

Minutes of the meeting of Dinnington Parish Council held on Wednesday 18 March 2026 at 6.30 pm.

Members Present: Cllrs D. Brown, R. Bulpitt, J. Douglass, P. Hitchenes, G. McKenna, J. Porter, R. Thompson, M. Wood.

Dr J. Mansfield, LD Focus Team

Minute No.	Agenda Item	Action required
139.	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Cllrs Phelps and Toward Wright.</p> <p>Cllr Avaei, NCC</p>	
140.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>None were declared.</p>	
141.	<p>Minutes of previous meeting</p> <p>RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18 February 2026 be agreed as a true record.</p>	
142.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Cllr Wood reported:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident concerns about the re-routing of a public right of way adjacent to his property – this had been taken up with the NCC Footpath Officer who advised the resident was looking at an old copy of the footpath maps. The path was where it should be on the current map and the resident had been informed and was happy. The fence was the responsibility of Kingston Properties and would be repaired. • Kids were causing a nuisance at the Electricity Sub Station on the path between Main Road and Elm Ave - Northern PowerGrid had instructed their subcontractor to inspect the site and would contact Cllr Wood with an update. Typically, this type of work took around 5 working days to complete. • Litterbins - Mick Murphy had looked into this and confirmed that he would reduce the PC's total contribution next year to £800 and would hope to reduce it completely the year after. • Past Chairman's Board - Hooper Signs who did the lettering could come and update the board for £50. This was agreed by members. • Data from the speed sign on March Terrace - NCC Traffic signals were progressing this and would get back asap. 	Cllr Wood

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A summer social event would be arranged to coincide with the Clerk's leaving do. • Permissive footpath in the field from Gardners Houses entrance to connect with the wooded section - Meeting held with Matthew Williamson (Blagdon Estate Land Agent) He advised he would go out on site to look at the footpath and assess the need for a fence. He would come back after that. • The state of the rec ground - Cllr Wood had had a joint inspection with Noel Hanlon who had taken photos of the issues and would look to get things tidied up. However, due to the bird nesting season it would probably not happen until October. • Cllr Thompson reported that he had spoken to Eddie Dixon – the electricity supply cables for future wall lights were in the way of re-fixing the PC Noticeboard and would be moved up by the electrician to allow the Noticeboard to be repositioned. When the electrician did this, he would connect the defibrillator to the mains at the same time. 	Cllr Wood
143.	<p>CIL Funding</p> <p>It had not been possible for Matthew Storey to attend, but he would come to the next meeting. He had confirmed there was another £24,000 to come to the PC in the next tranche of CIL funding.</p> <p>Further to the discussions at the last meeting, members felt that a request should be made to the City Council to consider using some of their CIL funding for the strategic development of GP facilities in the village, given the amount of housing development in the village, as well as the Kingston Village development on the doorstep. However, confirmation needed to be sought from Dr Twelves that he was committed to having a surgery in the village. If it was not, then other doctor practices might be interested. It was agreed that Dr Twelves be invited to the next meeting.</p>	Clerk
144.	<p>Clerk Recruitment</p> <p>A draft advert, as well as the existing job description and person spec had been circulated to members. This would be advertised with NALC, Newcastle City Council, and the SLCC.</p> <p>The Appointments Committee was tasked to deal with the recruitment.</p>	Clerk
145.	<p>Updates</p> <p>Village Hall – Cllr Porter reported that the Ducklings parent and toddler group now had a set of baby weighing scales for use. A possible new Pilates class was starting and the Scout Group were having a fund raising day in aid of the British Legion. The new gate was also in place at the hall.</p>	

Newsletter – possible content for the next edition included a litter pick (possibly May) and the results of the speedwatch session as well as the speed camera data.

Library – jigsaws were now available at the library.

Development of field adjacent to the allotments known as the Pleasure Grounds to facilitate additional Allotments - NCC had held internal meetings to ascertain if more funding could be made available to cover the current shortfall. They felt that the majority of the additional monies now required had been sourced and some savings had also been identified. It would probably take another 2 or 3 weeks to finalise, before they could instruct the subcontractor to proceed.

Allotments – nothing to report.

Website - nothing to report.

Dinnington Surgery –Wendy Taylor, Chair of Newcastle City Council Health Scrutiny committee had written to the ICB asking for an update on the proposed Dinnington Surgery, but had not had a reply yet - she was continuing to chase them up.

Emma Foody had now updated as follows :-

I share frustrations of residents and as well as meeting with Northumbria Care and Dr Twelves, I have written to both the Integrated Care Board and Newcastle City Council. I have a further meeting due with senior officials at the Integrated Care Board and following this I will provide the Parish Council with a full update. I have also questioned the Section 106 and CIL funding with Newcastle City Council, and I am due an update shortly.

As mentioned, I entirely appreciate the frustration with the situation and the impact it has on access to health services for residents locally, and additional costs travelling to Ponteland and the challenges this creates for people. I assure you that I will continue to work with the Parish Council and any local bodies that I can on this issue.

As mentioned under Minute No. 143, Matt Storey had confirmed to Cllr Wood that contrary to reports in the press, the NCC current CIL funds were committed elsewhere and there was nothing available for the doctor's surgery at the moment. He had also advised the PC to send a letter outlining the PC's view that CIL money from the strategic fund could be released to help fund the doctor's surgery and would come to the next PC meeting to discuss this further, although he made the proviso that it may not be approved, but it would allow it to be discussed further.

146.	<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 – NCC were progressing with the proposal and would be forwarding it for their delegated decision process for approval. As part of this they would be measuring the land parcel in the next couple of weeks. They were hopeful to have progressed matters further towards the end of March.</p> <p>Re-Decorating the changing rooms at the Rec Pavilion – NCC now had all the additional prices to cover the extra work the "Football Foundation" requested. Cllr Wood had met with them to agree who paid for what in order to cover the total cost, and they were now in a position to proceed with the refurbishment works. The Football Foundation would provide £25k and the PC would provide the remaining £30k for the project.</p> <p>Recreation ground and Play Area Chicane at Sycamore Ave entrance - Chicane at Sycamore Ave entrance - No progress had been made, due to lack of resources and continued work required on the allotments, progress should re-commence soon</p> <p>Improvements to Footpath down to Big Waters -No progress had been made, due to continued work required on the allotments, progress should re-commence soon.</p>																					
147.	<p>Highways Repairs/Maintenance</p> <p>Cllr Toward Wright had submitted her update by email. Any further matters members wished to raise should be sent by email with locations and pictures.</p> <p>Cllr Wood reported that, with regard to the reported resurfacing of the road following the completion of the Persimmon development, this may have been discussed at the time but it had not formed part of the planning permission.</p>																					
148.	<p>Financial Matters</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="336 1731 1123 1951"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payments</th> <th>Reason</th> <th>Date</th> <th>Amount</th> <th>Cheque No</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>K. Hadfield</td> <td>Feb salary</td> <td>18.03.26</td> <td>£220.37</td> <td>BACS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>PAYE</td> <td>18.03.26</td> <td>£440.40</td> <td>200319</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Zurich Municipal</td> <td>Insurance premium</td> <td>18.03.26</td> <td>£553.16</td> <td>BACS</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Payments	Reason	Date	Amount	Cheque No	K. Hadfield	Feb salary	18.03.26	£220.37	BACS	HMRC	PAYE	18.03.26	£440.40	200319	Zurich Municipal	Insurance premium	18.03.26	£553.16	BACS	
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	It was agreed that the explanation of reserves document from the annual audit return would be circulated to all members for information.	Clerk
149.	<p>Members Items of Concern</p> <p>Cllr Douglass – a litter bin was needed at the Persimmon estate – Cllr Wood would pursue with Persimmon.</p> <p>Cllr Hitchenes – the first grass cut had been done but many areas had been missed. Cllr Wood would chase up. He also asked if the next speedwatch session could be held at school opening and closing times. Cllr McKenna confirmed that it could.</p> <p>Cllr Thompson –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • had received a request for an extension of the speed humps. Cllr Wood advised that this had been considered previously but would have required a completely new consultation process. It could be added as a potential future project. • There were two planters to locate – one would go at East Acres and the other would go to Kath Harle. • A resident had asked if more bulbs could be planted near the old police house. • The rent for Quarry Cottages was still unpaid. Cllr Hitchenes would follow up. 	<p>Cllr Wood</p> <p>Cllr Wood</p> <p>Cllr Hitchenes</p>
150.	<p>Newcastle City Councillors Items</p> <p>Dr Mansfield gave an update on the forthcoming elections and the new ward areas.</p>	
151.	<p>Correspondence –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request to use Jubilee Green – agreed • Email re parking at The Swan and speeding – the Chair had spoken to the Swan regarding the parking. They had acknowledged the difficulties and would put some signs up. The Clerk had also responded with the recent speedwatch figures. 	Clerk
152.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Wednesday 15 April 2026 at 6.30 pm.</p> <p>Agenda items – Dr Twelves, Matt Storey</p>	

The meeting finished at 20.10 pm

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Chairman

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Date