

**Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Warden Parish Council held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 commencing at 7pm in Newbrough Town Hall**

**Those Present:** Cllr S Robson (Chairman), Cllr D Liddle, Cllr L Kay, Cllr J Martin, Cllr W Foot, Cllr G Charlton

**In Attendance:** A Azocar-Nevin (County Cllr), two members of the public

A presentation to award Mr Dennis Bowman Freemanship of the Parish took place before the meeting commenced.

**2026/01 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr SJ Heminsley, Cllr K Youngs, C Miller (Clerk)

**2026/02 Declaration of Members Interests**

There were no declaration of members interests.

**2026/03 Opportunity for members of the public to raise any matter**

A resident raised concerns regarding a vehicle parking near to the Railway Inn, which had been reported to the DVLA and County Council. The vehicle had no MOT and was causing difficulties for utility vehicles turning in the area. The County Council had advised they did not recognise it as an abandoned vehicle.

**RESOLVED:**

Members agreed the Clerk would forward a letter to the vehicle owner, making reference to Rule 242 of the Highway Code which states *"you must not leave your vehicle in a dangerous position or where it causes unnecessary obstruction."*

A resident raised the matter of provision of wi-fi to East Fourstones. Phase 2 of the B4RN project was planned to commence January 2027, however 250 properties were required to indicate interest in order for the project to go ahead, with only 30 parties having registered interest at the present time.

**RESOLVED:**

1. Members agreed to have the B4RN project as a standing agenda item in order to raise awareness for the need for residents to register interest.
2. Chairman to draft article to raise awareness of the project for publication in the Stanegate
3. Members agreed B4RN should publicise their own article in the Stanegate.

**2026/04 Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025**

**RESOLVED:**

Members agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November were a true record.

**2026/05 Allotments.**

Nothing to discuss

**2026/06 Community litter pick**

Members considered the next community litter pick.

**RESOLVED:**

1. Members agreed to arrange the next litter pick for Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026.
2. Clerk to arrange loan of litter picking equipment via County Council.

**2026/07 Roads/footpaths/village maintenance**

Concerns were raised about vehicles parking on footpaths. The County Cllr advised reporting instances via County Council Fix My Street reporting system.

**RESOLVED:**

1. County Cllr to contact Andy Fisher of the County Council.
2. Cllr W Foot to draft article for Stanegate to remind people to desist from parking on pavements.

**2026/07/01 Progress regarding the reduction in speeding traffic through the village**

The County Cllr reported work was to commence on a 40mph speed limit at Hardhaugh in due course.

**2026/08 Planning**

**2026/08/01 Planning Application received**

*Public comments can be submitted via Northumberland County Council website: [Northumberland.gov.uk/Planning.aspx](http://Northumberland.gov.uk/Planning.aspx) or via post to: Development Control, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF*

No planning applications had been received.

**2026/08/02 Planning Application approval received**

No approval of planning application had been received.

A decision on the two solar farm planning applications was expected March / April 2026.

**2026/08/03 Northumberland County Council. Members to consider consultation in relation to Northumberland Design Code**

Design codes set out detailed requirements for how new development should look and work. They help to ensure that places function well, are attractive and built to last. Whilst they don't replace architects or urban designers, design codes set clear standards that must be reflected in proposals for new development. Design codes help to ensure that places are well-designed and that the quality of new development across an area is consistent. Design is not simply about how buildings look. The way places are designed and built affects everyone. The Design Code will be used to determine whether planning applications are acceptable in design terms, alongside policies in the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans (in areas where a Neighbourhood Plan has been made). It will cover the whole of Northumberland and hold the same legal importance in decision-making as the Local and Neighbourhood Plans.

Public consultation is being held, and further information available on the County Council website, details on link below.

<https://haveyoursay.northumberland.gov.uk/planning/design-code-neighbourhoods/>

**RESOLVED:**

Cllr Robson to draft article for Stanegate informing residents about the consultation.

**2026/09 Reports**

**2026/09/01 Northumberland County Council**

County Cllr suggested the B4RN project manager for the Humshaugh/Warden scheme could attend a future PC meeting, and reported B4RN were seeking volunteers to deliver information leaflets and display posters. County Cllr had requested the County Council contact the land owners with regards to Mossy flooding, and had chased up council contacts in regards to flooding at St Aidan's.

**2026/10 Financial Matters**

**2026/10/01 Members to approve the following payments**

PAYABLE TO	DETAIL	NETT	VAT	GROSS
Newbrough Town Hall	Rent of meeting room	£30.00	NIL	
C Miller	November, December Salary Expenses	£565.84 £27.90	NIL	£565.84 £27.90

**RESOLVED:**

Members approved the payments.

**2026/10/02 Defibrillator. Members to receive update on training in the use of defib**

No update available. Defibrillator pads would require replacement in the near future.

**2026/10/03 Members to receive update on Parish Council website / email requirements**

The Council resolved to the creation of a new website/clerk email address at September 2025 meeting. The existing website runs until March, with Clerk to contact incoming website administrator to arrange setting up new website/email in due course.

**2026/10/04 Budget and precept requirements 2026-2027. Members to approve budget and precept requirements 2026-2027**

Members considered budget and precept requirements 2026-2027.

**RESOLVED.**

- 1.Members approved the 2026-2027 budget
- 2.Members agreed to raise the precept by £250 to £10,250.
- 3.The earmarked reserve of £5,000 for the play area to be considered further at next meeting.

**2026/10/05 Deposit Account. Members to receive update on savings account with HSBC**

The Clerk advised the deposit account had not yet been set up due to issues with the official Parish Council contact mobile number, but would endeavour to arrange the account in the near future.

**2026/10/06 Member to receive acknowledgement of grant from Forum Cinema Hexham Ltd and Sport Tynedale**  
Members noted the acknowledgement of grants from Forum Cinema Hexham Ltd and Sport Tynedale.

**2026/11 The Railway Inn**  
Nothing to discuss.

**2026/12 Crises Management. Members to receive update regarding protocol for holding resident details**  
The issue of new residents moving into the parish discussed and which would be addressed fully at the next meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

Chairman to update parish noticeboards with current Parish Council and County Cllr contact details.

**2026/13 Information plaques for Parish Council assets. Members to consider options**  
Options awaited.

**2026/14 Play area. Members to consider concerns relating to play area surfacing**  
Advice from the RoSPA inspector in relation to the play area surfacing had been received as follows:

*"I am not personally aware of a practicable solution. You could overlay new bonded rubber mulch, but the cost for this would be significant. If the extent of issues is only dirty hands and shoes, I would recommend that you just monitor for the time being."*

**RESOLVED:**

Members agreed a warning notice informing parents of the potential staining and to use at their own risk would be beneficial.

**2026/15 Flood wardens for the parish. Members to consider requirements**  
Due to Cllr SJ Heminsley not being present, item deferred until next meeting.

**2026/16 Northumberland County Council Town & Parish Spring Conference. Members to receive invitation to event 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026**  
Two places available to attend the conference.

**RESOLVED:**

Members to contact the Clerk should they be interested in attending the event.

**2026/17 Urgent Business/Items for next agenda**

Cllr WJ Foot to report to County Council that the footpath from the Boatside Inn running under Warden bridge as being in need of maintenance.

**2026/18 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Warden Parish Council will be held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 commencing 7pm in Newbrough Town Hall.

The Council is invited to consider the following resolution: That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the agenda, as the item involves the discussion of personal information.

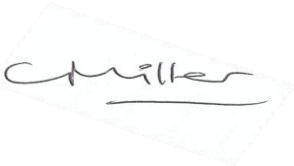
**RESOLVED:**

Members agreed to enter a private session.

**2026/19 Members to consider use of green belt land in the parish**

Members were updated on a confidential matter.

The meeting closed at 9pm



Claire Miller, Clerk to Warden Parish Council

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
Defibrillator(s)	Training to be held in due course. L Kay to arrange replacement defib pads.
Information plaques for PC assets	Cllr Liddle to provide prototypes at next meeting, and research information plaque for MUGA
Next litter pick	Litter pick agreed as 19/4/25. Clerk to arrange loan of litter picking equipment via County Council.
Vehicle parked near to Railway Inn	Members agreed the Clerk would forward a letter to the vehicle owner, making reference to Rule 242 of the Highway Code.
B4RN Project	B4RN project to be a standing agenda item in order to raise awareness for the need for residents to register interest.  Chairman to draft article to raise awareness for publication in the Stanegate
Pavement parking	County Cllr to contact Andy Fisher of the County Council.  Cllr W Foot to draft article for the Stanegate to remind people to desist from parking on pavements.

Play area, issues with historical oil spillage	Members agreed a warning notice informing parents of the potential staining and to use at their own risk would be beneficial.
Northumberland County Council, Design Code consultation	Cllr Robson to draft article for Stanegate informing residents they can review and make comment
Crises Management	Chairman to update parish noticeboards with current Parish Council and County Cllr contact details.

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