicitors.</p> <p>d. <u>Kiln Cottage formal complaint</u> – Cllr Thorne said he had met with the residents and has written to Rob Murfin (Chief Planner and Director of Housing at NCC) to say that he is wanting progress on this matter. The Clerk said she had received an update from the Head of Planning Enforcement that prosecution is being considered. Cllr Thorne said he had seen the update from Abby Nendrick.</p> <p>e. <u>Neighbourhood Watch</u> – Harold Hinchcliffe provides the Neighbourhood Watch item for each issue of The Column but is open to someone else helping with the scheme. Item to go in the next Column. Cllr Rixon said that scams in the form of emails are on the rise. His bank has suggested a form of words we could use to alert residents to the precautions needed (for the Column and Swarland Residents Facebook page).</p> <p>f. <u>Memorial for Bryan Stanley</u> – Cllr Francis said he has spoken to Mrs Stanley and she is giving some thought to proposal for a suitable memorial.</p> <p>g. <u>25/02820/FUL – High Hazon</u> – Cllr Francis asked if Cllr Whiteley had spoken to the applicant about this as the PC needed more information. The Clerk had heard nothing from Cllr Whiteley on this. Cllr Thorne said he’d contact Planning to get more information on the business transfer from the applicants.</p>	
8.	<p>Requested Agenda Items:</p> <p>a. <u>Vyner Park Update</u> – Cllr E. Simpson provided an update. There hasn’t been a meeting of the VPC since the last PC meeting but there has been a Show Cttee meeting. The Show Cttee has decided to purchase tents costing around £4,000. VPC needs to ensure that the Charity Commission rules are complied with and have sight of the financial records of the Show Cttee. Accountability sits with the VPC. Cllr E. Simpson was adamant there was no impropriety inferred. Cllr Francis said there needs to be a framework for the Show to set its budget and to provide an audit trail of spending. Cllr E. Simpson said that the post of the VPC Secretary has been advertised and there has been one applicant so far.</p> <p>b. <u>Swarland and Newton on the Moor Action on Climate (SNAC)</u> – Cllr Anderson said that a series of meetings has been planned with the next one on 17th March on Pond Life. There is a volunteer day in Swarland Woods (18th March) working on the old boating lake. Liz Clark is taking a short break so SNAC is looking for someone to help Carolyn Letts. The Clerk will circulate the SNAC update.</p> <p>c. <u>Neighbourhood Plan</u> – Cllr Corbin provided an update on the Plan’s progress. Responses on the NP to NCC have been given and are factual. They are</p>	

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online at NCC. The NCC response to the Regulation 16 Consultation makes no objections to the NP. It is clear that residents do not want to see development outside the settlement boundaries. Dangerous road junctions should be kept in as they must be considered as part of planning applications. Cllr Corbin said she was looking forward to seeing the Examiner report.

Cllr Rixon asked if there was a date yet for the Referendum. Cllr Corbin said that this will need to be arranged by NCC once the Examination Report is in. Cllr Rixon also asked whether if this runs past the end of March, will NCC still underwrite the costs. Cllr Corbin confirmed that NCC say that they would still cover the cost.

d. Additional signatories for PC's online Lloyd's bank account – It was agreed this would be decided by email.

e. Parish Litter Pick 2026 (Cllr Anderson) – Dates were discussed and Sunday 19th April was agreed. 10-12Noon. Meeting at The Square in Swarland. Gloves, pickers and bags will be provided.

f. New PC website – Update, demonstration of PC's new Hugo Fox site and discussion. The demonstration was made at the end of the meeting. Clerk to check that the approved minutes on the site have 'Draft 2' removed. Clerk to continue to work on the new website and a decision to be made on when it can go 'live' at the next PC meeting.

g. NCC Consultation on future of Library Services in Northumberland 2026 – until 13th April 2026. This is an important consultation as the service is under threat. Cllr Rixon said we get one visit every 6 weeks of the mobile service which is very important to those that use it. Cllrs said it would be useful to know what level of use here was in the Parish. There was a need to publicise the scheme. Item to go in the Column.

h. NCC Community Governance Review – Running until 30th April 2026. For discussion and decision on response. Cllr Francis said the PC had made a request for a local review with NCC about 18 months ago essentially making the A1 the Parish boundary, including the Denwick detached area and tidying up around Hampeth. Cllr Francis said he would recirculate what was put in The Column. Cllr Corbin suggested combining Felton, Shilbottle and Newton on the Moor & Swarland to create a bigger Parish which might have more heft. Cllr Francis responded that in his opinion, this wouldn't happen. He said that there were some very sparsely populated areas which needed sorting out to streamline the election process.

i. Assertion 10 - New requirement for PC digital and data compliance – Cllr Francis said that the annual AGAR which the PC has to complete as part of the audit process has had an additional assertion added. Assertion 10 can be met with an IT Policy, and training to be in place by 31st March 2026. A template Policy is attached at Appendix A. Cllr Corbin said that Liz Clark had made some suggestions about an IT Policy we could include. Cllr Anderson said the template didn't include anything about anti-viral software. It was agreed to accept the Policy in principle. The PC will review it during review of policies on March agenda.

J. Future of The Column – The Column future affected by recent passing of Bryan Stanley. Cllr Francis said how much the Column was valued in the Parish providing a paper copy to every household. It was agreed that the PC would help in any way it can.

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9.	<p>Report by County Councillor and meetings attended by Councillors: Cllr Thorne said that although the Old Swarland Road was not one that people ‘raced’ along, large vehicles were a problem. Two interactive speed signs had recently been funded by him in Hampeth. These signs do seem to work. NCC is working on reviewing the Local Plan and there is currently a call for local building sites. The Government is wanting to increase the b numbers of homes but Cllr Thorne said he thought villages in this area had ‘done their bit’ regarding new homes and it was important to avoid loss of village character. Cllr Francis asked if changes to taxation when agricultural holdings change hands had required planning to make adjustments. Cllr Thorne said not. Cllr Rixon asked about potholes and described some problem areas which he’d been unable to report as ‘Fix my street’ didn’t seem to be working. Cllr Thorne said that NCC was working hard to deal with potholes.</p>															
10.	<p>Finance: <u>Confirmation of payments.</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">a. Clerk’s salary for February 2026</td> <td style="text-align: right;">= £518.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Payment to HM Revenues & Customs PAYE</td> <td style="text-align: right;">= £103.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Payment to Clerk = £518.70 + expenses £305.64 - £103.60</td> <td style="text-align: right;">= £720,74</td> </tr> </table> <p>Note: Expenses included purchase of replacement defibrillator battery £279.65</p> <p>c. Receipts: None although refund from Hugo Fox is expected.</p> <p>d. Other payments:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Lloyds Bank Service Charges for February</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£4.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Felton Parish Council Contribution for Cemetery 25/26</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£2340.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ICO Data Protection fee due 28.2.26 (Direct Debit)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£47.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr L. Simpson – printing ink inc VAT</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£22.71</td> </tr> </table> <p>e. Account balance as at 17th February 2026 £13,816.99</p> <p>All the above were agreed/noted. Cllr L. Simpson asked if the account balance included the funding promised to SVH. It does. Letter to go to SVH confirming funding commitment to help with their funding applications. The Clerk said that it looked like Hugo Fox was giving the PC the same benefit NALC got ie free services for the first year. A request had been received from Swarland School for funding. Cllr L. Simpson said she would speak to the applicant. A decision will be made on this at the PC’s March meeting.</p>	a. Clerk’s salary for February 2026	= £518.70	Payment to HM Revenues & Customs PAYE	= £103.60	Payment to Clerk = £518.70 + expenses £305.64 - £103.60	= £720,74	Lloyds Bank Service Charges for February	£4.25	Felton Parish Council Contribution for Cemetery 25/26	£2340.00	ICO Data Protection fee due 28.2.26 (Direct Debit)	£47.00	Cllr L. Simpson – printing ink inc VAT	£22.71	Clerk.
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11.	<p>Planning: a.Applications decided by NCC or the Planning Inspectorate.</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. Application withdrawn 13th February 2026.</p> <p>b. Applications pending decision by NCC: 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 17.2.26 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 17.2.26 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 17.2.26 decision still awaited.</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 17.2.26 decision still awaited.</p> <p>26/00207/LBC - 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. As at 17.2.26 decision still awaited.</p> <p>26/00206/FUL - 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. As at 17.2.26 decision still awaited.</p> <p>c. Planning matters for Parish Council to consider</p> <p>26/00316/PRUTPO - 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 & T16 Beech crown lift to 4 metres and thin crown by 10%, T3 & 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 remove deadwood, T17 Larch remove deadwood. The Parish Council objected to the application. As at 17.2.26 decision still awaited.</p> <p>26/00317/FELTPO - Land North Of 4 Trafalgar Drive Leamington Lane Swarland Northumberland Tree Preservation Order application: T4 Larch & 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 17.2.26 decision still awaited.</p> <p>26/00545/FUL - Apple Tree Lodge And Lime Tree Lodge, Swarland Old Hall Old Swarland, Swarland, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 9HU Change of use 2no. holiday lodges to be used as residential units, not restricted to holiday letting/</p>	
<p>12.</p>	<p>Correspondence: NCC Consultation on future of Library Services in Northumberland 2026 – until 13th April 2026 NCC – Environment and Climate Fund available Query about land at Old Swarland re waste accumulations/bonfires. Query about youngsters riding e-scooters in Swarland.</p>	

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13.	Requests for next agenda: a. Cllr Corbin – Suggestion to have a PC policy regarding Defibrillators. b. Cllr Corbin – Proposal to review and update PC policies, identify gaps where policies are needed and terms of reference for various sub committees such as the Finance Cttee and SNAC.	
14.	Urgent Items:	
15.	Date of Next Meeting: 25.3.26 (SVH), 22.4.26 (JH), 27.5.26 (SVH) Annual Parish Meetings.	

Meeting Finished at: 21:00