



MEETING MINUTES

9th July 2026

Meeting of WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL, held at Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington, NE22 5TT, on Thursday 9th July 2026 at 6.30pm.

MINUTE'S SILENCE

A minute's silence was observed in memory of Joe Dobie, who was previously a West Bedlington town councillor for several years. After the minute's silence, councillors Taylor and Thompson shared comments about his warm, caring personality and said he was a pleasure to know.

ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THIS MEETING

Councillor Roberts was elected as the Chair for this meeting.

AGENDA-RELATED QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

- There were no agenda-related questions for this meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

- There were no presentations for this meeting.

PART A – ATTENDANCE AND MINUTES

Min ref	Item ref	Item description	Determination
26/120	a.	Attendance To record councillors in attendance.	Councillors Henderson, Roberts (Chair), Taylor and Thompson. Town Clerk, S Young, Assistant Town Clerk, M McTeer, and two (2) members of the public.
26/121	b.	Apologies for absence i. To NOTE any apologies for absence from councillors. ii. To APPROVE any dispensations for absent councillors.	i. Apologies for absence from councillors Austin, Chapple, B Denny, S Denny, and Hogg. ii. None for this meeting.
26/122	c.	Declaration of interest i. To RECEIVE and NOTE any disclosures of interest. ii. To APPROVE any requests for dispensations.	i. None for this meeting. ii. None for this meeting.
26/123	d.	Meeting minutes To AGREE and SIGN as a correct record the minutes of West Bedlington Town Council's meeting on 11th June 2026.*	RESOLVED that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council meeting held on 11th June 2026 are APPROVED as a true record.

PART B – MATTERS FOR DECISION

Min ref	Item ref	Item description	Determination
26/124	a.	Services 1. Permanent Christmas tree APPROVE expenditure to purchase the following service/supply plans: ○ Water and sewage £65. ○ Openreach plans £84. <i>For information only. Total cost of purchase, installation, disposal and temporary fencing for 2025 Christmas tree was £2,511.</i> 2. Front Street flowerpots APPROVE an ‘emergency fund’ for watering of Front Street flowerpots and define how and when it could/should be used. 3. Annual ROSPA safety inspection reports APPROVE to carry out all remedial work identified in the ROSPA annual safety reports.*	1. DEFERRED until permission is sought from Northumberland County Council for this site. Additionally, it was agreed to explore another suggested location. 2. £2,000 emergency fund agreed to be used in spells of drought. Local quotes to be sought. Additionally, it was agreed to inform residents that this is the plan, but if anyone wants to help out and water the flowers, any additional help would also be welcomed. 3. APPROVED.
26/125	b.	Finance – first quarter financial report To REVIEW and APPROVE the current year’s expenditure against its current year’s budget and (if appropriate) make	Reviewed and APPROVED.

		recommendations to bring both inline.* (Currently, there are no areas of significant overspend or unplanned spending for future projects).	
26/126	c.	Governance Review and APPROVE the following policies, procedures and documents.* Suggested revisions highlighted for members. 1. Policy No. 16 Social Media 2. Policy No. 23 Flag Flying Policy 3. Policy No. 41 Unauthorised Property	1. APPROVED. 2. APPROVED and agreed to take out section 3.6 to delete duplicate point. 3. Agreed to remove this policy.
26/127	d.	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. 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. Reference: 26/01894/REM Description: Reserved matters application for landscaping and layout on approved application 24/04112/OUTES for phase C enabling works including site preparation, earthworks, removal of PFA mounds and other works required prior to construction and operation of data centre campus land at former power station site on northern side of Cambois, Northumberland. Response date: 26th June 2026 Response recommendations from West Bedlington Town Council's Planning Working Group: No comment Reference: 26/02202/PRUTPO	No comment. No comment.

		Description: Tree Preservation Order Application: T1 (Beech) - reduce lateral branches overhanging the rear Garden by 2m. T2 (Sycamore) - reduce lateral branches overhanging the rear Garden by 2m. 1 Bellingham Court, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5QS. Response date: 14th July 2026. Reference: 26/02160/OUTES Description: Outline planning permission, with all matters reserved except access, for a Data Centre facility (Use Class B8) totalling up to 356,500sqm gross internal area with ancillary power generation (up to 49.9MW), including Data Centre buildings, ancillary offices, substations, power plant, emergency generators, and associated site infrastructure, landscape, engineering and drainage works. Land north west of High Brocklands, Brock Lane, West Sleekburn, Northumberland. Response date: 26th July 2026	No comment.
26/128	e.	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.	i. Councillor Roberts provided an update about advertising for the festival on 20 Acres. A suggestion to merge the awards night and multicultural night was made by Councillor Taylor and it was agreed this correspondence would be shared with members. ii. Nothing for this meeting.
26/129	f.	Bank reconciliation To APPROVE a checked bank reconciliation as of 30th June 2026, a current account balance of £8,879.60, a deposit account balance of £10,022.13 and a CCLA savings account balance of £380,000.00 *	APPROVED.

MEETING PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

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26/130	a.	Chair’s update and external invitations/consultations To NOTE any announcements from the Chair, and to discuss invitations, consultations and external meeting feedback since the last Council meeting.	Nothing for this meeting.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
26/131	b.	West Bedlington Town Council 01 July 2026 (2026 - 2027) PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS LIST <table><thead><tr><th></th><th></th><th></th><th>Payment Ref.</th><th>Description</th><th>Supplier</th><th></th><th></th><th></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>46</td><td>Online Accounting</td><td>01/06/2026</td><td>Lloyds Current</td><td>18044</td><td>Payment - Online</td><td>Starboard Systems</td><td>S</td><td>-84.00</td><td>-16.80</td><td>-100.80</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>Interest CCJA Account</td><td>02/06/2026</td><td>Lloyds Current</td><td></td><td>Receipt - Interest Payment</td><td>CCJA Savings Account</td><td>X</td><td>1,289.41</td><td></td><td>1,289.41</td></tr><tr><td>47</td><td>Legal / Professional Fees</td><td>03/06/2026</td><td>Lloyds Current</td><td></td><td>Payment - Public</td><td>The Music License</td><td>S</td><td>-153.89</td><td>-30.78</td><td>-184.67</td></tr><tr><td>48</td><td>Printing</td><td>04/06/2026</td><td>Lloyds Current</td><td>761294</td><td>Payment - Printing costs</td><td>Smart Office Systems</td><td>S</td><td>-16.71</td><td>-3.34</td><td>-20.05</td></tr><tr><td>50</td><td>.gov emails</td><td>04/06/2026</td><td>Lloyds Current</td><td>WESTBEDCO</td><td>Payment - 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26/132	c.	Other planning applications Where comments have not been requested. Reference: 26/01942/CLPROP Description: Certificate of Lawful Development - Proposed use for erection of un-enclosed car port to side of property, comprising roof and support posts. 31 Skipton Close, Hazelmere, Bedlington, Northumberland. NE22 6NP.	All applications NOTED.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												

		Reference: 26/01998/DISCON Description: Discharge of Conditions 8 (Unit 2 - Service Management Plan), 13 (Plant Noise) and 14 (Extract & Ventilation) on approved application 25/04674/VARYCO in relation to Unit 2, Phase D (amended description 16.06.2026). Car park, Vulcan Place, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5DN.	
26/133	d.	Planning decisions made by Northumberland County Council - West Bedlington Town Council notified Reference: 26/01311/FUL Description: Erection of a single-storey detached garden room in the rear garden. 10 Vicarage Terrace, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5DR. Decision: GRANTED Reference: 26/00470/LBC Description: Listed Building Consent to replace front door with like-for-like timber doors, transom window and frame. Replace windows with double glazed, like for like Georgian bar sash windows. Clean stonework. The Old Vicarage, Front Street East, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5DT. Decision: GRANTED	All planning decisions NOTED.
26/134	e.	Police report No Police report scheduled for this meeting. The next scheduled report is for the September 2026 meeting.	NOTED.
26/135	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.	i. Nothing for this meeting. ii. Nothing for this meeting.

26/136	g.	Date of next meeting To NOTE the next scheduled meeting of the Council will be on Thursday 13th August 2026 at 6.30pm in Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington. The agenda for this meeting to be issued on Wednesday 5th August 2026.	NOTED.
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QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL – ANY OTHER WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MATTERS

- A resident wanted to know if the public have access to the policies and was directed to West Bedlington Town Council's website.
- A resident had a question about a wheelie bin cleaning company to see if they could water the flowerpots and was told the Town Council has already reached out to explore this option.

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.

- Nothing for this meeting.

The Chair closed this meeting at 19.18.

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.