

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
SOUTH HETTON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY 20 JANUARY 2026**

**Present:** Councillors G Rodgers (Chair), P Casson, D Rodgers, C Charters, L Wass and S Elliott

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Mason, L Haswell and R Stephenson

**2. OPEN FORUM**

There was no public present.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Councillor D Rodgers declared an interest in Item 8 - Cricket Club Boiler.

**4. POLICE REPORT**

Consideration was given to the police report, which had previously been circulated to Members. The calls related to ASB – 4, Personal – 0, Nuisance/Environmental – 4, Burglary – 0, Criminal Damage – 3, Vehicle – 2, Theft and handling - 1.

The next cuppa with a copper will be held on Tuesday 3 February 2026 at East Durham Garden Centre between 1pm and 2pm.

The next face to face PACT meeting will be held on Thursday 12 March 2026 at the Robin Todd Centre between 4pm and 5pm.

Keep in the Know is a messenger platform used by the Police to pass out local messages via email on local topics.

**RESOLVED** that the information given be noted.

**5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER 2025** a copy of which had been circulated to each Member were approved and signed by the Chair.

**6. MATTERS ARISING**

The Clerk advised that she was meeting with a representative from Health and Safety at Durham County Council to conduct an audit in the park.

7. **PLANNING MATTERS**

a) **Planning Applications**

DM/25/03477/VOC Variation of condition 1 of planning permission DM/24/00847/FPA to allow the continued siting of a static caravan for a further 5 years (existing static to be replaced by a larger static) at High Fallowfield Farm Cottage, South Hetton

**RESOLVED** that no objection be made.

b) **Planning Approvals**

DM/25/03065/TPO Works to protected trees as outlined in the 'Amended Tree Survey' dated 16th December 2025 (amended description) at The Old Vicarage, South Hetton

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

a) **Pump Track in South Hetton** – an email had been received from a young person in the village to enquire if the parish council would consider building a pump track.

**RESOLVED** that Durham County Council be contacted to enquire if the land adjacent to the Robin Todd Centre was available for lease.

b) **South Hetton Cricket Club Boiler** – the cricket club had requested that their boiler be replaced with a more economical boiler with a timer.

**RESOLVED** that the cricket club be requested to gain 3 quotations.

c) **Durham Hospitals Radio** – had requested financial assistance to support the radio station in the hospital.

**RESOLVED** that they be advised that the council could not assist at this time.

9. **FINANCIAL POSITION – BANK RECONCILIATION**

The Clerk submitted a report setting out the bank reconciliation as at December 2025.

**RESOLVED** that the report be agreed and the information given be noted.

10. **BUDGET 2025/26**

The Clerk submitted a report setting out details of income and expenditure for 2025-26.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received and the information given be noted.

## 11. ACCOUNTS

**RESOLVED** that the following invoices for payment by the Clerk be endorsed.

DATE	PAYEE	CHEQUE NO/DD/T/B ACS	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
11/11/2025	Co-operative Bank	BACS	6.98	Bank Fees
12/11/2025	EE Ltd	DD	29.36	Mobile Phone
13/11/2025	Cleveland Land Services	TRANSFER	12,705.00	Playzone Initial Payment
14/11/2025	Groundsman 2	BACS	1,479.47	Salary - November
14/11/2025	Clerk	BACS	845.76	Salary - November
14/11/2025	Groundsman1	BACS	1,775.46	Salary - November
17/11/2025	British Gas	DD	133.30	Gas - October
18/11/2025	E.on Next	DD	323.02	Electricity - October
19/11/2025	Groundsman1	BACS	944.18	Salary Deductions - October
19/11/2025	Clerk	BACS	308.58	Salary Deductions - October
19/11/2025	Groundsman2	BACS	325.87	Salary Deductions - October
24/11/2025	JRB Enterprise Ltd	TRANSFER	373.44	Dog bags
24/11/2025	South Hetton Community Ass	TRANSFER	170.00	Halloween Party
24/11/2025	Gillian Rodgers	TRANSFER	23.48	Paint and Brush
24/11/2025	Aitken's Sportsturf Ltd	TRANSFER	1,490.70	Fertiliser/Grass Seed/Dressing
24/11/2025	Aitken's Sportsturf Ltd	TRANSFER	10.06	Rocker switch
28/11/2025	Co-operative Bank	DD	1,093.42	DefibPads/Insulation/Bags/Fuel
03/12/2025	Clerk	TRANSFER	212.51	Expenses - December
03/12/2025	Aitken's Sportsturf Ltd	TRANSFER	11.16	Equal elbow
09/12/2025	Co-operative Bank	BACS	6.98	Bank Fees
10/12/2025	The Right Fuel Card Co Ltd	DD	33.59	Fuel
12/12/2025	EE Ltd	DD	29.36	Mobile Phone
15/12/2025	Groundsman1	BACS	1,775.66	Salary - December
15/12/2025	Clerk	BACS	845.76	Salary - December
15/12/2025	Groundsman2	BACS	1,264.75	Salary - December
15/12/2025	Society of Local Council Clerk	TRANSFER	190.00	Membership Fee
15/12/2025	Trade UK	TRANSFER	6.99	Socks
16/12/2025	British Gas	DD	157.34	Gas - December
17/12/2025	E.on Next	DD	413.17	Electricity - November
19/12/2025	Groundsman1	BACS	1,121.33	Salary Deductions - November
19/12/2025	Clerk	BACS	308.58	Salary Deductions - November
19/12/2025	Groundsman2	BACS	687.01	Salary Deductions - November
22/12/2025	Aitken's Sportsturf Ltd	TRANSFER	259.98	Nutri Smart
24/12/2025	Anglian Water Business	DD	60.92	Water - Sept/Dec
29/12/2025	Co-operative Bank	DD	50.40	Clothing
05/01/2026	Co-operative Bank	BACS	30.00	Bank Fees
07/01/2026	Clerk	TRANSFER	195.36	Expenses - January
07/01/2026	P Hutchinson & Sons	TRANSFER	18.00	Green Waste
07/01/2026	Premier Waste Recycling Ltd	TRANSFER	204.88	Commercial Waste
07/01/2026	The Right Fuel Card Co Ltd	DD	33.59	Fuel - December
07/01/2026	Madhouse Media Ltd	TRANSFER	480.00	Website Renewal
11/01/2026	Premier Waste Recycling Ltd	TRANSFER	153.32	Excess Waste

11/01/2026	Zurich Municipal	TRANSFER	5,107.35	Insurance Renewal
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12. **BUDGET 2026/27**

Consideration was given to the report of The Clerk which set out details of the proposed precept for 2026/27, a copy of which had been circulated.

**RESOLVED** that:

- a) a budget of £155,394 be agreed
- c) note that the LCTRS Grant had been removed.
- d) agree that the net precept request will be £138,000
- e) Fees and charges be increased in line with the budget as follows:
  - Allotments £27
  - Football £455
  - Bowls £303
  - Ground Rent £1270
  - Tenancy £3000

13. **WELFARE MATTERS**

- a) There was a reported increase of dog faeces in the park and through the whole village.

**RESOLVED** that the Street Wardens be asked to monitor the park and the village.

- b) The playground in the school needed attention for the equipment that was damaged.

**RESOLVED** that quotes be obtained to replace the equipment that was damaged.

- c) Confidential personnel matters were discussed and actions agreed.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk implement the actions.

14. **REPORTS**

- a) **Durham County Council**  
There was no report from County Councillors.

15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 17 February 2026 at 7pm