

**Minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held at Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington.  
On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 6.30pm.**



**PRESENTATIONS**

- Northumbria Police (George and Ryan from Neighbourhood Policing Team) presented stats from their team, highlighting that there were 347 crimes in an eight-week period in West Bedlington which is large drop, around 25%, in crime compared to earlier in the year.
- A member of the public asked if there was any way to get a speed camera near Wetherspoons/West Moorland Avenue and the Neighbourhood Policing Team said they would action this – possibly getting an unmarked vehicle to monitor the area.
- Councillor Thompson mentioned speeding on Church Lane and it was noted by the Neighbourhood Policing Team.
- Member of the public mentioned that speeding was a concern to lots of people who had attended the cycle path meeting, so it was suggested by the Neighbourhood Policing Team that a letter drop could be looked at for certain affected estates to gather local opinions.
- A member of the public was concerned about e-bike speeding and it was agreed it was an issue for further discussion/consideration.
- Member of the public mentioned issue on B331 regarding speeding and it was noted.
- Contact details left if anyone needed to get in touch with the Neighbourhood Policing Team after the meeting.

**QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL**

- A member of the public was concerned about the cycle path and wanted to know how Northumberland County Council can start work without any plans or local people knowing what is happening. Councillor Taylor (Chair) said there is a set of plans coming soon, but this does not include path widths, so West Bedlington Town Council are going to ask Northumberland County Council to provide specific details.
- A member of the public thanked West Bedlington Town Council for the Christmas events provided, in particular the Magic of Christmas event which they had enjoyed and attended.
- A member of the public asked about bus shelters on the new cycle path – it was noted that West Bedlington Town Council have had no requests from Northumberland County Council about providing bus shelters along the cycleway.
- Another member of the public thanked West Bedlington Town Council for the Magic of Christmas event and also asked for an update on the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Taylor said more details will be provided in January 2025.

**PART A - ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Min Ref		Attendance / apologies and declarations of interest	Determination
24/175		<b>In Attendance</b>	Councillors Hedley, Henderson, Taylor (Chair), Todd, D Wallace, R Wallace and Thompson. Two (2) representatives from Northumbria Police. Town Clerk S Young, Deputy Town Clerk G Turner and Assistant Town Clerk, M McTeer. Five (5) members of the public.
24/176	a.	<b>Apologies for absence</b> 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 Crosby and Hogg were <b>NOTED</b> . ii. There were no dispensations for absence for this meeting.

24/177	b.	<p><b>Declaration of interest</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>ii. To consider any requests for dispensations.</p>	<p>i. No declarations were declared.</p> <p>ii. No dispensations for this meeting.</p>
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## PART B – MATTERS FOR DECISION

### 1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS / SUMMARY OF DELEGATED DECISIONS

		Details of meeting or delegated decisions	Determination
24/178	a.	To agree and sign as a correct record the minutes of West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2024.	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the West Bedlington Town Council Meeting held on 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 are <b>APPROVED</b> as a true record.
24/179	b.	To discuss any matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting that are not included as agenda items.	There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2024.

### 2. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

		Matters for discussion / decision	Determination
24/180	a.	<p><b>2025/2026 budget and precept requirement</b></p> <p>The Council are requested to review and approve the proposed draft budget and precept requirement for 2025/26.</p> <p>i. A budget for the financial year 2025-26 of £310,258. Summary distributed to members.</p> <p>ii. A precept requirement of £298,258 for the financial year 2025-26. (For info 2024-25 £272,850 represents a 1.58% annual increase to Town Council, Council Tax payments).</p>	Members unanimously <b>APPROVED</b> the budget of £310,258 and precept of £298,258 for the financial year 2025-26.
24/181	b.	<p><b>Proposed potential future capital projects</b></p> <p>The Council are asked to discuss and decide (in principle only) if it wishes to explore the possibility of providing:</p> <p>i. A skate park (project detail would require public consultation).</p> <p>ii. A new children's play area (project detail would require public consultation).</p> <p>iii. Railings around the Trotter Memorial, Front Street West, Bedlington.</p>	Members unanimously <b>APPROVED</b> all items in principle and it was agreed public consultation would be sought.
24/182	c.	<p><b>Services</b></p> <p>The Council are requested to discuss and decide upon requests / proposals to:</p> <p>i. Purchase and install a new bus shelter - Southbound outside Wansbeck Court, Front Street East, (Millfield Stop) across from shelter BS6. (Subject to NCC street works' approval). Residents request distributed to members.</p> <p>ii. Purchase and install a new litter bin – on the path between Rowan Close Bedlington and Choppington Road (new bus shelter) Bedlington. (Subject to NCC confirming they can empty any new bin).</p> <p>iii. Install a memorial plaque on a public seat in Market Place, Bedlington. Request distributed to members.</p> <p>iv. Purchase and install VE80 themed school artwork in Bus Shelters on Front Street, Bedlington.</p>	Members unanimously <b>APPROVED</b> all items.  iv - VE artwork agreed to go on two (2) bus shelters (Hartford Road and Front Street West).

24/183	d.	<p><b>Governance review of Council policies</b> The Council are requested to review and if appropriate update the following policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Policy No 27. Memorial plaques to public seating.</li> <li>ii. Policy No 10 Grit Bin Policy.</li> <li>iii. Policy No 15 Lone Worker Policy</li> </ul>	Members unanimously reviewed and <b>AGREED</b> policies.																				
24/184	e.	<p><b>Councillor representation at external meeting</b> The Council are requested to decide upon a representative to attend a meeting about “Community Assistance Centres” at, Cramlington Community Hub – Monday 13th January 2025, 9:30am – 12:00pm. Details distributed to members (please note rearranged meeting date).</p>	Councillor Thompson <b>AGREED</b> to attend the meeting on 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2025.																				
24/185	f.	<p><b>Residents’ newsletter (Update)</b> The Council are asked to discuss and decide upon a proposed draft schedule of future “Update” editions together with a brief “framework” of the content for each future edition. (Details distributed to members).</p>	Members unanimously <b>AGREED</b> the framework and triannual distribution.																				
24/186	g.	<p><b>Planning</b> <b>i. Planning applications – where comments have been requested</b> The Council are asked to discuss and decide if it wishes to make any comments in relation to the planning applications received for comment.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">Ref</th> <th style="width: 45%;">Description</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Response due date</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Determination</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>24/03741/REM</td> <td>Reserved matters application for access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for construction of 13no dwellings on approved 18/02329/OUT. Location: 7C Netherton Lane Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6DP</td> <td>29th November 2024</td> <td>No comment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24/03848/FUL</td> <td>Retrospective - new timber summer house to rear garden Location: 21 Orchard Way Broadoaks Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6BU</td> <td>3rd December 2024</td> <td>No comment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24/03859/FUL</td> <td>Single storey rear extension with shallow slope roof - 4m Location: 24 Errington Way Fenwick Park Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6FH</td> <td>3rd December 2024</td> <td>No comment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24/03871/PRUTPO</td> <td>Tree preservation order application: T1 Willow Tree - pollard, removing 2 outer stems. T2-T7 6no. Beech Trees - Crown thinning - reduce by 25%. Location: The Coach House</td> <td>4th December 2024</td> <td>No comment</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Ref	Description	Response due date	Determination	24/03741/REM	Reserved matters application for access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for construction of 13no dwellings on approved 18/02329/OUT. Location: 7C Netherton Lane Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6DP	29th November 2024	No comment	24/03848/FUL	Retrospective - new timber summer house to rear garden Location: 21 Orchard Way Broadoaks Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6BU	3rd December 2024	No comment	24/03859/FUL	Single storey rear extension with shallow slope roof - 4m Location: 24 Errington Way Fenwick Park Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6FH	3rd December 2024	No comment	24/03871/PRUTPO	Tree preservation order application: T1 Willow Tree - pollard, removing 2 outer stems. T2-T7 6no. Beech Trees - Crown thinning - reduce by 25%. Location: The Coach House	4th December 2024	No comment	
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		Netherton Hall Nedderton Village Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6AS		
	24/03891/VARYCO	Variation of condition 3 (noise and odour) on approved application 23/00369/FUL Location: Confetti 64 Front Street East Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5AB	5th December 2024	No comment
	24/03905/FUL	Proposed alteration works including new dining room window to end elevation, new external metal fencing / gate surround to existing external metal fire escape staircase and new kitchen extract vent to front elevation. Note: No proposed alterations to existing car park, trees, site drainage, waste collection arrangements, employment numbers or opening hours. Location: Howard House School Netherton Colliery Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6BB	10th December 2024	No comment
	24/03953/PRUTPO	Tree Preservation Order Application to: G1 Sycamore prune, Ash fell, T2 Willow prune overhanging branches by 2-3m, T3 Pine fell and T4 Oak prune overhanging branches by 2-3m. Location Rear Of Byre Dene House Penny Lane Hartford Hall Estate Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6HD	11th December 2024	No comment
				No comment

		24/03951/FUL	Replacement garage with kitchen diner extension, first floor bay, extended entrance canopy, new fence and driveway Location 6 Windsor Gardens Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5SY	17th December 2024	No comment
		24/04112/OUTES	Outline planning application, with all matters reserved, for the erection of up to ten data centre buildings of Class B8 use totalling up to 540,000 square metres (sqm) gross internal area (GIA) in addition to ancillary structures, substation, emergency generators and other associated works. Location Land at Former Power Station Site On Northern Side Of Cambois, Cambois Northumberland	1st January 2025	No comment
		*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. Note: recent notified planning decisions and other planning applications (where comments have not been requested) are shown in PART C for information only).			
24/187	h.	<b>Working groups / committees (items for decision or discussion)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Any recommendations from working groups for decision by full Council. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Events Group. Request the approval to purchase / procure the purchasing of and hanging of patriotic bunting on Front Street, Bedlington in celebrate VE80 Day.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Any other Items from working groups – the working group chair will feedback to the Council any other items discussed, any ongoing and future matters been worked upon by the working group.</li> </ol>			Members unanimously <b>AGREED</b> .  Events working group – it was noted that Christmas 2025 events were being looked at now and booked early.
24/188	i.	<b>Bank reconciliations</b> The Council are asked to APPROVE a checked bank reconciliation of £14,056.79 as of 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 for current account, a Deposit Account Balance of £386,477.82 as of 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2024, and a CCLA account balance of £25,000.			The bank reconciliations were <b>APPROVED</b> by members.

## PART C – MATTERS FOR INFORMATION OR TO BE NOTED

Matters for information or to be noted	
24/189	<b>RESOLVED to NOTE</b> Section's a, b, and c. Note section f is not part of the agenda and is included for information only.

	a.	<b>Chair's update and any reports from external meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The Chair will make any relevant announcements and provide updates to members.</li> <li>ii. To receive feedback from Councillors from any external meetings since the date of the last Council meeting.</li> </ul>	None for this meeting.								
24/190	b.	<b>Consultations</b> <table border="1" data-bbox="304 456 1490 528"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="304 456 587 490">From</th> <th data-bbox="587 456 995 490">Description</th> <th data-bbox="995 456 1490 490">Details</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="304 490 587 528">None for this meeting</td> <td data-bbox="587 490 995 528"></td> <td data-bbox="995 490 1490 528"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		From	Description	Details	None for this meeting				
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24/191	c.	<b>Invitations</b> <table border="1" data-bbox="304 584 1490 1039"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="304 584 587 618">From</th> <th data-bbox="587 584 995 618">Event</th> <th data-bbox="995 584 1490 618">Response details</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="304 618 587 1039">West End Primary School</td> <td data-bbox="587 618 995 1039">           Tuesday 10 December - KS1 and Y5/6 rehearsals 10:30 - 12:00. Residents from local care home are also attending. Wednesday 11 December - Y5/6 carols by candlelight in Trinity Church 4pm. Thursday 12 December - Y3/4 dress rehearsal at 9:30. Friday 13 December - Y3/4 Nativity at 9:15. Monday 16 December - Reception dress rehearsal at 9:15. Tuesday 17 December - Nursery dress rehearsal at 10:00.         </td> <td data-bbox="995 618 1490 1039">Open to all councillors - <b>NOTED</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		From	Event	Response details	West End Primary School	Tuesday 10 December - KS1 and Y5/6 rehearsals 10:30 - 12:00. Residents from local care home are also attending. Wednesday 11 December - Y5/6 carols by candlelight in Trinity Church 4pm. Thursday 12 December - Y3/4 dress rehearsal at 9:30. Friday 13 December - Y3/4 Nativity at 9:15. Monday 16 December - Reception dress rehearsal at 9:15. Tuesday 17 December - Nursery dress rehearsal at 10:00.	Open to all councillors - <b>NOTED</b>		
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24/193	e.	<b>Planning decisions notified to West Bedlington Town Council by Northumberland County Council</b>		
		<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Decision</b>
		24/03221/PRUTPO	Tree Preservation Order Application: T1-T2 Cherry crown reduce and reshape by 2m. Location Coachman's Cottage Stable Row Hartford Hall Estate Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6AG	PERMIT
		24/03104/FUL	Retrospective: Amendment of front garden to move fence on North East corner closer to road such as to make better use of space for storage, including non-permanent shed structure. Location 15 South Farm Nedderton Village Bedlington Northumberland NE22 6BH	GRANTED
		24/02929/ADE	Retrospective: Advertisement Consent for adverts erected on commercial premises displaying information and name of business with rolling shutters Location 66A Front Street East Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5AB	GRANTED
24/02928/FUL	(Retrospective) Installation of rolling shutters to South East entrance (amended 21.11.24) Location 66A Front Street East Bedlington Northumberland NE22 5AB	GRANTED		
24/194	f.	<p><b>Police report</b> Members <b>NOTED</b> the report provided. The next scheduled regular report is for March 2025 meeting.</p>		
24/195	g.	<p><b>Matters for information only</b> 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.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Councillors - any matters for information only.</li> <li>2. Town Clerk - Christmas and New Year office hours. The office will close on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 at 12pm and reopen on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 9.30am. Emails will be monitored during the closure period for any urgent business.</li> <li>3. Town Clerk - reminder to Councillors re Neighbourhood Plan update meeting in early January (please confirm availability if you wish to attend a meeting).</li> <li>4. Town Clerk - play area repairs – still waiting on some replacement parts.</li> <li>5. Town Clerk - New Bus Shelter at Choppington Road has now been installed.</li> <li>6. Town Clerk - Gillian Turner's last day in the office will be Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2024.</li> <li>7. Reverend Ian from St Cuthbert's church is leaving to live abroad, so it was agreed a letter of thanks from West Bedlington Town Council would be written and given to him to thank him for all he's done for Bedlington during his service. It was agreed that a formal letter should be sent.</li> </ol>		
24/196	h.	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b> The next scheduled meeting of the Council will be on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 6.30pm in Bedlington Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington. The agenda for this meeting to be issued slightly later than normal so will be on Thursday 2nd January 2025. <b>draft</b></p>		

#### 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.

		<b>Matters for discussion / Decision / Information</b>	
24/197		There is no exempt business for this meeting.	

24/198		<b>Close of meeting</b> The Chair closed the meeting at 8.00pm	
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**WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL - COUNCILLORS:**

Bill Crosby, Paul Hedley, Cath Henderson, Adam Hogg, Christine Taylor, Victoria Thompson, Jayne Todd, Di Wallace, and Russ Wallace.

**Signed by Chair**

**Date**