

# Shilbottle Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Shilbottle Parish Council held on  
**Wednesday 10 December 2025 at 18.30**  
**In The Haven Community Room**

## 1. Public Speaking

1.1. No public speaking.

## 2. Welcome by Chair

2.1. The Chair welcomed all the attendees.

2.2. Last month we had a number of ill members causing the meeting to be cancelled.

2.3. The Chair apprised the meeting of recent events since our last meeting and these are attached as an appendix to these minutes for record.

## 3. Those Present

3.1. Councillors H. Mills, K. McCann Y. Douglas, H Smith, J. Hallal, R. Anderson, A Brewis and The Chair Cllr Mrs Haddow. Clerk P. Burns.

## 4. Apologies for Absence

Councillor S. Elliott, County Cllr Trevor Thorne

## 5. Minutes of meeting held 08 October 2025

5.1. The Minutes were presented for approval.

5.2. Minutes were discussed with updates on various points raised since last meeting.

5.3. Minutes proposed Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Brewis. Unanimously approved.

## 6. Matters arising for discussion

6.1. See Chair's listing in appendix to these minutes.

## 7. Declaration of interest

7.1. None.

## 8. Correspondence

8.1. Community Hall - Re: SCYPP and Parish Council cooperation initiative

8.2. NCC - 2026-27 Precept

8.3. NCC - Planning Consultation 25/03958/FUL 2 South View Shilbottle Northumberland NE66 2XG

8.4. NCC - Damaged Bins- Shilbottle

8.5. Resident – Newsletter Towerburn view - A Wynyard Development

8.6. NCC - Planning Consultation 25/03489/S106A Land Adjacent To, South Side, Alnwick, Northumberland

8.7. NCC - Notice of Consultation - Public Spaces Protection Orders

8.8. NCC - North of Tyne Local Nature Recovery Strategy - draft - open for consultation

- 8.9. NCC - Northumberland Design Code - We want to know about your neighbourhoods -
- 8.10. NALC - UPDATE DECEMBER (revised)
- 8.11. Northumbria Police – Monthly report

9. **Finance (for October and November 2025)**

Councillors Haddow, Douglas, Smith, Hallal

**OUTGOINGS (for October 2025)**

Royal British Legion	Remembrance (Wreathes)	£229.90
Storey and Son Landscape Gardening	Service Level Agreement	£1,685.00
Storey and Son Landscape Gardening	Maintenance	£140.00
Fantasy Prints	Printing (Oct 25 Newsletter)	£271.19
SPC Clerk	Expenses (Q2 25/26)	£39.95
Kidd Garden Design	Play Area Maintenance	£120.00
HP Instant Ink	Inks	£13.49
Ground Maintenance Specialists Ltd	Maintenance (Welfare Field grass cutting 2025)	£1,440.00
D Hughes	Maintenance (Removal of Welfare Roundabout)	£250.00
Lloyds Bank	Bank charges	£7.75
SPC Clerk	Wages	£735.00

**INCOMINGS (for October 2025)**

NIL	£0.00
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**OUTGOINGS (for November 2025)**

Shilbottle Village Forum	Donation (Haven Refurb)	£1000.00
HMRC	PAYE (P32)	£243.00
Storey and Son Landscape Gardening	Maintenance	£395.00
Storey and Son Landscape Gardening	Service Level Agreement	£1,530.00
HP Instant Ink	Inks	£13.49
Greaves Grindle Chartered Accountants	PAYE Bureau	£84.00
Kidd Garden Design	Play Area Maintenance	£120.00
Shilbottle Village Forum	Newsletter	£100.00
Lloyds Bank	Bank charges	£8.25
SPC Clerk	Wages	£735.00

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## INCOMINGS (for November 2025)

Wm Purves Funeral Director	Cemetery Fees	£150.00
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- 9.1. Finance for month of October and November 2025 was offered for acceptance. Proposed Cllr Douglas, seconded Cllr Smith. Accepted unanimously.
- 9.2. Clerk advised VAT126 for Financial Year (FY) 2024/25 has been submitted to His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) for value of £579.91.
- 9.3. Deadline for 2026/2027 precept submission to NCC is Friday 23 January 2026. Budget report for 2026/2027 will be submitted ahead of the January meeting for comment/acceptance ahead of the set deadline.
- 9.4. New website via NALC Hugo Fox. .gov.uk email requested awaiting feedback. Month free of website expires 27 December 2025. Direct Debit either annual at £143.86 or monthly £11.99 12 x 11.99 = £143.88. Suggest monthly subscription is utilised at least for first year YEAR 1 – NALC and HugoFox cover all website-related costs in your first 12 months via Bronze website subscription.  
Proposed Cllr Anderson, seconded Cllr Hallal. Passed unanimously

## 10. Planning – Clerk advised the following feedback over month:

- 10.1. Planning Consultation 25/03489/S106A Land Adjacent To, South Side.
  - 10.1.1. The Northumberland Estates (TNE) have submitted application to change the June 2002 S106 agreement almost 25 years later, to remove PART ONLY of the Public Open Space adjacent to 1 Farriers Rise assigned for the use of the community under the S106 into an allotment for a single individual of the village to be let by TNE to the owner of 1 Farriers Rise.
  - 10.1.2. Objection submitted to planning portal on behalf of Shilbottle Parish Council identifying failures of both Northumberland County Council (lack of maintenance they are legally obliged to have carried out on the POS) and The Northumberland Estates of unilaterally breaking a binding agreement with the people of the village of Shilbottle.
  - 10.1.3. Clerk instructed to place objection onto the parish website.
- 10.2. Planning Consultation 25/03958/FUL 2 South View Shilbottle.
- 10.3. 25/00997/BRCOND - Grange Road Development Towerburn View, Shilbottle - Concern over Tiered site construction and Food Risk Assessment impact. Enforcement case raised and advised via email from NCC 22 September 2025. No further feedback to date.

## 11. Feedback on play areas - Councillors Hallal, Mills, Smith, McCann

- 11.1. The two new issues this month are that the bench seat at Hampeth has become loose (it should just need a couple of screws) and one of the cradle swings at The Welfare has had one of the middle leg supports snapped off meaning that the whole swing will need to be replaced.

Permission to proceed with repairs required. Proposed Cllr Smith seconded Cllr Anderson vote unanimous.

11.2. It was proposed that a limit be set to allow our playpark inspector to undertake necessary work without first seeking permission. It was agreed to set a limit of £100. Proposed Cllr Smith seconded Cllr McCann Clerk to issue instruction

12. **Liaison with NCC** County Councillor Thorne/ Councillor Haddow

12.1. As County Cllr Thorne was unable to attend and registered his apologies no report this month.

13. **Liaison with Police** - Councillors Douglas, H. Smith.

13.1. Report received this month from the Police and distributed to the meeting. Several issues have been highlighted including 2 reports of Anti-Social behaviour.

14. **Bus Shelters** - Councillor Elliott.

14.1. Cllr Haddow arranging for new panel to be fitted to bust stop near church.

15. **Cemeteries** - Councillor Elliott, Brewis, Haddow.

15.1. Nothing reported this month.

16. **Dog fouling/Litter** - Update by all Councillors for designated areas

16.1. No major issues with fouling at this time. Generally good.

16.2. Poo Bags – can we get some to be collected at Haven on Thursday? Councillors to investigate.

16.3. Clerk highlighted that NCC have advised issue with two of our bins which are known to be “past their best” (see correspondence). Clerk to liaise with our contractor over bin on Grange Road and Widows Row and look to price up

17. **NCC Housing and Public Protection** - Councillors Haddow, Hallal and Mills

17.1. Properties have been noted to be released for tenancy.

18. **Environment & Sustainability** - Councillor Brewis

18.1. Community and school area garden maybe at Welfare in new year.

19. **Liaising with School and Church** - Councillor McCann and Douglas

19.1. Church assisted on Remembrance Sunday and Christmas tree events which was greatly appreciated. Over 100 people attended Remembrance Sunday

20. **Community Hall** - Councillor Haddow, Anderson

20.1. Meeting in New Year with Cllrs Haddow, Brewis and Anderson to discuss approach to have greater contact with the hall groups.

21. **Further items at discretion of the Chair**

21.1. A “Drop in” suggested in The Haven in the New Year

21.2. Footpath behind the club Grange Road and Lee Ave is overgrown. Clerk to register issue on FixMyStreet.

- 21.3. Member of the public has highlighted that a plaque is required on the wind turbine at the Community Hall with contact details under Health and Safety regulations.

POST MEETING NOTE: In the UK, there is no explicit legal requirement to display contact details directly on a wind turbine itself for public viewing. Should there be an issue as this is the responsibility of the Community Hall then The Community hall should be directly contacted about any issues.

- 21.4. One priority for the coming financial year is the installation for a vehicle Activated Sign on Northside

- 21.5. No additional comments from attendees.

**22. Date of next meeting:**

- 22.1. The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 14 January 2026 at 18:30 in The Haven Community Room

Meeting ended 19:10

## APPENDIX

### Chair's Report December 2025

This has been a very busy time since our last meeting. October meeting was cancelled due to several Councillors, including the Chair and Vice Chair being very poorly, and the difficulty in being quorate. This did not contravene any rules, as legally we only need to hold four meetings per year.

#### What has happened?

1. We had a very good turn out for the unveiling of the History Board at the Old Pit Heap. This was followed by refreshments in the Haven. Thanks to Margaret Weaver and the History Group, Craig Storey who generously gave of his time, and The Forum who organised the tea. County Councillor Trevor Thorne was in attendance.
2. The meeting with regard to the proposed housing in the field behind Lea Avenue was attended by Councillors. We raised many objections, so we shall see what happens.
3. Remembrance Sunday was very well attended by children, parishioners, members of the Forces and The Royal British Legion and County and Parish Councillors, Our thanks to The Rev. Helen O' Sullivan and Bob and Mary Bain who organised the service and the musicians. Everyone enjoyed the tea in the Haven following the Service. Thanks again to The Forum ladies.
4. The dressing of the Christmas tree went very well indeed, the children were excellent and sang some lovely carols. The Councillors gave out small selection boxes to all the children.
5. The local area meeting was attended by Councillor Thorne and our Clerk Paul Burns. Our questions were pulled two hours before the meeting commenced. I shall respond to Councillor Castle next week. These meetings are meant to strengthen partnerships between Parish and County. Obviously they do not want to answer awkward questions.
6. We are still in dispute with N.C.C. and Northd. Estates with regard Public Open Spaces. The Clerk has raised our objections and stressed salient points of law. We await a reply.
7. On the same subject, I wrote to the Duke with our concerns. We have not been afforded even the courtesy of an acknowledgement!
8. New Councillor—we may have an interested party. I shall give the details to the Clerk and ask him to contact the gentleman.
9. Progress has been made on the empty housing. Diggers are working in The Keyhole, and white clad workmen have been removing asbestos from the empty houses on Lee Avenue and Grange Road. Hopefully they will be let soon.

I thank all Councillors for their input, Paul Burns our Clerk, Craig our gardener, and Alastair our play area inspector. I hope all villagers have a very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for a happy and healthy 2026.

*Elisabeth Haddow MBE, Chair Shilbottle Parish Council*