



**DRAFT Minutes of the Parish
Council Meeting Held on
Thursday 11th September at
7.00pm. At Humshaugh Village
Hall**



PRESENT	<p>Cllr Herbie Newell - Chair, Cllr Nicolle Croft, Cllr Kev Dodd, Cllr Kim Hilton, Cllr Claire Robson, Cllr Antonia Azocar-Nevin (County Councillor) Clerk: Alix Pearson A Parishioner of Humshaugh</p>
	<p>Prior to formally opening the meeting, Cllr Newell welcomed all and noted with sadness, the passing of Marjorie Wilkinson, whose family has provided rented accommodation in the village for many years. Condolences have been offered to the Wilkinson family.</p>
NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
150	<p>1. Apologies for Absence; Disclosure of Interests Apologies were received from Cllr Ian Birleson and Cllr Francis Nohl. No councillor declared an additional interest in any item on the agenda.</p>
151	<p>2. Approval of Minutes The minutes were approved as a true record of the previous meeting and signed by the Chair.</p>
152	<p>3. Clerk's Reports Matters Arising The clerk reported that Cllr Birleson had send the report of the completion of our grant award to Northern Powergrid Foundation. Financial Report There was no report of spending as it is not yet the end of Q2. The second payment of Precept had been received into the current account. Balances at 11th September 2025 are: CA: £10,499. DA: £14,723</p> <p>Change to .gov Website domain & email The clerk had prepared a paper for the Chair and this would be studied and an item placed on the Agenda for the meeting on 13th November 2025</p>
153	<p>4. Planning The Paddock Development, Village Hall. The developer had been in touch with the Clerk to request that the Parish Council approve their intentions for the postal address of the development. The proposal of The Paddock, with individual homes names of: Lower Paddock, Middle Paddock Higher (or Upper) Paddock Was unanimously APPROVED by all. Clerk to write a letter to Mr Ken Eales detailing the approval.</p>

153 cont	<p>25/00052/FUL 25/00053/LBC George Hotel - demolition and replacement of pool house building. An appeal has been lodged against the refusal.</p> <p>25/02042/FUL South Rigg Waynrigg - Conservatory GRANTED.</p> <p>25/01623/FUL Warwick Kennels - Outbuilding for Guests GRANTED.</p> <p>25/02883/FUL Land South of the Shieling, Waynriggs Close. Proposed demolition of existing bungalow and contraction of three 3 bed bungalows.</p> <p>These applications were noted.</p> <p>The Parish Council made the following comment against 25/02883/FUL <i>“Humshaugh Parish Council note the submission of the new application Ref. No: 25/02883/FUL. We expect you will consider the recently adopted Humshaugh Neighbourhood Plan, alongside comments and decisions on previous applications when determining this application”.</i></p>
154	<p>5. Business</p> <p>a) Update on Parish Council Projects</p> <p>Farm Lane Lime Trees. All permissions and co-operations have now been obtained and it is anticipated that the works will commence in October.</p> <p>Cleaning and Repair of War Memorial. In absence of Cllr Birleson who has undertaken a lot of research to progress this project, any decisions will be held over until the meeting on 13th November.</p> <p>Improvements to area around old phone box. As soon as the lime tree has been removed as above, work may commence.</p> <p>b) County Councillor’s Report Antonia’s report appears at Appendix 1 in full. Specifically discussed was the change to the process of priority planning for the LTP programme, which will now run on a 3 year timetable. A guidance workshop had been planned for Monday 15th September, which the clerk would attend. This has now been cancelled. Priorities for the 26/27 - 28/29 LTP programme are to be submitted by Friday 17th October. The Chair will organise a discussion of the submission by email.</p> <p>c) Neighbourhood Plan A paper will be prepared detailing the Community Actions arising from the Neighbourhood Plan, to be discussed at the meeting on 13th November.</p>
155	<p>6. Reports and Updates</p> <p>a) Evans Trust Mr Gibson was not present, so there was no report.</p> <p>b) Humshaugh Children’s Playing Field Trust Cllr Birleson reported in writing that the new storage container was in place and the large slide and climbing bridge had been repaired.</p> <p>c) Humshaugh Community Ventures Ltd. (Village Shop) Cllr Robson reported that the Village Shop continues to seek volunteers for a variety of roles. Plans are still in place for the acquisition of limited alcohol licence and the installation of a coffee machine..</p>

155 cont

d) Humshaugh Net Zero

Humshaugh Community Solar Ltd and the 1MW solar farm at Lincoln Hill - Financing of the solar farm (£1.16M) is pending. Humshaugh Community Solar Ltd are optimistic that further funding, including additional shareholder sign-ups, will allow construction to start before the end of the Year.

Northern Powergrid Rural Stage 2 Community DSO Network Innovation Project - HNZ, as the community partner with companies Ricardo and Entrust Microgrid, have been awarded the project that aims to investigate giving local communities more control over how they produce, use, and share electricity. Community engagement has commenced. A drop-in community engagement event is taking place between 10:00 and 12:00 on Saturday 20th September in the Village Hall.

Borderlands Energy Investment Programme – The HNZ expression of interest to the Borderlands Energy Investment Programme is currently under consideration. The programme aims to support carbon reduction, local high value jobs, businesses and skills development.

Tree planting

Kirsten Johnson (Woodlands Officer, The Northumberland Forest, NCC) visited Humshaugh on 14th August, accompanied by Cllr Azocar-Nevin. Replacement tree planting is planned south of the B6320-Lincoln Hill lane junction.

e) Humshaugh Village Hall Committee

Cllr Croft reported that as the hall approaches its centenary, plans are in place to celebrate this with a building improvement project. Architects have been consulted and as soon as draft plans are in place, there will be a consultation exercise with residents and hall users.

The David Prest Memorial Plaque in the form of a watercolour painting, has been installed in the Village Hall. It is likely that there will also be a memorial bench.

The Chair of Management Trustees plans to change the Charitable status of the Hall to protect the personal liability of the Trustees.

Asbestos has been found under the floor of the front porch. Works to remove this will take place shortly.

The Winter Warmer lunches which had been funded by Warm Hub funds had been very successful and will continue in 2025. The Warm Hub funding is almost spent so the financial shortfall will be met by customer donations. Volunteers are sought to help deliver the lunches.

f) Fix My Street Report

In general, Fix My Street reporting of issues is working reasonably well. The Chair reported that a small group of Councillors and residents will check the progress of all outstanding reports on the ground.

156	<p>7. Correspondence Invitation to NCC Briefing Event, Hexham Mart on 8th October. Sport Tynedale, Request for Financial Support - held over until November. Local Transport Plan, New Portfolio Holder - moving to 3 year priorities. Forum Cinema Tyne Valley Film Festival Licence - no longer required. Northumberland Local Plan, Call for Sites - Consultation, ends 30th September.</p>
157	<p>8. Public Forum A parishioner expressed their concern at careless parking on the C219 which prevented larger delivery vehicles accessing Farm Lane. It was suggested that this was perpetrated by customers of the shop. It was agreed that this was a difficult problem and a number of potential solutions discussed, such as including a small ‘park carefully’ leaflet with all shop purchases. Councillors expressed their desire that the issue should be approached in a friendly and non-confrontational manner. The situation will be monitored.</p>
158	<p>9. Items for Discussion at next Parish Council Meeting Cllr Dodd noted that financial support for the Senior Residents Christmas lunch should be included on the agenda for the November meeting. The meeting closed at 8.30pm</p>
159	<p>12. Date of next Parish Council Meeting Thursday 13th November 2025, Humshaugh Parish Hall. 7.00pm.</p>

APPENDIX 1

HUMSHAUGH PC REPORT 11.09.25

- 1) **Intergrated transport.** I received a report from Stephen Sams yesterday unfortunately, nothing has changed in terms of an update for the road markings for cyclists on the bridge, but from what I can see and Im sure you have also seen, the traffic calming measures at Chollerford which involved putting up the white gate village signs.
 - 2) **LTP.** Have you discussed what your three options might be. I am still working on my 3 that cover this whole ward. As of now I am considering one in Hardhaugh (Fourstones and Warden Parish) and one in Chollerton (which covers Colwell, Gunnerton, Barrasford and Chollerton).
 - 3) **Working with the community.** I recently met with a lady called Juno from the ward, who is very interested in how we can get communities involved with the natural world. We discussed how people are very disconnected from nature and how this plays a heavy factor on people's mental health. I have some experience in Forest schools and during my time as a councillor I would like to look into this and see if it would be possible to start discussions with people within the whole ward to try and get off the ground.
- One comment Juno made that really stuck with me:** indigenous nature-close societies teach that a relationship with nature helps us to regulate and balance out all our ways of knowing and experiencing the world, including our intuition, intellect, emotion, gut-feelings etc, so that no single aspect takes over and hijacks our experience/humanity.

- 4) **Local Area planning Committees.** As you may remember me mentioning last meeting, the planning committees have changed from 5 to 3. We are now together with Prudhoe. Yesterday at full council we chose chairs and vice chair. Martin Swinbank, the Green Party leader got a Chair position in the North Planning committee.
- 5) **Meeting Joe.** I will be meeting Joe Morris on the second of October. I would like to raise as many questions as I can from all 8 parishes in the ward so I want to ask each PC what might be their top 2 so I can choose the most pressing matters.
- 6) **Connect to work program.** I came across this new initiative the government is taking called 'Connect to work program'. The ambition is for a more inclusive economy which enables people to get into work and to get on at work, ensuring employment opportunity for all. The Government aims to take a more collaborative, locally led approach to tackling 'Hidden Unemployment'. Eligible participants must be a disabled person, or belong to one of the specified disadvantaged groups, such as carer or homeless person. There is much more information to be found on the government website. I have linked the website here.

Check eligibility : You need to have a disability or long-term health condition that affects your work.

Apply online: by visiting the [GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk) or by calling the Access to Work helpline on 0800 121 7479.

Provide details: about yourself, your workplace, and how your condition affects your work.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/connect-to-work/connect-to-work-grant-guidance-for-england#annex-b--eligibility-and-suitability>