

10TH JULY 2025

MEETING MINUTES

WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Bedlington Community Centre
Front Street West
Bedlington
NE22 5TT



PRESENTATIONS

Bedlington Cricket Club provided a short presentation to support their Community Chest application (Part B, item a).

AGENDA-RELATED QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS

A resident commented about planning ref 25/01552/HEGRMN; saying he was disappointed that the removal of hedgerow had been approved.

PART A - ATTENDANCE

Min ref		Attendance / apologies / declarations of interest	Determination
25/160		Attendance	Councillors Austin, B. Denny, Henderson, Taylor (Chair), Roberts and Thompson. Town Clerk S Young, and Assistant Town Clerk, M McTeer. Four (4) members of the public.
25/161	a.	Apologies for absence i. To receive and note any apologies for absence from councillors. ii. To consider and determine any dispensations for absent councillors.	 i. Apologies for absence from councillors Chapple, Hogg and S. Denny were NOTED . ii. There were no dispensations for this meeting.
25/162	b.	Declarations of interest i. Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required to disclose any personal interest, (which includes any disclosable pecuniary interest), they may have in any of the items included on the agenda for the meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 12th July 2012. ii. To consider any requests for dispensations.	 i. Councillor Austin declared his interest in Bedlington Cricket Club. ii. There were no requests for dispensations for this meeting.

PART B – MATTERS FOR DECISION

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS / SUMMARY OF DELEGATED DECISIONS

		Details of meeting or delegated decisions	Determination
25/163	a.	To agree and sign as a correct record the minutes of West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 12th June 2025.	RESOLVED that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 12th June 2025 are APPROVED as a true record.
25/164	b.	To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting that are not included as agenda items.	There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2025.

2. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

		Matters for discussion / decision	Determination
25/165	a.	Funding application To APPROVE the Community Chest funding application for Bedlington Cricket Club. Application distributed to members.	Members APPROVED the funding application of £500.
25/166	b.	Quarterly finance update i. To REVIEW the current year's expenditure against the current year's budget. ii. If appropriate, AGREE recommendations to bring both inline. (Report distributed to members – estimate of year end areas of significant overspend highlighted in the report).	Members NOTED the report and no actions were taken.
25/167	c.	Governance - terms of reference for working groups (deferred from May 2025's meeting). After reviewing, AGREE the terms of reference for working groups. i. All working groups (except the Communications and Events Working Group). ii. Communications and Events Working Group. Draft terms of reference distributed to members.	After a small amendment on both, members APPROVED the terms of reference.
25/168	d.	Governance – review of existing policies AGREE to delegate to the Governance Working Group and APPROVE any existing policies that AFTER REVIEW require NO CHANGES.	Members AGREED .
25/169	e.	Christmas lights AGREE further extensions to the Christmas lights provision in the financial year 2026/27.	

		i. Choppington Road, extend to Longridge Estate. ii. B1331 extend to Glenton’s Bakery. Estimated costs per lighting column from June’s Meeting agenda – one-off cost – £475 for the supply and installation of commando socket and £400 for purchase of each light motif. Ongoing annual costs for erection, dismantling, safety checking, etc, approximately £200 per lighting column.	i. Members AGREED. ii. Members AGREED.												
25/170	f.	Neighbourhood Plan AGREE to commit to the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan despite the removal of funding assistance. Estimate cost to complete: £4,500, not including any possible costs of a referendum.	Members AGREED.												
25/171	g.	Residents’ competitions i. AGREE photography competition judge and prizes – closing date 4th August. Judging on or before 11th August. We already have two resident judges and would like one councillor representative on the judging panel. ii. AGREE gardening competition prizes – judges already arranged. iii. AGREE judges and prizes for Best of Bedlington Awards ahead of presentations on 12th September 2025.	i. AGREED prizes and decided that Councillor B. Denny would be the judge. ii. AGREED prizes and decided that Councillor Roberts would be the judge. ii. AGREED prizes and decided that councillors Roberts, Thompson and Taylor would be the judges.												
25/172	h.	Planning i. 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><tr><th>Reference</th><th>Description</th><th>Response date</th></tr><tr><td>25/02008/FUL</td><td>Installation of roller shutter to shop front (Retrospective). 46 Front Street East, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5AB.</td><td>03.07.2025</td></tr><tr><td>25/02095/FUL</td><td>Garage conversion, roof replacement and all associated works. 16 Nether Riggs, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5SJ.</td><td>08.07.2025</td></tr><tr><td>25/02010/FUL</td><td>Single storey rear extension to be demolished and replaced with double storey rear extension. 1 Bells Place, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5AQ.</td><td>09.07.2025</td></tr></table>	Reference	Description	Response date	25/02008/FUL	Installation of roller shutter to shop front (Retrospective). 46 Front Street East, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5AB.	03.07.2025	25/02095/FUL	Garage conversion, roof replacement and all associated works. 16 Nether Riggs, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5SJ.	08.07.2025	25/02010/FUL	Single storey rear extension to be demolished and replaced with double storey rear extension. 1 Bells Place, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5AQ.	09.07.2025	25/02008/FUL – agreed to object to the application.
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		25/02007/PRU TPO	Tree Preservation Order Application. T1 Lime (Tilia europaea) - crown reduce up to 25% - from 20m to 16m this reduction will promote the tree's health and longevity; T2 and T3 Oak - crown reduce up to 20% - from 15m to 12.5m, reshape and pull back branches that overhang into neighbour's gardens. 4 South Farm, Nedderton Village, Northumberland, NE22 6BH.	14.07.2025	
		25/02215/FUL	Single Storey rear extension to replace existing garden room. 2 Millfield North, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5EF.	15.07.2025	
		25/01725/REM	Reserved matters application for Phase A enabling works including site preparation, earthworks and other works required prior to the construction and operation of the data centre campus, pursuant to approved planning application 24/04112/OUTES land at former power station site on northern side of Cambois, Northumberland.	22.07.2025	
		*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. Note: recent notified planning decisions and other planning applications (where comments have not been requested) are shown in PART C for information only).			
25/173	i.	Working groups / committees (items for decision or discussion) i. To 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.			Nothing for this meeting.
25/174	j.	Bank reconciliation To APPROVE a checked bank reconciliation of £7,711.51 as of 30th June 2025, a Deposit Account Balance of £154,979.66 as of 30th June 2025 and a CCLA account balance of £225,000 on 30 th June 2025. Copies of bank statements distributed to members – CCLA Account Statement to follow.			Members APPROVED the bank reconciliations.

PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

		Matters for information or to be noted
		RESOLVED to NOTE

		Sections a, b, and c. Note section f is not part of the agenda and is included for information only.																																																					
25/175	a.	Chair's update and any reports from external meetings i. The Chair will make any relevant announcements and provide updates to members. ii. To receive feedback from councillors from any external meetings since the date of the last Council meeting.	The chair thanked Dave Chapple and Victoria Thompson for attending the Salvation Army civic reception on Tuesday 8 th July.																																																				
25/176	b.	Consultations (not requiring a response from the Town Council) Nothing for this meeting. <table><tr><td>From</td><td>Details</td><td>Response</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>			From	Details	Response																																																
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25/178	d.	Schedule of payments and receipts The following payments and receipts since the last Council meeting were NOTED by members. <table><tr><td>Payee</td><td>Amount £. p</td><td>Description</td></tr><tr><td>HMRC VAT Reclaim</td><td>-12,035.96</td><td>Refund of VAT</td></tr><tr><td>The Music Licence</td><td>177.28</td><td>Annual Licence Fee</td></tr><tr><td>CCLA Deposit Fund Interest</td><td>-110.37</td><td>Interest from Investment</td></tr><tr><td>Reays CCTV</td><td>83.04</td><td>CCTV Church Lane</td></tr><tr><td>Smart Office Systems Ltd</td><td>12.43</td><td>Printer Costs</td></tr><tr><td>Widescope</td><td>74.29</td><td>.gov emails etc.</td></tr><tr><td>Northumberland County Council</td><td>1,662.00</td><td>Traffic Management (Family Festival)</td></tr><tr><td>Toys Snacks and Chats</td><td>480.00</td><td>Community Chest Funding</td></tr><tr><td>Talk Talk Business</td><td>62.92</td><td>Telephone + Internet</td></tr><tr><td>Reay Security Ltd</td><td>446.40</td><td>Meadowdale Play Area Gates</td></tr><tr><td>Reay Security Ltd</td><td>809.64</td><td>CCTV Bedlington</td></tr><tr><td>Ashington & District Male Voice Choir</td><td>500.00</td><td>Community Chest Funding</td></tr><tr><td>From CCLA Investment Account</td><td>-5,000.00</td><td>Transfer into Current Account</td></tr><tr><td>Lloyds Bank</td><td>8.50</td><td>Bank Charges</td></tr><tr><td>From Deposit Account and into CCLA Investment Account</td><td>0.00</td><td>£100,000 transferred from Deposit account to CCLA Investment account.</td></tr><tr><td>Bedlington Community Centre</td><td>12,000.00</td><td>Annual Office Rent</td></tr></table>			Payee	Amount £. p	Description	HMRC VAT Reclaim	-12,035.96	Refund of VAT	The Music Licence	177.28	Annual Licence Fee	CCLA Deposit Fund Interest	-110.37	Interest from Investment	Reays CCTV	83.04	CCTV Church Lane	Smart Office Systems Ltd	12.43	Printer Costs	Widescope	74.29	.gov emails etc.	Northumberland County Council	1,662.00	Traffic Management (Family Festival)	Toys Snacks and Chats	480.00	Community Chest Funding	Talk Talk Business	62.92	Telephone + Internet	Reay Security Ltd	446.40	Meadowdale Play Area Gates	Reay Security Ltd	809.64	CCTV Bedlington	Ashington & District Male Voice Choir	500.00	Community Chest Funding	From CCLA Investment Account	-5,000.00	Transfer into Current Account	Lloyds Bank	8.50	Bank Charges	From Deposit Account and into CCLA Investment Account	0.00	£100,000 transferred from Deposit account to CCLA Investment account.	Bedlington Community Centre	12,000.00	Annual Office Rent
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25/180	f.	Planning decisions notified to West Bedlington Town Council by Northumberland County Council <table><tr><th>Ref.</th><th>Description</th><th>Decision</th></tr><tr><td>25/01552/HEGRMN</td><td>Hedgerow Removal Notice: Removal of four sections of hedgerow totalling 1198m. West Farm, Nedderton Village, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 6AR.</td><td>GRANTED</td></tr></table>	Ref.	Description	Decision	25/01552/HEGRMN	Hedgerow Removal Notice: Removal of four sections of hedgerow totalling 1198m. West Farm, Nedderton Village, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 6AR.	GRANTED																		
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25/181	g.	Police report No report for this meeting. The next scheduled report is for the September 2025 meeting.																								

25/182	h.	Matters for information only 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. 1. Councillors – any matters for information only. Councillor Austin provided an update about the active travel corridor and its lighting. 2. Town Clerk – any matters for information only.
25/183	i.	Date of next meeting The next scheduled meeting of the Council will be on Thursday 14th August 2025 at 6.30pm in Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington. The agenda for this meeting to be issued on Wednesday 6th August 2025. NOTED.

SUSPENSION OF MEETING TO FACILITATE FURTHER QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- A resident wanted to know if there were any plans to remove the seat outside of the Community Centre and was told there were no plans to remove it.
- A resident wanted to know how an elderly neighbour without internet access could enter the gardening competition and was told they could pick up a form from the office.
- A resident had concerns about the travel path and Councillor Taylor, in her capacity as a Northumberland County Councillor, said she would ask and get back to him.

MEETING REINSTATED

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.

		Matters for discussion / Decision / Information
25/184	a.	A meeting was arranged for 17 th July to discuss matters relating to Bedlington Community Centre.
25/185	a.	Close of meeting The Chair closed the meeting where the public were present at 19.36. The meeting, where exempt business was discussed, closed at 19.43.

WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL - COUNCILLORS:

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

Signed by Chair

Date