

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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.	<b>Apologies for absence</b> i. To NOTE any apologies for absence from councillors. ii. To APPROVE any dispensations for absent councillors.
b.	<b>Declaration of interest</b> i. To RECEIVE and NOTE any disclosures of interest. ii. To APPROVE any requests for dispensations.
c.	<b>Meeting minutes</b> 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.	<b>Funding applications</b> Non for this meeting.
b.	<b>Governance - Annual Meeting of the Town 2026</b> i. APPROVE a date and time for the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Town. (The meeting must take place between 1 <sup>st</sup> March and 1 <sup>st</sup> June each year). For information only, the 2025 Annual Meeting followed the conclusion of the April Council meeting on 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2025.
c.	<b>Engagement - approved existing competitions</b> 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 *

iv. Gardening - decide if there are three awards for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, or just one for first place.

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 29<sup>th</sup> August. If approved, a judge will need to be decided.

vi. Best of Bedlington – agree to have one award for best individual, best group, best young person (three in total).

vii. Photographer of the Year – agree to have framed photographs for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and an award for each.

viii. Junior Photographer of the Year – agree to have framed photographs for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and an award for each.

ix. APPROVE the exact age ranges:

- Children's flowerpot age range (if agreed, see above)
- Best of Bedlington - young person's age range
- Junior Photographer of the Year's age range

x. APPROVE the exact breakdown of Amazon voucher prizes per competition.

xi. Decide if all winners get a certificate as well as a trophy, or just a trophy.

#### **Proposed engagement**

i. APPROVE a proposal to host a residents' fruit and vegetable plant swap – Councillor Roberts. \*

ii. APPROVE a proposal to host through West Bedlington primary schools, a "cress head" Easter competition – Councillor Roberts. \*

iii. APPROVE a proposal to host a children's "grow a plant pot event" as part of the Summer Fair event.

d.	<b>Finance - Internal Audit Interim Report</b> NOTE the interim internal audit report distributed. There is no area of concern to report. *													
e.	<b>Communication – advertising and publicity</b> APPROVE the creation and posting of Town Council podcasts.													
f.	<b>Services – Bedlington PlayZone (Westlea)</b> APPROVE the recommended days and times for free access, from April 1 <sup>st</sup> 2026. *													
g.	<b>Services – permanent Christmas tree</b> APPROVE permanent Christmas tree's location.													
h.	<b>Planning</b> 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. <table border="1" data-bbox="235 1327 1478 1857"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="239 1334 446 1361">Ref.</th><th data-bbox="446 1334 1192 1361">Description</th><th data-bbox="1192 1334 1473 1361">Response date</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="239 1361 446 1462">25/01144/FUL</td><td data-bbox="446 1361 1192 1462">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 data-bbox="1192 1361 1473 1462">18th February 2026</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="239 1462 446 1686">25/04674/VARYCO</td><td data-bbox="446 1462 1192 1686">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 data-bbox="1192 1462 1473 1686">27<sup>th</sup> January 2026</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="239 1686 446 1857">25/04693/FUL</td><td data-bbox="446 1686 1192 1857">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 data-bbox="1192 1686 1473 1857">26<sup>th</sup> January 2026</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
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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.

i.	<b>Working groups / committees</b> 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.	<b>Bank reconciliation</b> 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.	<b>Chair's update and external invitations/consultations</b> To NOTE any announcements from the Chair, and to discuss invitations, consultations and external meeting feedback since the last Council meeting.	
b.	<b>Schedule of payments and receipts</b> Details of payments and (receipts) to be noted since last Council update. All payments gross of VAT.	
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

c.	<p><b>Other planning applications</b> Where comments have <b>not</b> been requested.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="223 107 1457 545"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="223 107 473 163">Ref.</th><th data-bbox="473 107 1457 163">Description</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="223 163 473 354">25/04662/DISCON</td><td data-bbox="473 163 1457 354">Discharge of Conditions 8 (Materials), 11 (Proposed Boundary Treatment), 12 (Car Parking), 13 (Vehicular Access), 14 (Proposed Highway Works), 15 (Proposed Street Management/Maintenance), 20 (Construction Method Statement), 21 (Refuse Storage), 24 (Bird and Bat Boxes), 25 (Site Investigation Reports), 31 (Dust Management) and 33 (Noise Management) of approved application 18/02329/OUT 7C Netherton Lane Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6DP</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="223 354 473 455">26/00100/DISCON</td><td data-bbox="473 354 1457 455">Discharge of Condition 23a (Intrusive Investigations) on approved application 25/03927/VARYCO   Land South Of Broadway House Farm Church Lane Bedlington Northumberland</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="223 455 473 545">26/00306/ELEGDO</td><td data-bbox="473 455 1457 545">Erection of a new H pole to house a new pole mounted transformer. Reference: AP/ENQ23242605/U26093513   Bedlington Lane Farm Hartford Road Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6AA</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			Ref.	Description	25/04662/DISCON	Discharge of Conditions 8 (Materials), 11 (Proposed Boundary Treatment), 12 (Car Parking), 13 (Vehicular Access), 14 (Proposed Highway Works), 15 (Proposed Street Management/Maintenance), 20 (Construction Method Statement), 21 (Refuse Storage), 24 (Bird and Bat Boxes), 25 (Site Investigation Reports), 31 (Dust Management) and 33 (Noise Management) of approved application 18/02329/OUT 7C Netherton Lane Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6DP	26/00100/DISCON	Discharge of Condition 23a (Intrusive Investigations) on approved application 25/03927/VARYCO   Land South Of Broadway House Farm Church Lane Bedlington Northumberland	26/00306/ELEGDO	Erection of a new H pole to house a new pole mounted transformer. Reference: AP/ENQ23242605/U26093513   Bedlington Lane Farm Hartford Road Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6AA				
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d.	<p><b>Planning decisions notified to West Bedlington Town Council by Northumberland County Council</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="223 613 1457 994"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="223 613 504 669">Ref.</th><th data-bbox="504 613 1283 669">Description</th><th data-bbox="1283 613 1457 669">Decision</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="223 669 504 860">25/04362/VARYCO</td><td data-bbox="504 669 1283 860">Variation of conditions 1 (approved plans), 2 (details of a native mixed species hedge), 3 (car parking area), 4 (existing vehicular access), 5 (cycle parking) and 6 (management and site plan) on approved application 24/03162/FUL allowed on appeal APP/P2935/W/25/3358787 land to south of Hartford Drive, Hartford Bridge, Northumberland.</td><td data-bbox="1283 669 1457 860">GRANTED</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="223 860 504 938">25/03960/FUL</td><td data-bbox="504 860 1283 938">Single storey extension. 26 Knaresborough Close, Hazelmere, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 6NT.</td><td data-bbox="1283 860 1457 938">GRANTED</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="223 938 504 994">25/04442/FUL</td><td data-bbox="504 938 1283 994">Proposed single storey rear extension 49 Hassop Way Beaufront Park Bedlington Northumberland NE22 7LE</td><td data-bbox="1283 938 1457 994">GRANTED</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			Ref.	Description	Decision	25/04362/VARYCO	Variation of conditions 1 (approved plans), 2 (details of a native mixed species hedge), 3 (car parking area), 4 (existing vehicular access), 5 (cycle parking) and 6 (management and site plan) on approved application 24/03162/FUL allowed on appeal APP/P2935/W/25/3358787 land to south of Hartford Drive, Hartford Bridge, Northumberland.	GRANTED	25/03960/FUL	Single storey extension. 26 Knaresborough Close, Hazelmere, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 6NT.	GRANTED	25/04442/FUL	Proposed single storey rear extension 49 Hassop Way Beaufront Park Bedlington Northumberland NE22 7LE	GRANTED
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e.	<p><b>Police report</b> No Police report for this meeting. The next scheduled report is for the March 2026 meeting.</p>														
f.	<p><b>Matters for information only</b> 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Councillor – any matters for information only.</li> <li>ii. Town Clerk – any matters for information only.</li> </ul>														
g.	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b> 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.</p>														

#### 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.