



**Humshaugh Parish Council**  
**DRAFT Minutes of Annual Parish &**  
**Public Meeting**  
**Thursday 9th May 2024 at 7.00pm**  
**At Humshaugh Village Hall.**



**PRESENT**

Herbie Newell (Chair), Chris Robinson (Vice Chair), Ian Birleson, Kev Dodd, Jerry Oliver, Kaeti Seth, Peter Woodward.

Nick Morphet (County Councillor. Alix Pearson (Clerk)  
Parishioners of Humshaugh.

1. WELCOME. Cllr Newell welcomed all to the meeting and explained its purpose.
2. APOLOGIES There were no apologies for absence. All Councillors introduced themselves.
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 11th May 2023 were presented and approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.
4. CHAIR'S REPORT - REVIEW OF 23/24.

Thanks to hard work by many, 2023/24 has been a successful year for Humshaugh with our key institutions thriving:

The Village Hall has again been the focus for numerous community events, including the very successful and much appreciated Tuesday morning "Warm Hub" sessions during the winter months.

Strong business in the Village Shop has been maintained which allows Humshaugh Community Ventures Ltd to award grants to local organisations and individuals.

St Peter's Church continues to provide regular services and a range of community events.

Highlights include the Crib Festival now in it's second year, very enjoyable School services and 180 people at the Carol Service.

The Surgery remains very busy providing comprehensive and expert medical care.

Humshaugh First School has a very healthy roll of 62 children in Nursery to Year 4, and an OFSTED inspection is anticipated in the coming year.

Last, but not least, the wonderful Crown Inn has been named Northumberland Pub of the Year for the second year running! Congratulations to David and all his hardworking staff.

Working with our County Councillor Nick Morphet and Northumberland County Council, as appropriate, the Parish Council has implemented improvements and supported community initiatives, including:

Introduction of a Sunday and Bank Holiday AD122 bus service through the Village.

Safety and access improvements at the bus shelter.

Footpath and gutter clearing by a volunteer group to keep paths safe to walk on and the Village "tidy".

A Christmas Lunch for senior residents, co-funded by Humshaugh Community Ventures Ltd, which was again greatly enjoyed and much appreciated.

A weekly Youth Club run by North Tyne Youth and supported by the Evans Trust, Humshaugh Community Ventures Ltd and the Parish Council, which is thriving.

Plans for the forthcoming year include further traffic calming at New Houses and improved cyclist safety measures at Chollerford Bridge, road resurfacing at the Crown Inn, improved parking at the Surgery, monitoring river water quality at Chollerford, and responding to the biodiversity emergency. The Parish Precept was again not increased this year and a reserve has been established to fund improvements. The bimonthly newsletter "Humshaugh News" continues to be well received and ensures that every household is aware of developments in Humshaugh.



IN COLLABORATION WITH SLCC, NALC, OVV, COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS

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8. In response to the climate emergency declared by the Parish Council, and the 2030 Carbon Net Zero target of Northumberland County Council, Humshaugh is involved in a range of initiatives to reduce carbon emissions. The community benefit society Humshaugh Community Solar Ltd has been formed to run the planned 1MW solar PV farm at Lincoln Hill, and full details of how the community can become involved in HCSL will be available shortly. Consultation on the Pre-Submission Draft of the Humshaugh Neighbourhood Plan has been completed and the Plan amended accordingly. The Submission Draft and associated documents have been sent to Northumberland County Council who will arrange examination of the Plan and, following any revisions required, a referendum on the Plan - currently scheduled for this summer. The Parish Council are particularly grateful to our planning consultant Jo-Anne Garrick for the support she has provided, to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group members, and to residents who have contributed to and commented on the Plan.

Initial results from the 2021 Census, released over the past year, emphasise how much our community has changed in the last 10 years. Since 2011, the number of older residents (those 65 and over) has increased by nearly 50% and it is predicted that by 2036 half of all households in Humshaugh will be occupied by those who are 65 and over. Between 2011 and 2021, nearly 50 new houses were built with detached 4+ bedroomed homes now being the dominant house type in Humshaugh; 48% of houses are detached and 40% have 4 or more bedrooms. Corresponding numbers for Northumberland and England are much lower: detached houses 27%/23% and 4+ bedroomed houses 22%/21%, respectively. In response, the Neighbourhood Plan contains policies to support affordable housing development to meet the needs of our young people and ageing population.

Lastly, this year has seen our previous Parish Clerk Kaeti Seth stand down and become a co-opted Parish Councillor. The Parish Council is very grateful to Kaeti for all her hard work and professional support, and we warmly welcome our new Clerk Alix Pearson.

5. OPEN DISCUSSION. The Chair opened the floor to discussion comment and discussion of the Annual Report. A parishioner commented that they thought there may be duplication of the water quality testing undertaken by Newcastle University by Northumbrian Water. The Chair agreed to make some inquiries. A parishioner questioned whether the cost of the works on the bus shelter represented value for money. The chair responded that the works had been proposed, independently scrutinised and accepted as part of the Humshaugh Parish Local Transport Plan process with NCC..
6. ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR. The Chair and Vice Chair indicated their willingness to stand again for office. Chris Robinson nominated Herbie Newell as Chair, seconded by Kaeti Seth. Herbie Newell was unanimously elected as Chair. Herbie Newell proposed Chris Robinson as Vice Chair, seconded by Peter Woodward. Chris Robinson was also unanimously elected as Vice Chair.



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7. PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES. All those councillors and parishioners who represent the Parish Council on outside bodies declared their willingness to continue in their roles and all were confirmed.

Evans Trust - Rupert Gibson

Humshaugh Children's Playing Fields Trust Cllr Ian Birleson

Humshaugh Community Centres Ltd - Cllr Chris Robinson

Humshaugh Net Zero - Cllr Herbie Newell

Humshaugh Village Hall Committee - Cllr Chris Robinson.

8. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

11th July 2024

12th September 2024

7th November 2024

9th January 2025

13th March 2025

8th May 2025

The meeting closed at 7.20pm.