



MEETING AGENDA

10th September 2026

To ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

You are hereby summonsed to attend the meeting of WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL to be held at Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington, NE22 5TT, on Thursday 10th September 2026 at 6.30pm.

Issued by Steven Young, Town Clerk, on 2nd September 2026.

PRESENTATIONS

- Apologies from Northumbria Police who are unable to attend the meeting to submit their quarterly report. (Agenda Part C Item e).

AGENDA-RELATED QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- The Chair will invite members of the public to ask the Council any questions in relation to the *current meeting agenda*. (There will be an opportunity at the end of the meeting to ask any questions not related to agenda items).
- This question time will last for a period of up to 15 minutes (this can be extended at the discretion of the Chair).
- To give every member of the public a fair chance of asking a question, the number of questions asked by any individual person may be limited at the Chair's discretion. The above covers both verbal and written submissions.
- Any member of the public who speaks, should first advise if they are a resident of the parish, someone who works in the parish or a visitor to the parish.

PART A – ATTENDANCE AND MINUTES

a.	Attendance To record councillors in attendance.
b.	Apologies for absence i. To NOTE any apologies for absence from councillors. ii. To APPROVE any dispensations for absent councillors.
c.	Declaration of interest i. To RECEIVE and NOTE any disclosures of interest. ii. To APPROVE any requests for dispensations.
d.	Meeting minutes To AGREE and SIGN as a correct record the minutes of West Bedlington Town Council's meeting on 13th August 2026. *

PART B – MATTERS FOR DECISION

a.	Funding applications There are no funding applications for this meeting.
b.	Finance - Audit arrangements 2025/26 Completion of Audit - Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) To NOTE the external auditors' certification of the Annual Return of Accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2026. There were no matters which came to the attention of the Auditor that required the issuing of a separate additional issues report, and the notice of conclusion has been published on 24th August 2026. *
c.	Bedlington Community Centre - Landlord Consent To APPROVE (as landlord) a request from Bedlington Community Centre Trustees (as tenant) for permission to pursue a "Borderlands" funding opportunity.
d.	Bio Diversity Measurable Objective To APPROVE a measurable biodiversity objective in relation to the annual planting up of flower pots and troughs. Proposal / Option 1 Gradual transition: Phasing in perennials over a 1–5-year period. Proposal / Option 2 Full transition: Shifting completely to perennials in 2027, due to the end of the current planter contract. <i>Note Minute 26/144 resolved to adopt a Biodiversity Policy for the Town Council.</i>
e.	Governance – Review of existing policies* APPROVE the following policies which are unchanged. i. Policy 12 Community Support (Grants) ii. Policy 13 Code of Conduct iii. Policy 18 Vandalism iv. Policy 24 Gifts + Hospitality v. Policy 25 Third Party Requests CCTV Policy vi. Policy 28 Equalities Policy vii. Policy 29 Safeguarding Policy viii. Policy 32 County Councillor Protocol
f.	Planning Planning applications – where comments have been requested. The Council is asked to discuss and decide if it wishes to make any comments in relation to the planning applications received for comment. Please note, where the response date is before the date of the meeting, an extension has been agreed to allow consideration of the application at the meeting and an opportunity to submit comments. Reference: 26/02801/MAST Description: Notification of Prior Approval for the Installation of an 18m lattice tower supporting a 3m headframe, Installation of 6 no. new antennas, Installation of 9 no. remote radio units (RRUs), 6 no. break out boxes (BOBs) and 1 no. GPS node. Removal of 1 no. existing cabinet and installation of 1 no. new cabinet in the existing cabin, removal of 3 no. existing mast head amplifiers (MHAs, associated apparatus and ancillary works. Bedlington Telephone Exchange Glebe Road Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6JX Response date: 28th August 2026

	Reference: 26/02985/FUL Description: Proposed loft extension, roof alterations and associated external works The Lodge 25 Nedderton Village Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6AX Response date: 15th September 2026. Reference: 26/03002/FUL Description: Installation of security shutters to front elevation 72 Front Street West Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5UA Response date: 16th September 2026. Reference: 26/03070/PRUTPO Description: Tree Preservation Order Application: T30 (Cedar) - Reduce upper crown up to 5m and reshape, T26 (Beech) - crown reduce up to 4m pruning back to overall natural profile of tree Greenside Fairway Rise Hartford Hall Estate Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6AG Response date: 22nd September 2026
g.	Working groups / committees 1. APPROVE any recommendations from working groups (not included elsewhere on the agenda). i. Neighbourhood Plan Working Group APPROVE the revised draft West Bedlington Neighbourhood Plan*, updated following the consultation responses. * ii. Services Working Group APPROVE to send the bus shelter cleaning activity out to tender* to be started in April 2027. iii. Finance and Governance Working Group NOTE the Financial Governance Framework illustration provided. * APPROVE the updates to the financial policies (Standing Orders and Financial Regulations) *, which will require formal line by line reviews of the budget on a quarterly basis, adjusting for impacts, inflation and approved mid-year member requests. APPROVE a 5-point request form* for members to complete when adding items to the agenda, which will reflect budget impacts. iv. Events Working Group Events 2027 to 2030 for approval Proposed options. 1. Employ 0.5 FTE to create and manage events similar to Blyth and Ashington Town Councils – Year 1 cost £30,000, Year2+ £25,000. 2. Since the current supplier is now out of contract, then go to tender, in line with the procurement Act 2023 attached are Proposed Draft tender document, * submission pack, * communications requirements, * and time frame for selection. * 2. To NOTE any other information from working group chairs.
h.	Bank reconciliation To APPROVE a checked bank reconciliation as of 31st August 2026, a current account balance of £6,674.65, a deposit account balance of £27.08 and a CCLA savings account balance of £330,000 *

MEETING PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

a.	Chair’s update and external invitations/consultations To NOTE any announcements from the Chair, and to discuss invitations, consultations (not included elsewhere on the agenda) and external meeting feedback since the last Council meeting.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
b.	Schedule of payments and receipts ALL payments and (receipts) to be noted since the last Council meeting. West Bedlington Town Council 02 September 2026 (2026 - 2027) PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS LIST <table><tr><th>Vouche</th><th>Code</th><th>Date</th><th>Minute</th><th>Bank</th><th>Payment Ref.</th><th>Description</th><th>Supplier</th><th>VAT Type</th><th>Net</th><th>VAT</th><th>Total</th></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>Interest CCLA Account</td><td>05/08/2026</td><td></td><td>Lloyds Current Accou</td><td></td><td>Receipt - CCLA interest paymer</td><td>Lloyds Bank</td><td>X</td><td>1,205.00</td><td></td><td>1,205.00</td></tr><tr><td>88</td><td>Printing</td><td>05/08/2026</td><td></td><td>Lloyds Current Accou</td><td>762703</td><td>Payment - Printing costs</td><td>Smart Office Systems Ltd</td><td>S</td><td>-49.69</td><td>-9.94</td><td>-59.63</td></tr><tr><td>89</td><td>Internet Hosting</td><td>05/08/2026</td><td></td><td>Lloyds Current Accou</td><td>001950700018911</td><td>Payment - Website Domains</td><td>Zen Internet Limited</td><td>S</td><td>-25.98</td><td>-5.20</td><td>-31.18</td></tr><tr><td>90</td><td>.gov emails</td><td>05/08/2026</td><td></td><td>Lloyds Current Accou</td><td>WESTBEDCO 079</td><td>Payment - 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c.	Other planning applications Where comments have not been requested. Reference: 26/02865/DISCON Description: Discharge of condition 20 (gas protection) on approved application 25/04674/VARYCO ALDI Schalksmuhle Road Bedlington Northumberland NE22 7FH Reference: 26/02914/DISCON Description: Discharge of conditions 19 (Ground Gas protection) & 20 (Verification of Ground Gas) on approved application 26/00837/FUL Land South East Of Law Courts Schalksmuhle Road Bedlington Northumberland																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												

	Reference: 26/02937/NONMAT Description: Non material amendment: to allow minor amendment to wording of condition 25 of 18/02329/OUT 7C Netherton Lane Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6DP Reference: 26/02991/DISCON Description: Discharge of Condition 29 (External Facing Materials) of approved application 25/04674/VARYCO Former Tesco Site Market Place Bedlington Northumberland Reference: 26/03035/DISCON Description: Discharge of conditions 3 (Biodiversity Gain) and 4 (LEMP) on approved application 26/00837/FUL Land South East Of Law Courts Schalksmuhle Road Bedlington Northumberland Reference: 26/03036/DISCON Description: Discharge of Condition 13 (Land Contamination) of approved application 26/00837/FUL Land South East Of Law Courts Schalksmuhle Road Bedlington Northumberland
d.	Planning decisions made by Northumberland County Council – notified to West Bedlington Town Council. Reference: 26/00837/FUL Description: Cafe and drive-thru unit, along with associated car parking, servicing, external works, and landscaping Land South East Of Law Courts Schalksmuhle Road Bedlington Northumberland Decision: GRANTED Reference: 26/02202/PRUTPO Description: Tree Preservation Order Application : T1 (Beech) - reduce lateral branches overhanging the rear Garden by 2m. T2 (Sycamore) - reduce lateral branches overhanging the rear Garden by 2m. 1 Bellingham Court Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5QS Decision: PERMIT Reference: 26/02311/VARCCD Description: Variation of Condition 3 (Usage) on approved planning application 24/01694/CCD in order to amend the wording within the Condition 17 Featherstone Grove Hazelmere Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6NU Decision: GRANTED Reference: 26/02279/PRUTPO Description: Tree Preservation Order: T1 - Acer - Remove two west facing branches from above shed, T2 - Acer - Remove one west facing branch, extending over garden, T3 - Acer - Remove four west facing branches, extending over garden, T4 - Acer - Remove three west facing branches, extending over garden 8 Hallwood Close Nedderton Village Northumberland NE22 6BG Decision: PERMIT Reference: 26/02367/FUL Description: Proposed removal of existing side outhouse and erection of new extension 99 Hartlands Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6JQ Decision: GRANTED
e.	Police report To NOTE the police report scheduled for this meeting. The next scheduled report is for the December 2026 meeting.

f.	Matters for information only To NOTE any matters pertaining to the Council, that members would like to bring to the attention of other members and residents. For information only. No proposals or voting on these matters. i. Councillor – any matters for information only. ii. Town Clerk – any matters for information only.
g.	Date of next meeting To NOTE the next scheduled meeting of the Council will be on Thursday 8th October 2026 at 6.30pm in Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington. The agenda for this meeting to be issued on Wednesday 30th September 2026.

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL – ANY OTHER WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MATTERS

- The Chair will invite members of the public to ask the Council any questions in relation to any other West Bedlington Town Council matters.
- This question time will last for a period of up to 15 minutes (this can be extended at the discretion of the Chair).
- To give every member of the public a fair chance of asking a question, the number of questions asked by any individual person may be limited at the Chair's discretion. The above covers both verbal and written submissions.
- Any member of the public who speaks should first advise if they are a resident of the parish, someone who works in the parish or a visitor to the parish.

MEETING PART D – EXEMPT BUSINESS

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

- No exempt business for this meeting.

WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL - COUNCILLORS:

Trevor Austin, Dave Chapple, Brian Denny, Sian Denny, Cath Henderson, Adam Hogg, Al Roberts, Christine Taylor, Victoria Thompson.

* Supporting documentation distributed to members before the meeting and is available to members of the public. If you would like a copy of any of the supporting documents related to an agenda item, please email clerk@westbedlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk and we'll be more than happy to facilitate your request, unless the information is exempt.