



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Neasham Parish Council held on Tuesday 6th October 2026 at 6:30PM in Neasham Reading Room.

Draft Minutes

1. Chair's welcome and apologies for absence - Apologies were received from C Bayes and P Walters.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda - No declarations of interest were recorded.

3. Approval of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 1st September 2026 - The minutes were approved.

4. New Parish Councillor

4.1 Thomas Dodds was welcomed to Neasham Parish Council.

5. PACT Meeting

5.1 Feedback was received from the PACT meeting held in Neasham on 23rd September 2026.

Matters discussed included bikes and scooters and clarification of the rules applying to electric scooters and electric bikes. It was reported that vehicles being used unlawfully may be seized by the police.

6. Ward Councillor Matters

6.1 Cllr L. Tostevin reported on the final recommendations for Darlington's ward boundaries, noting that a Hurworth ward would remain and that the changes were expected to have relatively little impact locally. Cllr Tostevin thanked members for their support. The planned closure of Darlington Post Office in the Cornmill Centre was noted; Yarm Road Post Office was identified as the nearest alternative branch in the Post Office's closure information. The consultation on renewing Darlington's dog-control rules was discussed, including the existing restrictions relating to children's play areas. Neasham Parish Council agreed that the existing rules should remain.

7. Roads and Footpaths

7.1 The traffic report was noted. No further action was recorded.

8. Planning Matters

8.1 Planning Appeal - Land off Sockburn Lane - appeal 6012201 relating to application 24/01208/OUT. No further update was visible online at the time of the meeting.

9. Village Improvement Plans 26/27

9.1 Christmas Lights - All Christmas lights had been ordered. The main lights had been built and shipping was in progress.

9.2 Bulb Planting and Village Clean-Up Day - The bulbs have arrived and four auger drill attachments have been obtained. It was agreed that the event would focus solely on bulb planting and would take place on Sunday 25th October 2026.

10. Flood Group

10.1 Feedback was received from the Flood Warden meeting held on 29th September 2026. A village walk-round was carried out to identify local issues. The planned resurfacing remains due to go ahead but has been delayed. Attendance at an event at Tees Barrage was also reported, including examples from other areas and a river rescue demonstration.

10.2 No further actions were identified.



11. Finance

11.1 The following payments had previously been approved and made since the previous Ordinary Meeting:

Christmas lights and associated equipment - £1,027.42.

Bulb planting - £298.86.

Remembrance Sunday - £48.45.

Staffing and HMRC - £311.01.

Printing and office supplies - £35.28.

Village maintenance and assets - £356.01.

Parishioner thank-you gift - £45.34.

Total - £2,122.37.

11.2 2027/28 Parish Council Precept - The 2027/28 precept was considered, taking account of the current precept of £13,000, a tax base of 253.9 and the submission deadline of 8th January 2027. A 3% increase was agreed, giving a 2027/28 precept of £13,390.

12. Other Village Matters

12.1 Remembrance Sunday - Final arrangements for Sunday 8th November 2026 were discussed. A selection of speakers has confirmed attendance. The Chair and Clerk will finalise the programme and itinerary.

12.2 Neasham Flag - M. Hannaford will check whether a spare flag is available before any purchase is made.

12.3 Albert Johnston Memorial Seat - The Council considered a request from the family of the late Albert Johnston for a memorial seat near his former home at 44 Teesway, where he had lived for 63 years. Councillors expressed their respect for Mr Johnston and supported an appropriate memorial but agreed that another seat was not required beside the existing seat. Daffodil Bends was suggested as an initial alternative location, with other suitable village locations to be considered with the family if required. Any new seat should match the existing seating, with Marmax identified as the preferred brand.

12.4 Defibrillator Supplies and Servicing - The Council agreed to proceed with a maintenance service. Clerk to look into this more.

12.5 Neasham Village Events Flyer - The Council agreed to print the Neasham Village Events Flyer, providing residents with a clear overview of village events up to Christmas.

12.6 Any other matters members wished to raise (not requiring formal notification).

No other matters were recorded.

13. Date of next Ordinary Parish Meeting

Tuesday 3rd November 2026 at 6:30PM in Neasham Reading Room

Future meeting

1st December 2026