

Minutes of the meeting of Dinnington Parish Council held on Wednesday 17 September 2025 at 6.30 pm.

Members Present: Cllrs R. Bulpitt, D. Brown, J. Douglass, S. Phelps, J. Porter, R. Thompson, M. Wood

Cllr D. Down, Hazlerigg Parish Council was in attendance

Three members of the public

Minute No.	Agenda Item	Action required
46.	<p>Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Cllrs Toward Wright, McKenna and Hitchenes, and from City Cllr Avaei. The Chair asked Cllr Down to pass on the PC's best wishes to Cllr Avaei, who was recovering from an operation.</p>	
47.	<p>Declarations of Interest The Chair reminded members to declare any interests as they arose.</p>	
48.	<p>Open Forum The following issues were raised by residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High fence at Hartley Court was affecting sight lines. • Yellow lines were needed in front of No1 Hartley Court and the path at the front was very uneven. • The hedge on Main Road either side of Sheraton Park needed further cutting back as it was still too overgrown. • There were concerns about the removal of the barriers at the entrance to Dinnington Park which meant that children could exit onto the road too quickly. Also, the surface was very uneven causing children to come off their bikes and hurt themselves. • There were rocks sticking out of the ground by the seats and planters north of The Raj. • There should be regular dates arranged by the PC for litter picks. • When would the new allotments be available. <p>The Chair agreed to pursue the highways matters with NCC. Regarding the park entrance, NCC had acknowledged that the replacement barriers were not correct and had come forward with a new proposal, which he shared with the meeting.</p> <p>Regarding the litter pick, the idea of purchasing the equipment was so that it could be community led and not driven by the PC with the associated liability issues. However, this could be looked at again.</p>	<p>Cllr Wood/Toward Wright</p>
49.	<p>Minutes of previous meeting RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 17 July 2025 be agreed as a true record.</p>	
50.	<p>Matters Arising Cllr Wood reported back on the following issues raised by a resident:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A badly filled pothole outside the Raj - NCC had inspected the patch, the difference in level was minor and no further action would be taken. • The path going south out of the village being patched with two different colours of tarmac and the presence of trip hazards - Trips which met NCC intervention level (25mm) would be repaired and the path was on a list of potential footpath schemes should funds become available. • The metal safety handrail next to the traffic lights needed painting - NCC would not repaint safety barriers. It was agreed that the PC would pay to have this done and a price would be sought. • National Grid electric poles around the village were rusty – Cllr Porter reported that they would be done, but not until next year. • The stone retaining wall at Dinnington Green had been repaired. <p>Other Matters:</p> <p>Possible additional grass cuts – suggestion from Cllr Toward Wright. NCC had confirmed they would schedule in strimming of Cochrane Terrace and the Village Green shortly.</p> <p>Permissive footpath in the field from Gardners Houses entrance to connect up with the wooded section - Still awaiting update from Blagdon Estates about fencing requirements.</p> <p>12 Castleway Hedge overhanging footpath - This had been cut back and the overgrown garden totally cleared and strimmed.</p> <p>The circular bed behind the bus stop - NCC would alter grass cutting plans to include the circular bed in future.</p> <p>Cllr Bulpitt – a resident from Oak Avenue had expressed concerns about the community aspect of the garden. The Chair and Cllr Bulpitt had tried to reassure her, but explained the situation and advised the PC could not assist further.</p>	
51.	<p>Updates</p> <p>Newsletter – topics for inclusion in the next newsletter needed to be considered.</p> <p>Library – nothing to report.</p> <p>Development of field adjacent to the allotments known as the Pleasure Grounds to facilitate additional Allotments - NCC had apologised about the lack of progress and agreed to work on this as a priority. NCC had forwarded a draft copy of the tender pack & drawings for the allotments work for information and were pushing to get this out to tender shortly.</p> <p>Allotments - The Allotments AGM was on Mon 20 Oct – Cllrs Porter and Hitchenes would attend.</p>	

	<p>Website – Nothing to report</p> <p>Dinnington Surgery – Cllr Wood had been in contact with Wendy Taylor, Chair of Newcastle City Council Health Scrutiny committee. She had a meeting last Thursday at which the ICB were in attendance and had asked them to get back to her with an update on Dinnington. She would get back to Cllr Wood when they replied. She was also trying to get a person at the ICB he could have a meeting with to try to understand the issues better. Cllr Porter reported that Emma Foody MP had received some information from NCC and was awaiting a full response from the ICB so she could make a detailed response to the PC.</p> <p>Village Hall – Cllr Porter reported that the refurbishment of the memorial hall was mostly complete, just a couple of minor details to finish. The original quote for the works had been £22,000 and the final bill had come in at £20,660. The VAT could be reclaimed back on that.</p> <p>She also reported that it was possible that a toddler group was going to start a session.</p> <p>Cllr Wood asked for approval for the annual village hall subsidy, which members agreed.</p>	
52.	<p>Village Projects</p> <p>A new village map - deferred until the GP surgery has been built and then a more detailed map sourced.</p> <p>Possible additional grass cuts - If the need arises.</p> <p>Turn the area of the Old School Field remaining after construction of the Doctors into a small simple park - Contact was being re-established with NCC Properties to try to progress this. Unfortunately, everyone who had dealings with this had left the Authority and the case would need to be reallocated. NCC Properties were to contact Cllr Wood when this was done and hopefully then progress could be made.</p> <p>Speed Reduction Measures on Main Road - Following some email exchanges, Cllr Wood had gone back to NCC, who had inspected every hump and confirmed they were of good workmanship and constructed to the correct specification. The humps were probably higher than previous ones, but this was now NCC's latest specification.</p> <p>The build out on Main Road adjacent to the humps opposite the Rec entrance should be installed soon.</p> <p>NCC would update the speed limit of the driver feedback sign on Beech Avenue to reflect the new 20 mph speed limit.</p> <p>The bushes obscuring the 20mph sign at the north of the village at the start of the 20mph limit would be cut back shortly.</p> <p>NCC had also inspected all speed hump markings and they were all consistent with the specification, as well as the speed humps themselves.</p>	

	<p>Following a request from Cllr Douglass, Cllr Wood would request reflective paint on the humps as they were difficult to see in the dark.</p> <p>Re-Decorating the changing rooms at the Rec Pavilion – A further joint meeting had been held to begin to choose the options to progress this. There were further damp problems and the tiles were coming off the internal shower walls, probably with the damp. They were thinking about plastic shower wall panels in lieu of tiles, after damp proofing. The leaking roof was main problem. Programme of required works was: a total rewire, new windows, new doors, new vinyl flooring and complete redecoration. This would cost £30k, and members were asked to consider whether to increase the budget to this level. As this would allow the team to encourage the development of ladies and junior teams, members agreed the additional budget. It was noted that there was possible grant funding available.</p> <p>Chicane Barriers at Sycamore Entrance to Rec – At the latest site meeting to correct / progress this it had been decided to alter the configuration and add an additional barrier and remove the loose gravel and tarmac this additional area. Allison Macleod had prepared a further drawing, which Cllr Wood had shared under Minute No. 48 above.</p> <p>Improvements to Footpath down to Big Waters - NCC drawing and tender package work was progressing again.</p>	Cllr Wood
53.	<p>Planters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Thompson would speak to Eddie Dixon to see whether he wanted to take responsibility for the two planters outside the café. • There were two planters which were no longer being cared for in the village. These would be highlighted in the newsletter to see if there was any interest. There might be a need to relocate these to a less shady location. If no takers could be found, disposal would be considered. 	
54.	<p>Christmas Trees</p> <p>Cllr Wood reported that Cllr Hitchenes proposed to identify a few biggish trees in the village and wrap Xmas lights around the trunks and as far up as was easily reachable. Three in the centre, one on the village green (as normal), one on the corner of Beech Ave and one on the way up onto Dinnington Green. Also, one at the VH and if there were sufficient lights, one on the way into the village at north & south.</p> <p>This would save on the cost of the Xmas trees, which were now getting expensive and more lights could be bought if necessary.</p> <p>It was suggested that one tree might still be appropriate, and agreed that this be discussed again at the next meeting.</p>	Clerk
55.	<p>Highways Repairs/Maintenance</p> <p>Cllr Toward Wright had circulated her report by email prior to the meeting.</p>	

	<p>A request had been received from a resident for a mirror opposite the lane coming out of the allotments. The resident had been informed that NCC no longer installed these and that the sight lines would be cleared when the allotments were developed.</p> <p>The request for larger 30mph signs could not be agreed as the verge was not wide enough.</p>																																																																							
<p>56.</p>	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>The following payments from August were confirmed:-</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="236 506 1209 1137"> <tr> <td>K. Hadfield</td> <td>July salary</td> <td>13.08.25</td> <td>£213.26</td> <td>BACS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C. Pawlet</td> <td>Watering and weeding</td> <td>13.08.25</td> <td>£126.00</td> <td>BACS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newcastle City Council</td> <td>Litterbin servicing May 2025</td> <td>13.08.95</td> <td>£151.20</td> <td>BACS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newcastle City Council</td> <td>Litterbin servicing June 2025</td> <td>13.08.95</td> <td>£151.20</td> <td>BACS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L&S Printers</td> <td>Neighbourhood Plan</td> <td>13.08.95</td> <td>£40.00</td> <td>BACS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T. Laidler</td> <td>Plants</td> <td>13.08.95</td> <td>£31.85</td> <td>200310</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P. Hitchenes</td> <td>Garden competition prizes refund</td> <td>13.08.95</td> <td>£175.00</td> <td>BACS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A. MacLaren</td> <td>Footpath clearing</td> <td>13.08.95</td> <td>£250.00</td> <td>BACS</td> </tr> </table> <p>The following payments from Sept were agreed:-</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="236 1240 1209 1610"> <tr> <td>K. Hadfield</td> <td>August salary</td> <td>17.09.25</td> <td>£248.01</td> <td>BACS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>PAYE</td> <td>17.09.25</td> <td>£449.60</td> <td>200311</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C. Pawlet</td> <td>Watering and weeding (Aug)</td> <td>17.09.25</td> <td>£140.00</td> <td>BACS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NALC</td> <td>Annual Subscription</td> <td>17.09.25</td> <td>£462.13</td> <td>200312</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Spanglefish</td> <td>Website fee</td> <td>17.09.25</td> <td>£39.95</td> <td>200313</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oliver Construction</td> <td>Memorial Hall Works</td> <td>17.09.25</td> <td>£20,606.70</td> <td>BACS</td> </tr> </table> <p>Members received the latest budget monitoring report showing the position to 15 Sept 2025.</p>	K. Hadfield	July salary	13.08.25	£213.26	BACS	C. Pawlet	Watering and weeding	13.08.25	£126.00	BACS	Newcastle City Council	Litterbin servicing May 2025	13.08.95	£151.20	BACS	Newcastle City Council	Litterbin servicing June 2025	13.08.95	£151.20	BACS	L&S Printers	Neighbourhood Plan	13.08.95	£40.00	BACS	T. Laidler	Plants	13.08.95	£31.85	200310	P. Hitchenes	Garden competition prizes refund	13.08.95	£175.00	BACS	A. MacLaren	Footpath clearing	13.08.95	£250.00	BACS	K. Hadfield	August salary	17.09.25	£248.01	BACS	HMRC	PAYE	17.09.25	£449.60	200311	C. Pawlet	Watering and weeding (Aug)	17.09.25	£140.00	BACS	NALC	Annual Subscription	17.09.25	£462.13	200312	Spanglefish	Website fee	17.09.25	£39.95	200313	Oliver Construction	Memorial Hall Works	17.09.25	£20,606.70	BACS	
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<p>57.</p>	<p>Members Items of Concern</p> <p>Cllr Porter – reported that the snapped tree branch on Mitford Way had been cut up by Alistair Tye. A consultation event on the Airport Masterplan was scheduled for the village hall the following day. Emma Foody was seeking a meeting with the airport.</p>																																																																							

	<p>The request for a full post office license in the newsagent had been refused. They could provide a basic service, but there would be no ATM until the end of 2026.</p> <p>Cllr Brown – the bushes on the corner on Main Road, south of the shops were starting to encroach onto the footpath. It was noted this was the responsibility of the homeowners to keep under control and would be added to Cllr Toward Wright’s list. Also, cars were parking on Main Road on both sides of the street at school times, but this was a school issue.</p> <p>Cllr Thompson – the hawthorn hedge on the Keepmoat estate had died off and Audrey Dellow’s bulbs had been disappointing in that they could not be clearly seen. Cllr Porter agreed they had been too small a species for that location and would pick up with Ceri.</p>	<p>Cllrs Toward Wright / Wood</p> <p>Cllr Porter</p>
58.	<p>Newcastle City Councillors Items The Chair asked if Cllr Down could raise the hedges at the exit from Sheraton Park with NCC as they were really high and affecting sight lines.</p>	Cllr Down
59.	<p>Reports/Airport Masterplan Consultation Cllr Phelps reported that the consultation ended on 30 November. This would allow members time to look at the masterplan in detail and discuss at the next meeting. Planning permission had now been granted for the three storey terminal extension. All profits from car parking were paid as dividends to the seven local authorities.</p>	
60.	<p>Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 14 October 2025 at 6.30pm. Agenda items –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas trees • Litter picking • Airport Masterplan 	

CHAIR.....

DATE.....