Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Neasham Parish Council held on Tuesday 3rd November 2026 at 6:30PM in Neasham Reading Room.

Draft Minutes

1. **Chair's welcome and apologies for absence** - K. Sandick (Chair) welcomed those present. Parish councillors present: K. Sandick, C. Bayes, B. Crossen, T. Dodds, P. Dunn, E. Miller and P. Murray. Also present: L. Tostevin and P. Walters (Ward Councillors), G. McCarthy (Public Rights of Way Officer) and J. Turner (Clerk). Apologies were received from M. Hannaford (Deputy Chair).

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

3. **Approval of the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 6th October 2026** - The minutes were approved.

4. **Public Rights of Way**

4.1 The Chair welcomed Geoffrey McCarthy, Darlington Borough Council Public Rights of Way Officer, who outlined historical discrepancies in the recorded public rights of way in Neasham. The Clerk will liaise with G. Crute to obtain supporting information. No other action was agreed.

5. **Ward Councillor Matters**

5.1 It was requested that Ward Councillors' personal details, including home addresses, be removed from publicly available information where possible on safety grounds. The published address for Neasham Parish Council will also be reviewed. The Festive Run in South Park on Sunday 29th November 2026 was noted.

6. **Planning Matters**

6.1 Planning Appeal - Land off Sockburn Lane - appeal 6012201 relating to application 24/01208/OUT. The appeal status was reported as 'awaiting site visit'.

7. **Village Improvement Plans 26/27**

7.1 Christmas Lights - No installation date has yet been set. Once all of the lights have arrived, arrangements will be made to install them in readiness for the planned switch-on on Tuesday 1st December 2026.

7.2 Village Bulb Planting - The Chair thanked everyone involved in the village bulb-planting day for their efforts.

8. **Finance**

8.1 2027/28 Parish Council Precept - Submission arrangements were noted for the £13,390 precept agreed at the October meeting. The deadline for submission is 8th January 2027.

8.2 Parish Council Laptop - The current laptop was purchased in 2018. The Council authorised the Clerk to purchase a replacement laptop using the reserves set aside for this purpose.

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

Flag - £100.04.

Poppy wreath - £23.00.

Bulb planting - £38.30.

Flyers - £138.00.

Printing - £16.49.

Brochure boxes - £27.90.

Clerk salary - £273.80.

Total - £617.53.

9. Other Village Matters

9.1 Remembrance Sunday - Final arrangements for Sunday 8th November 2026 were discussed. Matt Vickers MP or a representative was expected to attend and lay a wreath. C. Bayes will deliver the introduction. The Clerk will contact Anthony Smith and David Smith.

9.2 Albert Johnston Memorial Seat - The family has confirmed that the alternative location suggested by the Clerk is acceptable. Two potential locations were considered: the central square and Daffodil Bends. The final location and installation arrangements remain to be confirmed.

9.3 Defibrillator - The existing unit was noted to be approximately eight years old, with replacement being considered in the eight-to-ten-year period. Options discussed included Wi-Fi/4G remote status monitoring, fault alerts, subscription monitoring, annual maintenance and managed updates to The Circuit. P. Murray offered to inspect the current defibrillators and help maintain them until new Defibs are deemed necessary.

9.4 Neasham Christmas Gathering - The proposed arrangements are to start at the village Christmas tree at 6:00PM, then move to Neasham Reading Room.

9.5 Other Matters - The Council agreed to donate £50 to Hospice Direct in response to an email from the Rotary Club about Christmas tree collections.

10. Date of next Ordinary Parish Meeting

Tuesday 1st December 2026 at 6:30PM in Neasham Reading Room.