

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.
On Thursday 8th January 2026 at 6.30pm.

The agenda for the meeting is set out below

Michelle McTeer – Assistant Town Clerk

4th February 2026



MEETING AGENDA

12th February 2026, 6.30PM

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 state their name and address.

PRESENTATIONS

There are no presentations scheduled for this meeting.

PART A – ATTENDANCE

a.	Apologies for absence i. To NOTE any apologies for absence from councillors. ii. To APPROVE any dispensations for absent councillors.
b.	Declaration of interest i. To RECEIVE and NOTE any disclosures of interest. ii. To APPROVE any requests for dispensations.
c.	Meeting minutes To AGREE and SIGN as a correct record the minutes of West Bedlington Town Council's meeting on 8th January 2026. *

PART B – MATTERS FOR DECISION

a.	Funding applications Non for this meeting.
b.	Governance - Annual Meeting of the Town 2026 i. APPROVE a date and time for the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Town. (The meeting must take place between 1 st March and 1 st June each year). For information only, the 2025 Annual Meeting followed the conclusion of the April Council meeting on 10 th April 2025.
c.	Engagement - approved existing competitions i. APPROVE to cap the prize-fund spending at £150 per competition for the four separate competitions for 2026. £600 total prize fund for four competitions (Best of Bedlington, gardening competition, Photographer of the Year, and Junior Photographer of the Year) as agreed in the approved events calendar (min ref. 25/262). ii. APPROVE the number of awards per competition (as per judges' proposals and shown in the competition details document *). iii. APPROVE judging criteria *

	<div><div><div>iv. Gardening - decide if there are three awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, or just one for first place.</div><div>v. Gardening - decide if there is going to be an award for best children’s flowerpot as part of the gardening competition. This would involve collecting an empty pot from the office, growing flowers at home, returning for judging at the street fair on Saturday 29th August. If approved, a judge will need to be decided.</div><div>vi. Best of Bedlington – agree to have one award for best individual, best group, best young person (three in total).</div><div>vii. Photographer of the Year – agree to have framed photographs for 1st, 2nd and 3rd and an award for each.</div><div>viii. Junior Photographer of the Year – agree to have framed photographs for 1st, 2nd and 3rd and an award for each.</div><div>ix. APPROVE the exact age ranges:<div><div>Children’s flowerpot age range (if agreed, see above)</div><div>Best of Bedlington - young person’s age range</div><div>Junior Photographer of the Year’s age range</div></div></div><div>x. APPROVE the exact breakdown of Amazon voucher prizes per competition.</div><div>xi. Decide if all winners get a certificate as well as a trophy, or just a trophy.</div></div><div><div>Proposed engagement</div><div><div>i. APPROVE a proposal to host a residents’ fruit and vegetable plant swap – Councillor Roberts. *</div><div>ii. APPROVE a proposal to host through West Bedlington primary schools, a “cress head” Easter competition – Councillor Roberts. *</div><div>iii. APPROVE a proposal to host a children’s “grow a plant pot event” as part of the Summer Fair event.</div></div></div></div>												
d.	<div><div>Finance - Internal Audit Interim Report</div><div>NOTE the interim internal audit report distributed. There is no area of concern to report. *</div></div>												
e.	<div><div>Communication – advertising and publicity</div><div>APPROVE the creation and posting of Town Council podcasts.</div></div>												
f.	<div><div>Services – Bedlington PlayZone (Westlea)</div><div>APPROVE the recommended days and times for free access, from April 1st 2026. *</div></div>												
g.	<div><div>Services – permanent Christmas tree</div><div>APPROVE permanent Christmas tree’s location.</div></div>												
h.	<div><div>Planning</div><div>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.</div><table><tr><th>Ref.</th><th>Description</th><th>Response date</th></tr><tr><td>25/01144/FUL</td><td>Installation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure at Burnt House Solar Farm, land east of Burnt House, Netherton Road, Bedlington, Northumberland.</td><td>18th February 2026</td></tr><tr><td>25/04674/VARYCO</td><td>Variation of conditions 1 (approved plans), 7 (refuse), 8 (floorspace), 22 (ecological report), 23 (landscaping), 25 (foul and surface water drainage) and 27 (surface water) on approved application 21/02236/VARYCO in order to replace units 5-11 to accommodate one large retail unit amendments to be agreed with the LPA at determination stage. ALDI, Schalksmuhle Road, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 7FH.</td><td>27th January 2026</td></tr><tr><td>25/04693/FUL</td><td>Bay window to front elevation, removal of garage door and replaced with window for garage conversion. Demolition of existing conservatory and replaced with garden room with pitched roof including roof lights. 34 Dunstanburgh Close, Hazelmere, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 6NA.</td><td>26th January 2026</td></tr></table><div>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.</div></div>	Ref.	Description	Response date	25/01144/FUL	Installation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure at Burnt House Solar Farm, land east of Burnt House, Netherton Road, Bedlington, Northumberland.	18th February 2026	25/04674/VARYCO	Variation of conditions 1 (approved plans), 7 (refuse), 8 (floorspace), 22 (ecological report), 23 (landscaping), 25 (foul and surface water drainage) and 27 (surface water) on approved application 21/02236/VARYCO in order to replace units 5-11 to accommodate one large retail unit amendments to be agreed with the LPA at determination stage. ALDI, Schalksmuhle Road, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 7FH.	27 th January 2026	25/04693/FUL	Bay window to front elevation, removal of garage door and replaced with window for garage conversion. Demolition of existing conservatory and replaced with garden room with pitched roof including roof lights. 34 Dunstanburgh Close, Hazelmere, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 6NA.	26 th January 2026
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i.	Working groups / committees i. APPROVE any recommendations from working groups (not included elsewhere on the agenda). Non for this meeting. ii. To NOTE any other information from working group Chairs.
j.	Bank reconciliation i. To APPROVE a checked bank reconciliation as of 31st January 2026, a current account balance of £20,863.69, a deposit account balance of £5,008.60 and a CCLA savings account balance of £350,000 *

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 and external meeting feedback since the last Council meeting.																																																																																										
b.	Schedule of payments and receipts Details of payments and (receipts) to be noted since last Council update. All payments gross of VAT. <table><tr><th>Payee</th><th>Amount (£)</th><th>Description</th></tr><tr><td>Bedlington Community Centre</td><td>75.00</td><td>Room hire (Christmas carols event)</td></tr><tr><td>Widescope Web Design</td><td>74.29</td><td>.gov emails</td></tr><tr><td>Smart Office Systems Ltd</td><td>17.95</td><td>Printer</td></tr><tr><td>CCLA Deposit Fund Interest</td><td>-1,160.97</td><td>Interest</td></tr><tr><td>St John Ambulance</td><td>137.28</td><td>Christmas carols event</td></tr><tr><td>Reay Security</td><td>83.04</td><td>Cemetery gates</td></tr><tr><td>Forvis Mazars LLP</td><td>1,008.00</td><td>External audit</td></tr><tr><td>From Deposit Account</td><td>-5,000.00</td><td>Transfer</td></tr><tr><td>Reay Security</td><td>809.64</td><td>CCTV</td></tr><tr><td>Reay Security</td><td>669.60</td><td>Lock up Meadowdale</td></tr><tr><td>DL Maintenance & Repair</td><td>609.36</td><td>Bus shelter repairs</td></tr><tr><td>Starboard Systems Limited</td><td>1,255.20</td><td>Online accounting software</td></tr><tr><td>Defib Machines Limited</td><td>4,791.72</td><td>Defibs and cabinets</td></tr><tr><td>Northumberland County Council</td><td>6,332.44</td><td>Payroll</td></tr><tr><td>Reay Security Limited</td><td>83.04</td><td>CCTV</td></tr><tr><td>Talk Talk Business</td><td>62.91</td><td>Phone</td></tr><tr><td>From Deposit Account</td><td>-5,000.00</td><td>Transfer</td></tr><tr><td>Disclosure and Barring</td><td>21.50</td><td>DSS check</td></tr><tr><td>Bedlington West End Primary School</td><td>1,500.00</td><td>Pupils’ fund payment</td></tr><tr><td>Becky Walsh Ltd</td><td>631.50</td><td>Civility and Respect training</td></tr><tr><td>Widescope Web Design</td><td>37.44</td><td>Historic email retrieval software</td></tr><tr><td>CCLA Deposit Fund Transfer In</td><td>-20,000.00</td><td>Transfer</td></tr><tr><td>Lloyds Bank Charges</td><td>8.50</td><td>Charges</td></tr><tr><td>Wireless Logic Limited</td><td>555.36</td><td>SD cards for CCTV</td></tr><tr><td>House of Hamilton</td><td>1,000.00</td><td>Street fair</td></tr><tr><td>Malcolm Wilkinson</td><td>131.25</td><td>Internal audit</td></tr><tr><td>Northumberland County Council</td><td>375.00</td><td>Grit bin refills</td></tr><tr><td>Vistaprint</td><td>95.81</td><td>Stickers (Easter eggs/selection boxes)</td></tr><tr><td>W.L Straughan & Son Ltd</td><td>264.00</td><td>Christmas tree removal</td></tr></table>	Payee	Amount (£)	Description	Bedlington Community Centre	75.00	Room hire (Christmas carols event)	Widescope Web Design	74.29	.gov emails	Smart Office Systems Ltd	17.95	Printer	CCLA Deposit Fund Interest	-1,160.97	Interest	St John Ambulance	137.28	Christmas carols event	Reay Security	83.04	Cemetery gates	Forvis Mazars LLP	1,008.00	External audit	From Deposit Account	-5,000.00	Transfer	Reay Security	809.64	CCTV	Reay Security	669.60	Lock up Meadowdale	DL Maintenance & Repair	609.36	Bus shelter repairs	Starboard Systems Limited	1,255.20	Online accounting software	Defib Machines Limited	4,791.72	Defibs and cabinets	Northumberland County Council	6,332.44	Payroll	Reay Security Limited	83.04	CCTV	Talk Talk Business	62.91	Phone	From Deposit Account	-5,000.00	Transfer	Disclosure and Barring	21.50	DSS check	Bedlington West End Primary School	1,500.00	Pupils’ fund payment	Becky Walsh Ltd	631.50	Civility and Respect training	Widescope Web Design	37.44	Historic email retrieval software	CCLA Deposit Fund Transfer In	-20,000.00	Transfer	Lloyds Bank Charges	8.50	Charges	Wireless Logic Limited	555.36	SD cards for CCTV	House of Hamilton	1,000.00	Street fair	Malcolm Wilkinson	131.25	Internal audit	Northumberland County Council	375.00	Grit bin refills	Vistaprint	95.81	Stickers (Easter eggs/selection boxes)	W.L Straughan & Son Ltd	264.00	Christmas tree removal
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d.	Planning decisions notified to West Bedlington Town Council by Northumberland County Council														
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e.	Police report No Police report for this meeting. The next scheduled report is for the March 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 12th March 2026 at 6.30pm in Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington. The agenda for this meeting to be issued on Wednesday 4th March 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 state their name and address.

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.

a.	Bedlington Community Centre
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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.