

11TH SEPTEMBER 2025

MEETING MINUTES

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



BEFORE THE MEETING

PRESENTATIONS

Northumbria Police submitted their apologies. They were invited to attend the meeting and present their regular report (agenda item C, e.)

AGENDA-RELATED QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS

- A resident asked for more detail in relation to our equalities policies and wanted more details about the items amended/removed.
- Another resident had a question about the equalities policy and wanted to know why items had been amended/removed.
- A resident was concerned about the amendment to the equalities policy.
- A resident wanted to know if there will be another street fair next year as it had a positive impact on businesses on the Front Street.
- Another resident said that the street fair was a huge success.
- A resident had concerns about the suggested amendments to the equalities policy.

PART A - ATTENDANCE

Min ref		Attendance/declarations/last meeting's minutes	Determination
25/210		Attendance	Councillors Austin, B. Denny, S. Denny, Chapple, Henderson, Hogg, Taylor (Chair), Thompson, and Roberts. Town Clerk S Young, Assistant Town Clerk M McTeer, and eight (8) members of the public.
25/211	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. None for this meeting. ii. There were no dispensations for this meeting.
25/212	b.	Declarations of interest i. Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required to	 i. None for this meeting.

		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.	ii. No requests for dispensation.
25/213	c.	Meeting minutes To agree and sign as a correct record the minutes of West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 14 th August 2025.	RESOLVED that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 14 th August 2025 are APPROVED as a true record.

PART B – MATTERS FOR DECISION

		Matters for discussion / decision	Determination
25/214	a.	Funding application	None for this meeting.
25/215	b.	Finance i. APPROVE the current “Reserves” position. * ii. APPROVE the updated “Policy for Financial Reserves (Policy No.20)” *	APPROVED i and ii.
25/216	c.	Governance 1. Policies with no amendments. APPROVE the following policies which, after review, are unchanged. i. Policy 24. Gifts and Hospitality. ii. Policy 29. Safeguarding Policy. iii. Policy 32. Town and County Councillor Communication Protocol. 2. Policies for review. (All changes are highlighted) i. APPROVE the draft updated Policy 12, Community Support Grants* ii. APPROVE the draft updated Policy 13, Code of Conduct (Members) * iii. APPROVE the draft updated Policy 18, Vandalism Policy. * iv. APPROVE the draft updated Policy 28, Equalities Policy. *	1. Policies i, ii and iii APPROVED . It was agreed that a change to the Safeguarding Policy regarding DBS checks would be added to the next agenda. 2. A change was made to policy i regarding timeframes and APPROVED . Policy ii – APPROVED subject to an additional check. Policy iii – APPROVED subject to a change to the contact email. Policy iv – NO CHANGE TO POLICY .
25/217	d.	Community event APPROVE spending of up to £250 to provide (in conjunction with Bedlington Salvation Army) a Community Christmas Carol Event at Bedlington Market Place on Tuesday 23rd December 2025.	APPROVED

25/218	e.	Bedlington Community Activities Partnership APPROVE a proposal (Councillor Thompson) to provide “an opportunity to support local organisations to deliver activities and events for the community.” *	NOT APPROVED															
25/219	f.	Consultation - Northumberland Local Plan 'Call for Sites' * AGREE which sites (if any) to submit to Northumberland County Council as potential development sites. The consultation is open to everyone, so members are free to submit their own sites as individuals.	Agreed to submit a comment about the triangle field next to Gallagher Park.															
25/220	g.	Services – Meadowdale play area gate locking NOTE the proposed increase in charges for this service. *	NOTED and agreed to include a resilience plan for a future meeting.															
25/221	h.	Services – Flagpole i. APPROVE (retrospectively) the flying of the Red Ensign on Merchant Navy Day. ii. APPROVE the flying of the Red Ensign on future Merchant Navy Day.	APPROVED i and ii, and agreed to add to the Flag Flying policy.															
25/222	i.	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. <table><tr><th>Ref.</th><th>Description</th><th>Response date*</th></tr><tr><td>25/02654/FUL</td><td>Construction of a 3x5 metre wooden structure. 70 Glebe Road, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 6JU.</td><td>01.09.2025</td></tr><tr><td>25/02911/REM</td><td>Reserved Matters Application (for access, layout, scale, appearance and landscaping) pursuant to outline planning permission 24/04112/OUTES. Land at former power station site on northern side of Cambois, Northumberland.</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>25/02925/FUL</td><td>Remodelling, refurbishment and additions to gate lodge to create extended family home including removal/improvement of previously unsympathetic additions at rear of building and installation of new metal gates to replicate original Hartford Hall Estate entrance gates. The Lodge, Hartford Hall Estate, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 6AG.</td><td>17.09.2025</td></tr><tr><td>25/02926/LBC</td><td>Additions to gate lodge to create extended family home including removal/improvement of</td><td>17.09.2025</td></tr></table>	Ref.	Description	Response date*	25/02654/FUL	Construction of a 3x5 metre wooden structure. 70 Glebe Road, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 6JU.	01.09.2025	25/02911/REM	Reserved Matters Application (for access, layout, scale, appearance and landscaping) pursuant to outline planning permission 24/04112/OUTES. Land at former power station site on northern side of Cambois, Northumberland.		25/02925/FUL	Remodelling, refurbishment and additions to gate lodge to create extended family home including removal/improvement of previously unsympathetic additions at rear of building and installation of new metal gates to replicate original Hartford Hall Estate entrance gates. The Lodge, Hartford Hall Estate, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 6AG.	17.09.2025	25/02926/LBC	Additions to gate lodge to create extended family home including removal/improvement of	17.09.2025	 <
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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.			
25/223	j.	Working groups / committees i. APPROVE any recommendations from working groups (not included elsewhere on the agenda). ii. To NOTE any other information from working group Chairs.			Nothing for this meeting.
25/224	k.	Bank reconciliation APPROVE a checked bank reconciliation of £9,466.58 as of 31st August 2025, a deposit account balance of £100,096.89 as of 31st August 2025 and a CCLA account balance of £225,000 on 31st August 2025. *			APPROVED

PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

RESOLVED to **NOTE** sections a. to g. Section d is not part of the agenda and is included for information only.

25/225	a.	Chair's update and external invitations/consultations The Best of Bedlington, photography and gardening competitions earlier that evening were a great success.
25/226	b.	Schedule of payments and receipts Payments and (receipts) NOTED since last Council update. All payments gross of VAT.

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25/228	d.	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>25/02095/FUL</td><td>Rear extension a garage conversion, roof replacement and all associated works. 16 Nether Riggs, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5SJ.</td><td>GRANTED</td></tr><tr><td>25/02010/FUL</td><td>Single storey rear extension to be demolished and replaced with double storey rear extension (Amended 13.08.2025) 1 Bells Place, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5A.</td><td>GRANTED</td></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>REFUSED</td></tr></table>	Ref.	Description	Decision	25/02095/FUL	Rear extension a garage conversion, roof replacement and all associated works. 16 Nether Riggs, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5SJ.	GRANTED	25/02010/FUL	Single storey rear extension to be demolished and replaced with double storey rear extension (Amended 13.08.2025) 1 Bells Place, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5A.	GRANTED	25/02008/FUL	Installation of roller shutter to shop front (Retrospective) 46 Front Street East, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5AB.	REFUSED																																																																											
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		25/02007/PRUTPO	Tree Preservation Order Application T1 Lime (<i>Tilia europaea</i>) - 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 neighbours' gardens, 4 South Farm, Nedderton Village, Northumberland, NE22 6BH.	PERMIT
		25/02215/FUL	Single Storey rear extension to replace existing garden room, 2 Millfield North, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5EF.	GRANTED
25/229	e.	Police report Police report NOTED . The next scheduled report is for the December 2025 meeting.		
25/230	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 Taylor resigned as the Town Council Chair and Councillor Thompson resigned as Deputy Chair. NOTED . ii. Town Clerk – any matters for information only. Completion of External Audit, Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission Consultation. NOTED .		
25/231	g.	Date of next meeting NOTED the next scheduled meeting of the Council will be on Thursday 9th October 2025 at 6.30pm in Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington. The agenda for this meeting to be issued on Wednesday 1st October 2025.		

SUSPENSION OF MEETING TO FACILITATE FURTHER QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- A resident was concerned about speeding and in particular electric scooters in Humford Woods, and Councillor Austin, in his capacity as a Northumberland County Councillor, provided a response.
- A resident said that she seconded Councillor Thompson's comments about being saddened the Chair's resignation.
- A resident brought up a Northumberland County Council issue regarding a food vendor, and Councillor Taylor, in her capacity as a Northumberland County Councillor, said she would provide an update.

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
25/232	a.	None for this meeting.
25/233	a.	Close of meeting The Chair closed the meeting at 7.59pm.

* Supporting documentation distributed to members before the meeting.

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