

# 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026

## MEETING MINUTES

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



### AGENDA-RELATED QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS

- No agenda-related questions for this meeting.

### PRESENTATIONS

- No presentations for this meeting.

### PART A - ATTENDANCE

Min ref		Attendance/declarations/last meeting's minutes	Determination
26/21	a.	<b>Attendance</b>	Councillors B. Denny (Chair), S. Denny, Henderson, Roberts, Taylor, Thompson and Assistant Town Clerk, M McTeer, and one (1) member of the public.
26/22	b.	<b>Apologies for absence</b>  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 Austin, Chapple and Hogg, and Town Clerk, S. Young were NOTED.  ii. None for this meeting.
26/23	c.	<b>Declarations of interest</b>  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 Taylor (exempt business section, part D) – Community Centre.  i. No requests for dispensation.
26/24	d.	<b>Meeting minutes</b>  To agree and sign as a correct record the minutes of	

	West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2026.	RESOLVED that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 are APPROVED as a true record.
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## PART B – MATTERS FOR DECISION

Min ref		Matters for discussion / decision	Determination
26/25	a.	<p><b>Governance - Annual Meeting of the Town 2026</b></p> <p>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.</p>	The Annual Meeting of the Town will start after the conclusion of April's Town Council meeting on Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2026. It is scheduled for the same evening but will not start before 7pm.
26/26	b.	<p><b>Engagement - approved existing competitions</b></p> <p>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).</p> <p>ii. APPROVE the number of awards per competition (as per judges' proposals and shown in the competition details document *).</p> <p>iii. APPROVE judging criteria *</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>vi. Best of Bedlington – agree to have one award for best individual, best group, best young person (three in total).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>ix. APPROVE the exact age ranges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children's flowerpot age range (if agreed, see above)</li> <li>• Best of Bedlington - young person's age range</li> <li>• Junior Photographer of the Year's age range</li> </ul> <p>x. APPROVE the exact breakdown of Amazon voucher prizes per competition.</p> <p>xi. Decide if all winners get a certificate as well as a trophy, or just a trophy.</p>	<p>i. APPROVED</p> <p>ii. Best of Bedlington will have three (3) awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best group</li> <li>• Best young person</li> <li>• Best individual</li> </ul> <p>Gardening, photography and Junior photography competitions will have three (3) awards each (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>)</p> <p>iii. APPROVED</p> <p>iv. Agreed to have first, second and third place</p> <p>v. APPROVED – judges; councillors Roberts and Taylor</p> <p>vi. APPROVED</p> <p>vii. Agreed to have one large award for first place, two small for second and third (no framed photographs)</p> <p>viii. As above</p> <p>ix. Children's flowerpot age (under 11); Best of Bedlington young person (under</p>

		<p><b>Proposed engagement</b></p> <p>i. APPROVE a proposal to host a residents’ fruit and vegetable plant swap – Councillor Roberts. *</p> <p>ii. APPROVE a proposal to host through West Bedlington primary schools, a “cress head” Easter competition – Councillor Roberts. *</p> <p>iii. APPROVE a proposal to host a children’s “grow a plant pot event” as part of the Summer Fair event.</p>	<p>16); junior photographer (under 16)</p> <p>x. Agreed for each project group to send prize breakdown to the Clerk before end of February</p> <p>xi. Winners to get a trophy only. All children who enter will get a certificate.</p> <p>i. APPROVED</p> <p>ii. APPROVED</p> <p>iii. APPROVED</p>									
26/27	c.	<p><b>Finance - Internal Audit Interim Report</b></p> <p>NOTE the interim internal audit report distributed. There is no area of concern to report. *</p>	NOTED									
26/28	d.	<p><b>Communication – advertising and publicity</b></p> <p>APPROVE the creation and posting of Town Council podcasts.</p>	Agreed in principle (ideas for topics to be presented for approval at a future meeting)									
26/29	e.	<p><b>Services – Bedlington PlayZone (Westlea)</b></p> <p>APPROVE the recommended days and times for free access, from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026. *</p>	APPROVED and agreed to review these hours in 3.5 months (end of May 2026)									
26/30	f.	<p><b>Services – permanent Christmas tree</b></p> <p>APPROVE permanent Christmas tree’s location.</p>	Deferred (more preliminary research required)									
26/31	f.	<p><b>Planning</b></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> <table border="1" data-bbox="304 1630 1203 1995"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ref.</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Response date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <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</td> <td>27<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	27 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	<p>Agreed to add a comment of support as long as the distance between the batteries adheres to national guidelines.</p> <p>No comments</p>
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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.							
26/32	g.	<b>Working groups / committees</b> i. APPROVE any recommendations from working groups (not included elsewhere on the agenda). ii. To NOTE any other information from working group Chairs.	i. Councillor S. Denny provided an update about planned events for 2026 ii. Nothing for this meeting						
26/33		<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 *	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.

26/34	a.	<b>Chair's update and external invitations/consultations</b>  NOTE any announcements from the Chair, and to discuss invitations, consultations and external meeting feedback since the last Council meeting.	Nothing for this meeting															
26/35	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.	NOTED															
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payee</th> <th>Amount (£)</th> <th>Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bedlington Community Centre</td> <td>75.00</td> <td>Room hire (Christmas event)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Widescope Web Design</td> <td>74.29</td> <td>.gov emails</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Smart Office Systems</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> </tbody> </table>	Payee	Amount (£)	Description	Bedlington Community Centre	75.00	Room hire (Christmas event)	Widescope Web Design	74.29	.gov emails	Smart Office Systems	17.95	Printer	CCLA Deposit Fund Interest	-1,160.97	Interest	
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		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	
26/36	c.	<b>Other planning applications</b>			
		Where comments have <b>not</b> been requested.			
		<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Description</b>		NOTED
		25/04662/DISC ON	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/DISC ON	Discharge of Condition 23a (Intrusive Investigations) on approved application 25/03927/VARYCO Land South Of		

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26/37	d.	<p><b>Planning decisions notified to West Bedlington Town Council by Northumberland County Council</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ref.</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Decision</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>25/04362/VARYCO</td> <td>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>GRANTED</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25/03960/FUL</td> <td>Single storey extension. 26 Knaresborough Close, Hazelmere, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 6NT.</td> <td>GRANTED</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25/04442/FUL</td> <td>Proposed single storey rear extension 49 Hassop Way Beaufront Park Bedlington Northumberland NE22 7LE</td> <td>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	NOTED
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26/38	e.	<p><b>Police report</b></p> <p>The next scheduled report is for the March 2026 meeting.</p>	NOTED												
26/39	f.	<p><b>Matters for information only</b></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. Assistant Town Clerk – any matters for information only.</p>	<p>i. Councillor Thompson shared news that Northumberland County Council has agreed to provide a new path at the entrance of Whitley Memorial</p>												

			C of E Primary School.
26/40	g.	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>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>	NOTED

**SUSPENSION OF MEETING TO FACILITATE FURTHER QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL**

- A resident wanted to know if the Town Council could provide one, or ideally two, grit bins for Broadoaks estate. Christone Taylor, in her capacity as a Northumberland County Councillor, said she will ask Highways on the residents’ behalf.

**MEETING REINSTATED**

- The Chair closed the meeting to the public at 7.43pm.

**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.

<b>Matters for discussion / Decision / Information</b>			
26/41	a.	<p>Bedlington Community Centre</p> <p>It was agreed that the Town Council will support Bedlington Community Centre with £4,000 for their new central heating system which will be met from reserves. The Community Centre will fund the roof repairs.</p>	
26/42	b.	<p><b>Close of meeting</b></p> <p>The Chair closed the meeting at 8.18pm.</p>	

**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**

\* Supporting documentation distributed to members before the meeting.