WEST BEDLINGTON
TOWN COUNCIL

# MEETING MINUTES
# 8th October 2026

**Meeting of WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL, held at Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington, NE22 5TT, on Thursday 8th October 2026 at 6.30pm.**

**AGENDA-RELATED QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL**

- A resident asked if the Town Council was really going to do a line-by-line budget analysis and the Chair responded and said he would be providing a summary.

**PRESENTATIONS**

- There were no presentations for this meeting.

## PART A – ATTENDANCE AND MINUTES

| Min ref | Item ref | Item description | Determination |
|---|---|---|---|
| 26/176 | a. | **Attendance**<br><br>To record councillors in attendance. | Councillors Austin, Chapple, B Denny (Chair), S Denny, Henderson, Roberts, Taylor and Thompson. Town Clerk, S Young and seven (7) members of the public. |
| 26/177 | b. | **Apologies for absence**<br><br>i. To NOTE any apologies for absence from councillors.<br><br>ii. To APPROVE any dispensations for absent councillors. | i. Apologies for absence from Councillor Hogg.<br><br>ii. None for this meeting. |
| 26/178 | c. | **Declaration of interest**<br><br>i. To RECEIVE and NOTE any disclosures of interest.<br><br>ii. To APPROVE any requests for dispensations. | i. None for this meeting.<br><br>ii. None for this meeting. |
| 26/179 | d. | **Meeting minutes**<br><br>To AGREE and SIGN as a correct record the minutes of West Bedlington Town Council's meeting on 10th September 2026.* | RESOLVED that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council meeting held on 10th September are APPROVED as a true record. |

## PART B – MATTERS FOR DECISION

| Min ref | Item ref | Item description | Determination |
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| 26/180 | a. | **Pupils' Fund**<br><br>To APPROVE a Pupils' Fund application for 2026/27 from St Bede's Catholic Primary School. * | APPROVED to award £1500. |
| 26/181 | b. | **Bedlington community Christmas carol event**<br><br>APPROVE a request from Bedlington Salvation Army to hold a joint community Christmas carol event together with West Bedlington Town Council and Bedlington Community Centre. * | APPROVED (spending to come from the Annual Meeting of the Town 2026 budget). |
| 26/182 | c. | **Services – watering of Front Street flowerpots**<br><br>APPROVE a quote for the ad-hoc watering of the Front Street flowerpots. * | APPROVED (ad-hoc watering will be requested after a two-week period of dry weather). |
| 26/183 | d. | **Biodiversity measurable objective**<br><br>Deferred from September 2026 meeting.<br>i. To APPROVE a measurable biodiversity objective in relation to the annual planting up of flowerpots and troughs.<br>Option 1. Gradual transition: Phasing in perennials over a 1–5-year period.<br>Option 2. Full transition: Shifting completely to perennials in 2027, due to the end of the current planter contract.<br>ii. To APPOVE any alternative / additional objectives.<br>*Minute ref: 26/144 resolved to adopt a biodiversity policy for the Town Council.* | AGREED to ask potential suppliers to include plans for a biodiversity planting scheme in their tender response. |
| 26/184 | e. | **Governance – review of existing policies**<br><br>APPROVE the following policies* which are unchanged.<br>i. Policy 4 Complaints.<br>ii. Policy 11 Advertising.<br>iii. Policy 21 Asset Register Policy.<br>iv. Policy 27 Memorial Plaque Policy.<br>v. Policy 30 Charitable Financial Donations.<br>vi. Policy 31 Tree Planting Policy and Procedure. | All polices reviewed and APPROVED with no changes. |
| 26/185 | f. | **Finance**<br><br>**i. Finance review – 2nd quarter review to 30th September** | |

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| | | A formal line-by-line review of the budget, adjusting for impacts, inflation and approved mid-year member requests. *Completed budgets are highlighted. **<br><br>**ii. 2027-28 budget and precept preparation**<br>To APPROVE a schedule of meetings for the 2027-28 budget and precept requirement. | i. The summary provided was APPROVED.<br><br>ii. AGREED that the Chair would contact all councillors. |
| 26/186 | f. | **Planning**<br><br>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.<br><br>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.<br><br>**Reference:** 26/03028/REM<br><br>**Description:** Reserved matters application for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale on approved application 24/04112/OUTES for two data centre buildings including ancillary office space (Use Class B8), and associated landscaping and infrastructure on Phase 2 of the data centre campus. Land at former power station site on northern side of Cambois, Northumberland.<br><br>**Response date:** 23rd September 2026<br><br>**Reference:** 26/02942/ADE<br><br>**Description:** Advertisement consent for the erection of Halo lit, illuminated facia letters. 12 Market Place, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5TN.<br><br>**Response date:** 24th September 2026<br><br>**Reference:** 26/03222/FUL<br><br>**Description:** Two storey side extension with single storey rear extension. 8 Church Lane, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5EL. | No comment.<br><br>Agreed to submit a comment to object based upon this not being permitted as part of the Shopfront Design Guide for Bedlington Conservation Area.<br><br>No comment. |

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| | | **Response date:** 2nd October 2026.<br><br>**Reference:** 26/03001/PRUTPO<br><br>**Description:** Tree Preservation Order Application: T2, T3, T4, T5 x4 Cherrys - Crown lift to 2.5m and formative prune by no more than 0.5m. T6, T7, T8 x3 limes -Crown lift to 2.5m and formative prune no more than 0.5m. T9 Sycamore - lift to 2.5m and formative prune no more than 1m. Hartford Hall Estate, Bedlington, NE22 6HD.<br><br>**Response date:** 13th October 2026.<br><br>**Reference:** 26/03349/PRUTPO<br><br>**Description:** Tree Preservation Order Application - T1 - Oak. Raise lower branches on tree to a height of 3m, reduce back end of branch overhanging gutters by 1m to tidy the outline of the canopy and to reduce debris dropping into gutters. T2 - Beech. Raise lower branches on tree to a height of 3m. Staddle Stones Farmstead Court, Hartford Hall Estate, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 6AG.<br><br>**Response date:** 14th October 2026<br><br>**Reference:** 26/03356/FUL<br><br>**Description:** Retrospective: Erection of an open-sided timber pergola within the front driveway of the dwellinghouse. 17 Edinburgh Drive, Hazelmere, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 6NY.<br><br>**Response date:** 21st October 2026. | No comment.<br><br>No comment.<br><br>No comment. |
| 26/187 | g. | **Working groups / committees**<br><br>1. APPROVE any recommendations from working groups (not included elsewhere on the agenda).<br><br>**i. Events Working Group**<br>a. Approval of preferred supplier - 2027 to 2030 event management tender. *<br>b. Approval of proposed budget for the events calendar 2027. *<br><br>**ii. Services Working Group**<br>a. To approve issuing a request for quotes to external suppliers — including existing contractors — for the planting and maintenance of the flower beds over a 3-year period**. *** | i. a. APPROVED supplier 'A' subject to submission clarification.<br>i. b. Draft events budged of £71K APPROVED.<br><br>ii. Tender document APPROVED and to be advertised ASAP. |

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| | | 2. To NOTE any other information from working group chairs. | 2. Councillors S. Denny provided positive feedback about the multicultural event on 25th September. An update was provided about the awards night on 13th November regarding preparations. |
| 26/188 | h. | **Bank reconciliation**<br>To APPROVE a checked bank reconciliation as of 30th September 2026, a current account balance of £5,436.21, a deposit account balance of £27.09 and a CCLA savings account balance of £480,000 * | APPROVED. |

## MEETING PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

| Min ref | Item ref | Item description | Determination |
|---|---|---|---|
| 26/189 | a. | **Chair's update and external invitations/consultations**<br><br>To NOTE any announcements from the Chair and discuss invitations, consultations and feedback from external meetings received since the previous Council meeting. | Nothing for this meeting. |
| 26/190 | b. | **West Bedlington Town Council**<br>**PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS LIST**<br>30 September 2026 (2026 - 2027)<br><br>(see table below) | ALL payments and (receipts) since the last Town Council meeting were NOTED. |
| 26/191 | c. | **Other planning applications**<br><br>Where comments have **not** been requested.<br><br>**Reference:** 26/03242/DISCON | All applications NOTED. |

| Vouche | Code | Date | Minute | Bank | Payment Ref. | Description | Supplier | VAT Type | Net | VAT | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15 | Interest CCLA Account | 03/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | | Receipt - CCLA interest payme | Lloyds Bank | X | 1,120.02 | | 1,120.02 |
| 109 | Clerks Training + SLCC | 03/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | | Payment - SLCC Subscriptions | SLCC Enterprises | E | -379.00 | | -379.00 |
| 106 | Computer Software | 03/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | | Payment - Upgrade of Microsof | Widescope Web Design | S | -59.88 | -11.98 | -71.86 |
| 107 | Online Accounting | 03/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | | Payment - Online accounting s | Starboard Systems Limited | S | -84.00 | -16.80 | -100.80 |
| 108 | Printing | 03/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | 762703 | Payment - Printing costs | Smart Office Systems Ltd | S | -14.75 | -2.95 | -17.70 |
| 105 | Best of Bedlington Awards and | 03/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | | Payment - Amazon vouchers fo | Amazon | Z | -600.00 | | -600.00 |
| 110 | .gov emails | 04/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | | Payment - Monthly message bu | Widescope Web Design | S | -61.91 | -12.38 | -74.29 |
| 111 | CCTV | 04/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | | Payment - CCTV (Westlea Cem | Reay Security Ltd | S | -69.20 | -13.84 | -83.04 |
| 112 | EMR Permanent Christmas Trex | 07/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | 2026 Christmas Tr | Payment - Christmas Tree | M & D Burkinshaw | S | -1,095.00 | -219.00 | -1,314.00 |
| 16 | Precept | 10/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | 5846068 | Receipt - Precept Payment (Fir | Northumberland County Cc | E | 156,642.00 | | 156,642.00 |
| 17 | Interest Deposit Account | 10/09/2026 | | Lloyds Deposit Accou. | | Receipt - Deposit account inter | Lloyds Bank | X | 0.01 | | 0.01 |
| 113 | Meadowdale Gates SLA | 11/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | | Payment - Locking/unlocking M | Reay Security Ltd | S | -1,116.00 | -223.20 | -1,339.20 |
| 114 | CCTV | 11/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | | Payment - CCTV (Bedlington to | Reay Security Ltd | S | -674.70 | -134.94 | -809.64 |
| 115 | Bus Shelters Repair + Mainten | 14/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | Sept314 | Payment - Bus Shelter Repairs | DL Maintenance & Repair | E | -125.00 | | -125.00 |
| 116 | Staff Salaries | 17/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | | Payment - Payroll | Northumberland County Cc | Z | -5,910.23 | | -5,910.23 |
| 116 | NI Employers Contribution | 17/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | | Payment - Payroll | Northumberland County Cc | Z | -761.43 | | -761.43 |
| 116 | Pension Employers Contributior | 17/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | | Payment - Payroll | Northumberland County Cc | Z | -851.07 | | -851.07 |
| 116 | Payroll Charge by NCC | 17/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | | Payment - Payroll | Northumberland County Cc | S | -18.00 | -3.60 | -21.60 |
| 117 | Landline and internet | 17/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | | Payment - Landline and interne | Alncom | S | -10.00 | -2.00 | -12.00 |
| 118 | .gov emails | 17/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | | Payment - .gov emails | Widescope Web Design | S | -31.20 | -6.24 | -37.44 |
| 119 | CCTV | 21/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | | Payment - CCTV (Church Lane) | Reay Security Ltd | S | -69.20 | -13.84 | -83.04 |
| 121 | Bank Charges | 22/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | | Payment - Bank charges | Lloyds Bank | Z | -10.00 | | -10.00 |
| 122 | Newsletter | 22/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | | Payment - Autumn/winter new | Widescope Web Design | S | -1,503.00 | -300.60 | -1,803.60 |
| 120 | CCTV | 22/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | | Payment - CCTV SIM cards | Wireless Logic Limited | S | -479.05 | -95.81 | -574.86 |
| 123 | Remembrance Day | 22/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | | Payment - Remembrance orde | Widescope Web Design | S | -133.76 | -26.75 | -160.51 |
| 124 | Bollywood Event | 25/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | | Payment - Multicultural night | House of Hamilton | Z | -2,375.00 | | -2,375.00 |
| 18 | Income (Payments via Stripe) | 28/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | | Receipt - Payment for Bedlingt | Stripe | Z | 20.34 | | 20.34 |
| 125 | Front Street Planters | 28/09/2026 | | Lloyds Current Accou. | | Payment - Seasonal Planting - | Terry Simpson (Orangutan | Z | -1,505.49 | | -1,505.49 |
| | | | | | | | | Total | 139,845.50 | -1,083.93 | 138,761.57 |

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| | | **Description:** Discharge of Conditions 8 (Ground Gas) on approved application 23/03721/FUL\|32 Centurian Way, The Chesters, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 6LD.<br><br>**Reference:** 26/03288/DISCON<br>**Description:** Discharge of Condition 2 (Tandem Construction Method Statement and Construction Management Drainage Plan drawing) and Condition 6 (Civil Engineering Levels Drawings) on approved planning application 24/03741/REM\|7C Netherton Lane, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 6DP.<br><br>**Reference:** 26/03287/DISCON<br><br>**Description:** Discharge of conditions 5 (foul and surface water), 18 (surface water drainage), 22 (surface water disposal), 25 (site investigation), 26 (remediation strategy) and 29 (gas) on approved application 18/02329/OUT\|7C Netherton Lane, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 6DP.<br><br>**Reference:** 26/03422/CLPROP<br><br>**Description:** Certificate of lawful development for the refurbishment of exterior window frames and entrance doors, painting/decorating of window frames and footer/header stones with change of colour. 3 Market Place, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5TN. | |
| 26/192 | d. | **Reference:** 26/02588/ADE<br><br>**Description:** Advertisement Consent for 1no Shopfront fascia sign 46 Front Street East, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5AB.<br><br>**Decision:** GRANTED<br><br>**Reference:** 26/02801/MAST<br><br>**Description:** Notification of Prior Approval for the Installation of an 18m lattice tower supporting a 3m headframe, Installation of 6 no. new antennas, Installation of 9 no. remote radio units (RRUs), 6 no. break out boxes (BOBs) and 1 no. GPS node. Removal of 1 no. existing cabinet and installation of 1 no. new cabinet in the existing cabin, removal of 3 no. existing mast head amplifiers (MHAs, associated apparatus and ancillary works. Bedlington Telephone Exchange, Glebe Road, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 6JX.<br><br>**Decision:** Prior approval req and granted<br><br>**Reference:** 26/02726/FUL<br><br>**Description:** Internal and external alterations to include the modernisation of the interior through the installation of internal partitions and a mezzanine level. External works comprise the removal of render from the north-west elevation, extension in | All planning decisions NOTED. |

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| | | height of the central window, upgrading of the existing entrance doorway and canopy, installation of solar panels and air source heat pumps, repair works to brickwork, stonework and rainwater goods, reinstatement of a previously blocked side window, and the blocking up of an existing door on the south-west elevation. Bedlington Christian Fellowship, Brook Court, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5DF.<br><br>**Decision:** GRANTED | |
| 26/193 | e. | **Police report**<br><br>No police report scheduled for this meeting. The next scheduled report is for the December 2026 meeting. | NOTED. |
| 26/194 | f. | **Matters for information only**<br><br>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.<br><br>i. Councillor – any matters for information only.<br><br>ii. Town Clerk – any matters for information only. | |
| 26/195 | g. | **Date of next meeting**<br><br>To NOTE the next scheduled meeting of the Town Council will be on Thursday 12th November 2026 at 6.30pm in Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington. The agenda for this meeting to be issued on Wednesday 4th November 2026. | NOTED. |

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

- A resident said they'd noticed an increase in vandalism in the Market Place.
- Another resident suggested that the CCTV provision should be monitored live.
- Councillor Thompson suggested that stickers notifying the public that CCTV was operating in the area might be useful to deter vandalism. The Chair invited the councillor to make a proposal for a future meeting.

## 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.

| | Matters for Discussion / Decision / Information | Decision |
|---|---|---|
| a. | Approve staff regrading following successful completion of professional qualification. * | APPROVED. |
| b. | Bedlington Community Centre Review of Funding. * | APPROVED to provide £7K of funding. |
| c. | Bedlington Community Centre permission to cite funding for 25/26 in their annual report. | APPROVED. |
| d. | Approve additional Best of Bedlington awards. * | APPROVED. |

The Chair closed this meeting at 19.36.

**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.