

MEETING MINUTES

11th June 2026

Meeting of WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL, held at Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington, NE22 5TT, on Thursday 11th June 2026 at 6.30pm.

AGENDA-RELATED QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- Agenda item B, e – a resident wanted to know more about the pre-application and was told it this was Northumberland County Council's remit and that West Bedlington Town Council's Planning Working Group comments would be discussed when agenda item B, d was reached.
- Agenda item C, e – a resident wanted to know if the Police report included information about the recent vandalism of the NHS mammogram facility near the library and the Chair said that it would be fed back to the Neighbourhood Policing team.
- Agenda item B, e – a resident wanted the Planning Working Group to consider its comments about the pre-application with regards to accuracy and was told it would be discussed in more detail when agenda item B, d was reached.

PRESENTATIONS

- There were no presentations for this meeting.

PART A – ATTENDANCE AND MINUTES

Min ref	Item ref	Item description	Determination
26/102	a.	<p>Attendance</p> <p>To record councillors in attendance.</p>	<p>Councillors Austin, B Denny (Chair), S Denny, Hogg, Roberts and Thompson. Town Clerk, S Young, Assistant Town Clerk, M McTeer, and seven (7) members of the public.</p>
26/103	b.	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>i. To NOTE any apologies for absence from councillors.</p> <p>ii. To APPROVE any dispensations for absent councillors.</p>	<p>i. Apologies for absence from councillors Chapple, Henderson and Taylor.</p> <p>ii. None for this meeting.</p>
26/104	c.	<p>Declaration of interest</p> <p>i. To RECEIVE and NOTE any disclosures of interest.</p> <p>ii. To APPROVE any requests for dispensations.</p>	<p>i. None for this meeting.</p> <p>ii. None for this meeting.</p>
26/105	d.	<p>Meeting minutes</p> <p>To AGREE and SIGN as a correct record the minutes of West Bedlington Town Council’s meeting on 14th May 2026.*</p>	<p>RESOLVED that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 14th May 2026 are APPROVED as a true record.</p>

PART B – MATTERS FOR DECISION

Min ref	Item ref	Item description	Determination
26/106	a.	<p>Election of Deputy Mayor for the year 2026/27</p> <p>To receive the Deputy Mayor’s Declaration of Acceptance of Office.</p> <p><i>It is at the Council’s discretion whether to elect a Deputy Mayor or not.</i></p>	<p>Councillor Austin was elected as Deputy Mayor of West Bedlington Town Council for the year 2026/27. Councillor Austin signed the Deputy Mayor’s Declaration of Acceptance of Office.</p>
26/107	b.	<p>Funding applications</p> <p>To APPROVE a Community Chest funding application from 2522 Bedlington Squadron RAFAC.*</p>	<p>APPROVED.</p>
26/108	c.	<p>Services – permanent Christmas tree</p> <p>APPROVE a location for a permanent Christmas tree.</p>	<p>AGREED to investigate the viability of a permanent tree at a new suggested location outside of the Community Centre.</p>
26/109	d.	<p>Governance</p> <p>APPROVE, after REVIEW, the following policies, procedures and documents.*</p> <p>i. Review of current policies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policy No. 1 Standing Orders. Updated to reflect Staffing Committee (highlighted). 2. Policy No. 14 Council Meeting Protocol. Updated to reflect possible video recording of Council meetings (highlighted). <p>ii. GDPR training</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual GDPR Councillor Training Refresher document. 2. Policy DP1 Personal Data Protection Policy. Only if the Annual GDPR Councillor Training Refresher document (1. above) is approved – update to 5.8 Training (highlighted). 	<p>i. Policies 1 and 14 reviewed and APPROVED.</p> <p>ii. 1. Councillors agreed to sign the GDPR training document. 2.</p>

		<p>iii. New policy / procedures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual Leave Policy. 2. Community Vegetable Exchange Point Rules. 	<p>Reviewed and APPROVED. iii. 1 and 2 APPROVED.</p>
26/110	e.	<p>Planning</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Reference: 26/00314/PREAPP</p> <p>Description: Development of the site for approximately 1,250 dwellings, employment uses, a community hub and associated infrastructure. Add on meeting with Planning Officer and Chief Planning Officer. Land south west of Meadow View Farm, Choppington Road, Choppington, Northumberland.</p> <p>Response date: 2nd June 2026</p> <p>Response recommendations from West Bedlington Town Council’s Planning Working Group: The Town Council would like to be directly involved in discussions on this pre-application to ensure any benefits for residents are maximised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure any tree planting plans connect the existing areas of woodland within the overall site to the green and Netherton lech and approved solar farm to support the area as a wildlife corridor. • Legal agreements regarding the provision of the “new usable open space, including sports and play facilities as well as a new community hub” and ownership will go to the Town Council after a period to ensure security of these facilities for the town. • Within the area, provision should be made for a new allotment site to accommodate demand for allotments locally. • The provision of a large-scale bungalow development within the site to accommodate demand for bungalows locally. • Concerns that the new road will enter Fenwick Park and Broadoaks and result in issues within those estates. 	<p>AGREED to amend the recommended response to include figures for allotment waiting lists, and to insert the word ‘perceived’ before ‘demand for bungalows locally.’</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To request new roads exit on to main roads of B1331 at Broadoaks roundabout and Choppington road directly. • No Loss of existing woodland areas and hedgerows within the area proposed. • Concern about development of the Northern site being in close proximity of the former toxic landfill / Choppington brickworks. • Planting of large woodland and hedgerow to Northern site along old Choppington brickworks road to support biodiversity. • Concerns about the stability of the site overall from previous opencast operations and possible unmapped mine entries and workings. <p>Reference: 26/01589/FUL</p> <p>Description: 6no mixed use retail units (Classification E) 5 Market Place, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5TN.</p> <p>Response date: 2nd June 2026</p> <p>Response recommendations from West Bedlington Town Council's Planning Working Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding parking, there are no arrangements within the development for staff or visitor car parking. • The major height difference of the site and affecting tired and exhausted/Avor hire boundary wall. • The turning circle at the top is a car park for the Tavern and that space will reduce in size because of bin storage and provision of a cycleway. <p>Reference: 26/01847/PRUTPO</p> <p>Description: Tree Preservation Order: T1- Norway Maple. Reduce overhanging branches on the north side of the crown and a light (10%) crown thin 15 Oakapple Close, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 7LL.</p> <p>Response date: 16th June 2026</p> <p>Response recommendations from West Bedlington Town Council's Planning Working Group: No comment.</p>	<p>AGREED to add a comment to object to this and submit the recommended response.</p> <p>No comment.</p>
26/111	f.	Working groups / committees	

	<p>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. <u>Update for the Events Working Group:</u></p> <p>Councillor Sian Denny put herself forward for the chair of the group, which was voted on and agreed by Councillors B Denny and Roberts.</p> <p>August Bank Holiday event plan is in progress with insurances, licences, floor plan of 20 Acres site drafted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car parking – designate areas for the public, Nobles and performers. • Access corridors, Blue Light services identified. • Signage – Church Lane will be signposted to help prevent unauthorised parking, however this will NOT be enforced. • Advertising – West Bedlington Town Council Events Facebook page advertises the event. Leaflets and posters will be printed to put into local shops and areas with high footfall. <p>Multi-cultural evening:</p> <p>Friday 25/9/26, 7-11pm, Bedlington Community Centre.</p> <p>This event is to cater for 110 attendees, and we will be selling 100 tickets to cover extra costs. Ticket price is 15.00</p> <p>The evening is to run as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doors open at 6:45 • Event commences at 7pm • 7pm compere - 10 mins • 7:10 Food served • 21:00 Bollywood dancers • 21:15 Steel band • 21:45 Irish dancers • 22:00 Magician (from BGT) • 22:40 Music 'til 11pm <p>As with all live events, timings are approximate and can be subject to change.</p> <p>The menu: Curry station with poppadum and wedges. Bolognese pasta with garlic bread and wedges.</p> <p>Awards evening:</p> <p>Friday 13/11/26, 7-10pm, Bedlington Community Centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doors open at 7.00 	<p>Events Working Group update provided.</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:30 - Compere • 7:45 - Food served - pie and peas • 21:00 - Awards • 22:00 Event closes 	
26/112	g.	<p>Bank reconciliation</p> <p>i. To APPROVE a checked bank reconciliation as of 31st May 2026, a current account balance of £3,111.00 a deposit account balance of £10,018.15 and a CCLA savings account balance of £400,000.00 *</p>	APPROVED.

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MEETING PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

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26/113	a.	<p>Chair's update and external invitations/consultations</p> <p>To NOTE any announcements from the Chair, and to discuss invitations, consultations and external meeting feedback since the last Council meeting.</p> <p>Invitations received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> StreetGames Northumberland networking meeting. Newbiggin Leisure centre on Tuesday 2nd June from 12.30pm to 2.30/3pm. Open to all members. NWA Environment Strategy. Monday 15th June at Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington, NE22 5TT, between 3.30pm and 6.30pm. Open to everyone. Invitation to the Institution and Induction of the Reverend Helen Young, Wednesday 8th July, 2026, in St. Cuthbert's Church, Bedlington at 7.30pm. Open to all members, RSVP via the Clerk. 	<p>All invitations NOTED.</p> <p>Agreed to ask for additional information regarding the StreetGames meeting which took place on 2nd June 2026.</p>																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
26/114	b.	<p>Schedule of payments and receipts</p> <p>ALL payments and (receipts) to be noted since the last meeting.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>West Bedlington Town Council 08 June 2026 (2026 - 2027)</p> <p>PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS LIST</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Voucher 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> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>07/05/2026</td> <td></td> <td>Lloyds Current</td> <td>Interest</td> <td>Receipt - InterestPayment</td> <td>CCLA Savings Account</td> <td>Z</td> <td>1,030.75</td> <td></td> <td>1,030.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26</td> <td>07/05/2026</td> <td></td> <td>Lloyds Current</td> <td>765903</td> <td>Payment - Printing costs</td> <td>SmartOffice Systems</td> <td>S</td> <td>-14.21</td> <td>-2.85</td> <td>-17.06</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27</td> <td>07/05/2026</td> <td></td> <td>Lloyds Current</td> <td>18044</td> <td>Payment - Online</td> <td>Starboard Systems</td> <td>S</td> <td>-84.00</td> <td>-16.80</td> <td>-100.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28</td> <td>08/05/2026</td> <td></td> <td>Lloyds Current</td> <td>WESTBED</td> <td>Payment - gov emails</td> <td>Widescope Web Design</td> <td>S</td> <td>-61.91</td> <td>-12.38</td> <td>-74.29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td>08/05/2026</td> <td></td> <td>Lloyds Current</td> <td>W8TC25/6 - 3</td> <td>Payment - Internal Audit</td> <td>Malcolm Wilkinson</td> <td>Z</td> <td>-168.75</td> <td></td> <td>-168.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td> <td>08/05/2026</td> <td></td> <td>Lloyds Current</td> <td>070533</td> <td>Payment - CCTV (Westlea</td> <td>Reay Security Ltd</td> <td>S</td> <td>-69.20</td> <td>-13.84</td> <td>-83.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td> <td>08/05/2026</td> <td></td> <td>Lloyds Current</td> <td>Payment - Seasonal</td> <td>Orangutan Landscapes</td> <td>S</td> <td>-1,496.95</td> <td>-299.99</td> <td>-1,796.94</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>11/05/2026</td> <td></td> <td>Lloyds Deposit</td> <td>Interest</td> <td>Receipt - Deposit account</td> <td>Lloyds Bank</td> <td>E</td> <td>4.53</td> <td></td> <td>4.53</td> </tr> <tr> <td>34</td> <td>18/05/2026</td> <td></td> <td>Lloyds Current</td> <td>Payment - Monthly</td> <td>Widescope Web Design</td> <td>S</td> <td>-31.20</td> <td>-6.24</td> <td>-37.44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>32</td> <td>18/05/2026</td> <td></td> <td>Lloyds Current</td> <td>Payment - CCTV (Church</td> <td>Reay Security Ltd</td> <td>S</td> <td>-69.20</td> <td>-13.84</td> <td>-83.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>33</td> <td>18/05/2026</td> <td></td> <td>Lloyds Current</td> <td>Payment - Deposit for</td> <td>House of Hamilton</td> <td>Z</td> <td>-900.00</td> <td></td> <td>-900.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>36</td> <td>20/05/2026</td> <td></td> <td>Lloyds Current</td> <td>Payment - Bank charges</td> <td>Lloyds Bank</td> <td>Z</td> <td>-8.50</td> <td></td> <td>-8.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>35</td> <td>20/05/2026</td> <td></td> <td>Lloyds Current</td> <td>Payment - CCTV</td> <td>Reay Security Ltd</td> <td>S</td> <td>-674.70</td> <td>-134.94</td> <td>-809.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>37</td> <td>20/05/2026</td> <td></td> <td>Lloyds Current</td> <td>Payment - 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37	20/05/2026		Lloyds Current	Payment - Locking/unlocks	Reay Security Ltd	S	-882.00	-176.40	-1,058.40																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
39	21/05/2026	26/88	Lloyds Current	Payment - One-off	North East War	X	-100.00		-100.00																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
38	21/05/2026		Lloyds Current	Payment - Replacement	Sivaro UK and Ireland	S	-89.11	-17.82	-106.93																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
40	22/05/2026	26/88	Lloyds Current	Payment - Community	Bedlington Community	Z	-500.00		-500.00																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
41	22/05/2026	26/88	Lloyds Current	Payment - Community	Bedlington Brass	Z	-500.00		-500.00																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
42	22/05/2026		Lloyds Current	Payment - CCTV SSM cards	Wireless Logic Limited	S	-479.05	-95.81	-574.86																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
43	27/05/2026		Lloyds Current	Payment - Payroll	Norumberland	Z	-4,933.37		-4,933.37																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
43	27/05/2026		Lloyds Current	Payment - Payroll	Norumberland	Z	-710.40		-710.40																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
43	27/05/2026		Lloyds Current	Payment - Payroll	Norumberland	Z	-6,145.1		-6,145.1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
43	27/05/2026		Lloyds Current	Payment - Payroll	Norumberland	S	-18.00	-3.60	-21.60																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
44	27/05/2026		Lloyds Current	Payment - Landline and	Aircan	S	-10.00	-2.00	-12.00																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
45	28/05/2026		Lloyds Current	Payment - Website	Widescope Web Design	S	-340.00	-68.00	-408.00																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
Total								-11,726.18	-865.11	-12,591.29																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																

26/115	c.	<p>Other planning applications</p> <p>Where comments have not been requested.</p>	Nothing for this meeting.
26/116	d.	<p>Planning decisions made by Northumberland County Council - West Bedlington Town Council notified</p> <p>Reference: 26/01053/FUL</p> <p>Description: Change of use of 1st floor from bar and pool hall Sui Generis into dance studio E(d). Removal of existing bar and erection of two stud walls to create waiting area. Breakers Pool Bar & Lounge 42 - 48 Front Street West, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5UB.</p> <p>Decision: GRANTED.</p> <p>Reference: 25/04674/VARYCO</p> <p>Description: 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. Car Park, Vulcan Place, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5DN.</p> <p>Decision: GRANTED.</p> <p>Reference: 26/01278/VARYCO</p> <p>Description: Variation of condition 1 (approved plans) on approved application 25/04362/VARYCO in order for the stable block to be less obtrusive. Land to south of Hartford Drive, Hartford Drive, Hartford Bridge, Northumberland, NE22 6AJ.</p> <p>Decision: REFUSED.</p>	NOTED.
26/117	e.	<p>Police report</p> <p>To note the Police report provided for this meeting. The next scheduled report is for the September 2026 meeting.</p>	NOTED and agreed for councillors to add a suggestion regarding CCTV

			for a future agenda, if required.
26/118	f.	<p>Matters for information only</p> <p>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> <p>i. Councillor – any matters for information only. ii. Town Clerk – any matters for information only.</p>	<p>i. The Chair formally noted the recent passing of PC Jess Turnbull of Northumbria Police. Members expressed their gratitude for her services and would like to pass on condolences to family and friends.</p> <p>ii. Nothing for this meeting.</p>
26/119	g.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>To NOTE the next scheduled meeting of the Council will be on Thursday 9th July 2026 at 6.30pm in Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington. The agenda for this meeting to be issued on Wednesday 1st July 2026.</p>	NOTED.

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

- A resident queried planning consultation data and believed hearsay could be used as well as evidence-based data, so wanted to share that point of view.
- A resident wanted to know if the CCTV cameras in West Bedlington have helped with crimes. It was decided that the Town Council would contact the Neighbourhood Policing Team to see if this data could be included in future reports.
- A resident wondered if the Town Council would talk to Advance about parking and was told it wasn't within our remit and that they would need to talk to Northumberland County Council.
- A resident wanted to know if there would be vegetarian food at the multicultural event and was told there would be.
- A resident had an update about anti-social behaviour in the town centre.

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.

- Nothing for this meeting.

The Chair closed this meeting at 19.53.

DRAFT

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.