



Neasham Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Ordinary Meeting – Tuesday 26th May 2026 Held at 6:30 p.m. in Neasham Reading Room

Agenda (Annual General Meeting)

1. Chair's welcome and apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from B. Crossen, E. Miller and M. Hannaford.

2. Chair's Report.

The Chair reported on a positive year and noted that the Council had strengthened communications with Darlington Borough Council. Members discussed how this could be built upon going forward.

The Chair recorded his appreciation for Geoffrey Crute's service and dedication to Neasham Parish Council. Remembrance Day arrangements will continue as in previous years.

It was noted that the village had been well maintained and that the flower beds looked good. Thanks were recorded to Pam and Paul for their work on the flower beds, to Geoff and Liz Conlin for watering the flowers, and to local villagers Jacqui and Steve Wray for maintaining the bus shelter, pumphouse and millennium stone areas. Thanks had also been received from villagers regarding the dropped kerbs and speed signs.

The Annual Assembly was considered a success, and Members agreed that a similar format should be considered for next year.

3. Any questions.

No questions were raised.

4. Election of Chair for 2026/2027.

The Chair confirmed that he was happy to continue. P. Murray proposed K. Sandick, and P. Dunn seconded. K. Sandick was elected Chair for 2026/2027.

5. Election of Vice-Chair for 2026/2027.

M. Hannaford was proposed by P. Dunn and seconded by K. Sandick. M. Hannaford was elected Vice-Chair for 2026/2027.



6. Other appointments to support the Chair in effective management for 2026/2027.

- Asset Management Overseer. – K. Sandick, in relation to trees and with shared responsibility for other asset matters.
 - Business Management Overseer. – C. Bayes.
 - Risk Management Overseer. – B. Crossen and M. Hannaford.
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7. Date of next Annual Meeting (Provisionally set at Tuesday 4 May 2027).

The next Annual Meeting was provisionally set for Tuesday 4 May 2027.

Agenda (Ordinary Meeting)

1. Chair's welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were as recorded for the Annual General Meeting.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None.

3. Approval of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 7th April 2026

Confirmed and approved.

4. Risk Management

4.1 Defibrillator maintenance

M. Hannaford confirmed that he was happy to continue with defibrillator maintenance.

5. PACT Meeting

5.1 Feedback from previous meeting

Preparations are to be made for the Neasham PACT Meeting.



Police are aware of issues in the area and are monitoring them, including through the use of drones. The main issue raised was speeding on bikes and scooters.

6. Ward Councillor Matters

6.1 Reports from Ward Councillors

The new Mayor of Darlington was introduced for the year.

Darlington Station was confirmed to be open, with a total project cost of £140m.

7. Roads and Footpaths

7.1 Traffic Report

No further comments were recorded.

8. Village Improvement Plans 26/27

8.1 Northumbria Water Pumphouse secure fencing.

M. Harrison to progress. The cost was noted as £160.

8.2 Floodbank paving slabs

The Environment Agency has confirmed that budget is available and is progressing the work.

8.3 Village Green Sign Repairs

Clerk to make enquiries.

8.4 Direction signage has been repaired thanks to DBC.

Noted with thanks to Darlington Borough Council.

8.5 Flood Markers

M. Harrison to progress.

8.6 Turf repairs near dropped kerbs

M. Harrison to progress.

8.7 Damaged bins replacement.

Clerk to make enquiries.

8.8 Slate around millennium stone.

P. Dunn to progress.

8.9 Historic Pumphouse repairs.

M. Harrison to progress.

8.10 New Lane Traffic Safety

L. Tostevin to chase the matter.



8.11 Xmas Tree

Clerk to progress.

8.12 Plant Bulbs – Daffodils

Clerk to progress.

9. Finance

9.1 Payments previously approved and made in April and May -

Clerk	Salary (2 months)	£556.77
WEL Medical	Defib Battery	£293.94
Spusu	Phone Sim Card (6 months)	£23.20
Amazon	Presentation Clicker	£14.43
The Range	Kids Activities	£8.93
P. Dunn	Replacement Plant Tub	£13.99

9.2 AGAR Sign Off

Internal review is underway.

9.3 AGAR Bank Statement Sign Off

The Chair approved the 2025/26 bank statements.

10. Other Village Matters

10.1 Parish Assembly Feedback

More than 50 parishioners attended, and the event was considered an overall success.

11. Future meetings

It was agreed to stand down the meeting scheduled for 2 June 2026 due to its proximity to this meeting.

The following future meeting dates were noted:

7 July 2026

No meeting to be held in August

1 September 2026

6 October 2026

3 November 2026

1 December 2026