



**DRAFT Minutes of the Parish
Council Meeting Held on
Thursday 13th November at
7.00pm. At Humshaugh Village
Hall**



PRESENT	Cllr Herbie Newell - Chair, Cllr Ian Birleson, Vice-Chair, Cllr Nicolle Croft, Cllr Kev Dodd, Cllr Francis Nohl, Cllr Claire Robson. Cllr Antonia Azocar-Nevin (County Councillor) Clerk: Alix Pearson 3 Parishioners of Humshaugh
NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
160	1. Apologies for Absence; Disclosure of Interests Apologies were received from Cllr Kim Hilton. No councillor declared an additional interest in any item on the agenda.
161	2. Approval of Minutes The minutes were approved as a true record of the previous meeting and signed by the Chair.
162	3. Clerk's Reports Matters Arising The clerk reported that all actions had been completed and there were no matters arising that did not appear on the agenda. Financial Report The clerk presented the expenditure for Q2, which was approved by all Cllrs and signed by the Chair & Vice-Chair.. Balances at 13th November 2025 are: CA: £9001.73 DA: £14273.36
163	4. Planning 25/00052/FUL 25/00053/LBC George Hotel - demolition and replacement of pool house building. Appeal lodged - ongoing. 25/02883/FUL Land South of the Shieling, Waynriggs Close. Proposed demolition of existing bungalow and contraction of three 3 bed bungalows. GRANTED. 25/03271/LBC Westfield, Humshaugh. Replacement of single glazing with double glazed timber windows to side and rear first floor, and replacement of single glazed front door. 25/0331/LBC Heatheridge House, Humshaugh. Internal alterations and installation of new boiler. GRANTED.
164	5. Business a) Update on Parish Council Projects Farm Lane Lime Trees. Project Complete 2nd October 2025. Item closed.

164 cont

Cleaning and Repair of War Memorial.

This project is led by Cllr Birleson, who has done a huge amount of work to progress this project for which he was warmly thanked by all Cllrs.

Guidance had been sought from NCC's Heritage and Built Officer who provided, via Historic England, a list of companies specialising in WM restoration. A specialist contractor advised the green appearance of the sandstone indicated water penetration which will degrade the stone if not addressed.

Cllr Birleson has considered all opinions and offered the following:

Options for decision are:

1. Do nothing
2. Clean & point the structure, repair lettering; remove overhanging tree branches - **£2187 inc VAT.**
3. Apply hydrophobic coating to maintain condition. Additional **£1986 inc VAT.**

Cllrs favoured approaching this work in stages and **unanimously approved option 2.**

Improvements to area around old phone box.

This project is led by Cllr Newell, supported by representative from HCVL (Chris Robinson) and Village Hall (Peter Woodward). Work may now proceed and quotations obtained.

Neighbourhood Plan Community Actions

Cllrs agreed to take part in the following strands of activity following the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan:

Sustainable development and climate change

Community Action 1: Waste minimisation – Kim Hilton

Community Action 2: Evidence to support renewable energy development – Humshaugh Net Zero

Distinctive environment

Community Action 3: Biodiversity and the natural environment

Community Action 4: Humshaugh Conservation Area

Community Action 5: Tree planting – Francis Nohl

Community Action 6: River water quality – Herbie Newell

Community Action 7: Allotments Proposal – Close this Community Action.

Inclusive and sustainable community

Community Action 8: Community-led housing – Herbie Newell (addressed under the Policy 5 - Small scale rural exception sites, in the Neighbourhood Plan)

Transport and accessibility

Community Action 9: Public transport

Community Action 10: Installation of cycle racks – Francis Nohl

Community Action 11: Rights of way network – Kim Hilton

Community Action 12: Highway and pedestrian safety – Claire Robson

Small working groups will be organised to drive actions forward. Community involvement is sought and welcomed.

Cllrs unanimously approved the closure of Community Action no 7 - the provision of Allotments.

164 cont	<p>b) Consideration of s137 Charitable Donation Requests Cllrs considered 5 requests for donation, all of which complied with the guidance in the Charitable Donations Policy. Each organisation had submitted a detailed request for funding. Cllrs approved the following: Humshaugh Cricket Club £750 North Tyne Youth, operating Humshaugh Youth Club £750 Humshaugh Children’s Playing Field Trust £750 Sport Tynedale £100 Wark British Legion Wreath. £25 Clerk to send offer letter to all organisations and arrange payments. Additionally, regular annual expenditure on the Christmas Tree and the Senior’s Christmas lunch was approved on the budget at item e.</p> <p>c) Approval of Cost of Living Pay Increase for Clerk NJC 2025/26 pay award, to take effect from 1 April 2025. The increase applies to the Clerk’s current salary point SCP 18 on the NJC pay scale and is in accordance with the national increase of 3.20% with effect from 1 April 2025. Local Government Association. The Clerk’s updated annual salary will be £3139.20 from 1 April 2025 Approval of the contracted tax-free Working From Home Allowance of £175 per annum. This to be paid for 23/24 & 24/25 in arrears. This to be paid in arrears in future, for full years of service. Cllrs unanimously approved the uplift. Clerk to arrange payment of WFH allowance and notify payroll company of salary uplift.</p> <p>d) Approval of Provider for Change of Website Parish On-line is the preferred provider for the new compliant website required by April. Cllrs unanimously approved the choice. Clerk to contact Parish Online to make the arrangements for the switchover.</p> <p>e) Consideration of 26/27 Budget The draft budget for 26/27, previously circulated, was reviewed and approved by all Cllrs. This will form the basis for the Precept consideration in January 2026.</p> <p>f) County Councillor’s Report Antonia’s succinct report appears in full at Appendix 1.</p>
165	<p>6. Reports and Updates</p> <p>a) Evans Trust Cllr Newell reported that the meeting was not until next week.</p> <p>b) Humshaugh Children’s Playing Field Trust Cllr Birleson reported a very successful bonfire night event where the new shipping container was used to serve hot food & refreshments for the first time.</p> <p>c) Humshaugh Community Ventures Ltd. (Village Shop) Cllr Robson was delighted to report that the call in the newsletter for new volunteers had been successful and many now have a greater understanding of how the shop is run.</p>

165 cont	<p>d) Humshaugh Net Zero Humshaugh Community Solar Ltd and the 1MW solar farm at Lincoln Hill. On-site battery storage has been added to the project plan to provide an additional income stream by enabling electricity to be traded when the solar panels are inactive. Negotiations to fund the project (£1.8M) are well advanced.</p> <p>Northern Powergrid Rural Stage 2 Community DSO Network Innovation Project. HNZ, is the community partner with companies Ricardo and Entrust Microgrid. The project aims to investigate giving local communities more control over how they produce, use, and share electricity. HNZ is involved in detailed technical testing, alongside Community engagement, prior to roll out to participating households.</p> <p>Borderlands Energy Investment Programme. The HNZ expression of interest to the Borderlands Energy Investment Programme remains under consideration. The programme aims to support carbon reduction, local high value jobs, businesses and skills development.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>e) Humshaugh Village Hall Committee Cllr Croft reported that the meeting of Trustees is not until next week.</p> <p>f) Fix My Street Report Parishioner Mr Woodward monitors all Fix My Street Activity and presented a comprehensive report. The main concern expressed by all, was in the terminology used in the CC responses to postings which are inconsistent and therefore difficult to track. It was agreed that a small group of Cllrs accompany Mr Woodward on an inspection of Fix My Street report sites, to which a County Council Highways Officer would also be invited. Action Cllr Newell & County Councillor.</p>
166	<p>7. Correspondence Community Governance Review Questionnaire Closes 30th November. All Cllrs contributed. Clerk to send summary response to NCC. NCC Polling Station Review</p>
167	<p>8. Public Forum A newly residing parishioner attended to offer their professional expertise as an architect to relevant Parish Council Projects. The Chair will visit the parishioner and discuss the opportunities available. The Chair was pleased to see a new resident engaging with the Parish Council.</p>
168	<p>9. Items for Discussion at next Parish Council Meeting Cllr Birleson had heard from B4RN and hoped to have a report. The meeting closed at 8.40pm</p>
169	<p>12. Date of next Parish Council Meeting Thursday 8th January 2026, Humshaugh Parish Hall. 7.00pm.</p>

HUMSHAUGH PC REPORT 13.11.25

- 1) **New houses Traffic calming measures.** I received an up to date plan of all the traffic calming measures that they are putting in.
- 2) **LTP.** I have added widening of footpaths along Newhouses and towards wall so I will let you know if they make it to the LTP.
- 3) **Meeting with Joe.** My meeting with Joe went well. A lot of other PC's also mentioned the road safety concerns, which I thought was very interesting. Joe has a great attitude to working with people outside of his political party as he seems very keen to work and communicate with myself with regards to anything that may be of interest to the Humshaugh ward. His team have since updated me on case work in the area. It's good to know we have his support.