

14TH AUGUST 2025

MEETING MINUTES

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



BEFORE THE MEETING

PRESENTATIONS

Bedlington Utd Seniors Football Club submitted their apologies. Their Community Chest Funding application is at Part B a. of the meeting agenda.

AGENDA-RELATED QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS

- A resident asked for more detail in relation to agenda item Part B c ii. Unauthorised Use Policy – specifically about the assets covered, the consequences and monitoring of the policy. Council members provided some additional information to assist.
- A resident thanked the Town Council for providing a new litter bin at Westlea, Bedlington.
- A resident asked if the Town Council was getting “value for money” from its current CCTV provision. The Council through the Chair, responded that it may be appropriated to review the CCTV provision and consider what alternatives may be available.
- A resident requested the Town Council commemorate Merchant Navy Day (3rd September 2025) by flying the Merchant Navy Red Ensign from the Council’s flag pole. The Chair advised that the Council need to consider the request before the next scheduled meeting.

PART A - ATTENDANCE

Min ref		Attendance/declarations/last meeting’s minutes	Determination
25/186		Attendance	Councillors Austin, B. Denny, S. Denny, Chapple, Henderson, Hogg, Taylor (Chair), and Roberts. Town Clerk S Young, and twelve (12) members of the public.
25/187	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 Councillor Thompson and Assistant Town Clerk M McTeer were NOTED . ii. There were no dispensations for this meeting.

25/188	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 Hogg made a declaration in relation to agenda item Part B e. Services – litter bin request. ii. No requests for dispensation.
25/189	c.	Meeting minutes To agree and sign as a correct record the minutes of West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 10th July 2025. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting that are not included as agenda items.	RESOLVED that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 10 th July 025 are APPROVED as a true record. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 10 th July 2025.

PART B – MATTERS FOR DECISION

		Matters for discussion / decision	Determination
25/190	a.	Funding application i. To APPROVE the Community Chest application for Bedlington Utd Seniors Football Club. * ii. To APPROVE the closure of future Community Chest applications for the current financial year. *	£500 funding application APPROVED (pending a request to NCC to provide the grass cutting free of charge) APPROVED. Councillor Hogg requested a recorded vote for this determination. For the proposal – Councillors Austin, Chapple, Denny B, Denny S, Henderson, Roberts and Taylor. Against proposal – Councillor Hogg.
25/191	b.	Finance i. To NOTE the current “Reserves” position. * ii. To NOTE the current “Reserves Policy”. * iii. AGREE to review for the next meeting: a. All “specific reserves”. b. The profiling of financial provision for future reinstatement of play areas/bus shelters/road speed signs. Only after a. and b., consider if an update to the current “Reserves Policy” is required.	Members NOTED i and ii, and AGREED to review iii ahead of September’s meeting.

25/192	c.	Governance i. APPROVE the draft suite of GDPR policies. * ii. APPROVE the draft Unauthorised Use Policy. * iii. APPROVE the update social media Policy. * iv. APPROVE the updated Grit Bin Policy. *	APPROVED i and ii. Councillor Hogg requested a recorded vote for this determination. For the proposal – Councillors Austin, Chapple, Denny B, Denny S. Against the proposal, Councillors Henderson, Hogg and Taylor. Abstained - Councillor Roberts. APPROVED APPROVED												
25/193	d.	Training APPROVE to purchase training for: - GDPR awareness for staff and members. - Detailed GDPR training for staff.	APPROVED APPROVED												
25/194	e.	Services – litter bins APPROVE a resident’s request for a new litter bin (location - entrance to the Broadoaks estate).	APPROVED												
25/195	f.	Services – play areas ROSPA annual safety reports – APPROVE to carry out all remedial work identified in the ROSPA annual safety reports. *	APPROVED												
25/196	g.	Residents’ Panel - feedback AGREE to progress any of the suggestions put forward from the initial panel meeting. *	Members AGREED to review and advise clerks of which to progress (if any).												
25/197	h.	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 border="1"><thead><tr><th>Ref.</th><th>Description</th><th>Response date*</th><th></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>25/02525/FELTPO</td><td>Tree Preservation Order Application: T1 Horse Chestnut - remove. T2 Lime crown reduce by 30% or 5.5m to 17m. 5 South Farm, Nedderton Village, Northumberland, NE22 6BH.</td><td>7th August 2025</td><td>No comments</td></tr><tr><td>25/02574/FUL</td><td>Proposed single storey rear extension. 5 Cedar Close, Beaufront Park, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 7LW.</td><td>13th August 2025</td><td>No comments</td></tr></tbody></table>	Ref.	Description	Response date*		25/02525/FELTPO	Tree Preservation Order Application: T1 Horse Chestnut - remove. T2 Lime crown reduce by 30% or 5.5m to 17m. 5 South Farm, Nedderton Village, Northumberland, NE22 6BH.	7 th August 2025	No comments	25/02574/FUL	Proposed single storey rear extension. 5 Cedar Close, Beaufront Park, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 7LW.	13 th August 2025	No comments	
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		25/02577/VARYCO	Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) and removal of condition 3 (noise and odour) on approved application 23/00369/FUL to incorporate proposed changes to suit restructure of preparation and serving operations, including opening hours to allow more flexibility within business Confetti 64 Front Street East Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5AB	14 th August 2025	No comments
		25/01881/FUL	Proposed rear extensions, with side utility extension to existing bungalow 27 Nedderton Village Northumberland NE22 6AX	15 th August 2025	No comment
		25/00467/PREAPP	Phase B (including a new B&M store) and Phase C (including a drive-through Starbucks coffee-shop), including in relation to the proposed planning application strategy, the issues raised and submission requirements. Land South East of Law Courts, Schalksmuhle Road, Bedlington, Northumberland.	21 st August 2025	Register S106 Interest
		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.			
25/198	i.	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. Councillor Denny B updated the meeting with regards to the Services WG and a review of the current SLA for flower bed planting.
25/200	j.	Bank reconciliation To APPROVE a checked bank reconciliation of £10,966.03 as of 31st July 2025, a deposit account balance of £120,000 as of 31st July 2025 and a CCLA account balance of £225,000 on 31st July 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.

25/201	a.	Chair's update and external invitations/consultations East Bedlington Town Council Mayor invited to the unveiling the Bedlington Ellipsoid on Friday 11 July. NOTED. Cambois QTS Data Centre NOTED Members invited to two public consultation sessions by QTS on 15 th and 21 st July. NOTED.		
25/202	b.	Schedule of payments and receipts Details of payments and (receipts) NOTED. All payments gross of VAT.		
		Payee	Amount (£)	Description
		CCLA Deposit Fund	-293.74	Interest Received
		CCLA Deposit Fund	-26.38	Interest Received
		House of Hamilton	623.00	Civic Reception
		The Festive Lighting Company Ltd	703.20	Deposit for Christmas lights
		MW Design	1,690.00	Newsletter
		House of Hamilton	1,000.00	Children's activities, School's Out Disco and Pottery Class
		Smart Office Systems Ltd	21.58	Printer Charges
		Smart Office Systems Ltd	9.60	Replacement cartridge
		Widescope	74.29	.gov emails
		Reay Security Ltd	83.04	CCTV Church Lane
		Reay Security Ltd	432.00	Meadowdale Gates Opening
		Reay Security Ltd	809.64	CCTV Bedlington
		Bedlington CC	500.00	Funding
		Deposit Account to Current Account	-15,132.21	Internal Bank Transfer
		Northumberland County Council	6,133.17	Employment Costs
		Talk Talk Business	62.92	Telephone + Internet
		Playsafety Limited	369.60	ROSPA Annual Safety Reports
		DL Maintenance	353.55	Repairs
		House of Hamilton	2,600.00	Beamish Trip, Animal Antics
		Bank Charges	8.50	Charges
		Wireless Logic Limited	555.36	CCTV Sim Cards
		Broxap Limited	778.68	New Litter Bins
		Reay Security	83.04	CCTV Cemetery Gates
		Deposit Account to Current Account	-20,000.00	Internal Bank Transfer
		House of Hamilton (Street Fair)	15,060.00	Street Fair
		HAGS-SMP Ltd	163.60	Play Equipment Parts
		Reay Security Ltd	83.04	CCTV Church Lane

25/203	c.	Other planning applications Where comments have not been requested. <table><tr><th>Ref.</th><th>Description</th></tr><tr><td>25/02643/DISCON</td><td>Land East of Burnt House Farm, Netherton Road, Bedlington, Northumberland. Discharge of Condition 16 (Construction Method Statement and Construction Traffic Management Plan) on approved application 22/01082/RENE.</td></tr></table>	Ref.	Description	25/02643/DISCON	Land East of Burnt House Farm, Netherton Road, Bedlington, Northumberland. Discharge of Condition 16 (Construction Method Statement and Construction Traffic Management Plan) on approved application 22/01082/RENE.								
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25/204	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>25/01678/FUL</td><td>Rear extension and changes to the garage. 8 Newark Close, Hazelmere, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 6PD.</td><td>GRANTED</td></tr><tr><td>25/01682/FUL</td><td>Dormer loft conversion to create bedroom and en-suite. 19 Acorn Avenue, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5SN.</td><td>GRANTED</td></tr><tr><td>25/01328/FUL</td><td>Retrospective: Siting of five storage containers to be rented by local businesses. Land north of 78-80 Front Street West, Market Place, Bedlington, Northumberland.</td><td>GRANTED</td></tr></table>	Ref.	Description	Decision	25/01678/FUL	Rear extension and changes to the garage. 8 Newark Close, Hazelmere, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 6PD.	GRANTED	25/01682/FUL	Dormer loft conversion to create bedroom and en-suite. 19 Acorn Avenue, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5SN.	GRANTED	25/01328/FUL	Retrospective: Siting of five storage containers to be rented by local businesses. Land north of 78-80 Front Street West, Market Place, Bedlington, Northumberland.	GRANTED
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25/205	e.	Police report No report for this meeting. The next scheduled report is for the September 2025 meeting.												
25/206	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 – any matters for information only. ii. Town Clerk – any matters for information only. Completion of External Audit, Neighbourhood Plan Pre Submission Consultation and Update Councillor Declaration of Acceptance of Office.												
25/207	g.	Date of next meeting To NOTE the next scheduled meeting of the Council will be on Thursday 11th September 2025 at 6.30pm in Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington. The agenda for this meeting to be issued on Wednesday 3rd September 2025.												

SUSPENSION OF MEETING TO FACILITATE FURTHER QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- A resident supported the extension to the Community Chest funding to allow more community groups to benefit.
- A resident added further support for the flying of addition “forces” flags on the Council’s flag pole.

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
25/208	a.	Bedlington Community Centre – financial support (dedicated pledge). The Council APPROVED the funding of £20k to Bedlington Community Centre – the funding to be released once a successful appointment has been made.
	b.	Bedlington Community Centre - consent to raise a planning application. The Council AGREED to provide consent for the Community Centre to raise a planning application.
	c.	Bedlington Community Centre - lease extension. The Council AGREED to an extension to the current lease agreement with Bedlington Community Centre to assist with funding applications. All associated legal costs will be met from the funding and not the Town Council.
25/209	a.	Close of meeting The Chair closed the meeting at 8.21pm.

* 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