MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF

SOUTH HETTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON TUESDAY 19 MAY 2026

Present: Councillors G Rodgers (Chair), S Mason, D Rodgers, S Elliott, L Haswell, P Casson, R Stephenson and C Charters

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

RESOLVED that Councillor G Rodgers be elected Chair for the ensuing year.

2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR**

RESOLVED that Councillor S Mason be elected Vice Chair for the ensuing year.

3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Wass and County Councillor Griffiths.

4. **OPEN FORUM**

There were no residents present.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

6. **POLICE REPORT**

Consideration was given to the police report, which had previously been circulated to Members. There had been 16 calls, ASB – 12, Nuisance/Environmental – 10, Personal – 2, Burglary – 1, Criminal Damage – 3, Vehicle – 0, Theft and handling – 1.

The next cuppa with a copper will be held on Tuesday 9 June 2026 at East Durham Garden Centre between 10am and 11am.

The next face to face PACT meeting will be held on Thursday 21 May 2026 at the Robin Todd Centre between 4pm and 5pm.

On Saturday 2nd May, officers from Easington NPT conducted a Farmwatch operation in the area. The operation included a combination of high-visibility foot patrols, targeted vehicle patrols and the deployment of the Police Drone to cover remote and hard to reach locations. These proactive measures helped to monitor activity, deter crime and respond swiftly to any concerns within the rural communities.

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

Concerns were raised regarding the limited police presence in the village. Residents had attended a PACT meeting to share intelligence and had been advised to contact Crimestoppers. Reference was also made to a road traffic accident involving an e-scooter, during which officers were reported to have witnessed the scooter being removed without intervention. Members also noted that they were unaware of the identities of the local inspectors due to the lack of police visibility within the village.

Members noted that the "Copper with a Cuppa" event had been held at the garden centre outside the village, which may have presented access difficulties for residents without transport. It was suggested that future events be held within the village; however, members were advised that the preferred venue was fully booked well in advance for the year.

RESOLVED that the Police and Crime Commissioner be contacted to express concerns raised.

7. **APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

a) East Durham Area Association of Parish and Town Councils

RESOLVED that no representatives be appointed.

8. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 APRIL 2026**, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member were approved and signed by the Chair.

9. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

10. **PLANNING MATTERS**

a) Planning Applications
DM/26/00984/NMA Non-material amendment to condition no.2 (approved plans) and no.9 (POS maintenance) pursuant to DM/20/02681/FPA comprising amendments to boundary treatment to the southern boundary adjoining existing POS at Land North Of Windsor Drive, South Hetton

RESOLVED that no objections be made.

b) **Planning approvals**
DM/26/00449/FPA The upgrade of existing hard standing area to a PlayZone complete with fencing and floodlighting at Welfare Park, Front Street, South Hetton

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Memorial Seat in Welfare Park – a member of the public would like to install a memorial bench in the Welfare Park. The seat would be required to be colour co-ordinated with the existing benches.

RESOLVED that the Chair make arrangements to meet with the resident.

12. **FINANCIAL POSITION – BANK RECONCILIATION**

The Clerk submitted a report setting out the bank reconciliation for April.

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

13. **BUDGET 2026/27**

The Clerk submitted a report setting out details of income and expenditure for 2026-27.

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

14. **ACCOUNTS**

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

DATE	PAYEE	CHEQUE NO/DD/T/ BACS	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
13/04/2026	EE Ltd	DD	60.18	Mobile Phones
15/04/2026	Groundsman1	BACS	1,775.66	Salary - April
15/04/2026	Clerk	BACS	845.76	Salary - April
15/04/2026	Groundsman2	BACS	1,754.66	Salary - April
17/04/2026	Groundsman1	BACS	1,121.13	Payroll Deductions - April
17/04/2026	Clerk	BACS	308.78	Payroll Deductions - April
17/04/2026	Groundsman2	BACS	522.71	Payroll Deductions - March
22/04/2026	E.on Next	DD	279.32	Electric
27/04/2026	Co-operative Bank	DD	206.45	Phone/Case/Oil/Fuel
29/04/2026	KNS Automotive Ltd	TRANSFER	9.99	Kwikweld
29/04/2026	Durham Miners Brass Band Assoc	TRANSFER	300.00	Remembrance Service
29/04/2026	Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd	TRANSFER	730.80	Year end closedown
29/04/2026	Durham County Council	TRANSFER	336.00	HR Advice SLA
29/04/2026	Gordon Fletcher	TRANSFER	200.00	Internal Audit
01/05/2026	Inf Commissioner Office	DD	47.00	ICO Renewal
04/05/2026	Clerk	TRANSFER	211.16	Expenses - May
07/05/2026	The Right Fuel Card Co Ltd	DD	198.85	Fuel
08/05/2026	Holy Trinity Church	TRANSFER	292.00	Sponsor Chairs
08/05/2026	Creative Ape Fabrications	TRANSFER	190.00	Exhaust Repairs
08/05/2026	Aitken's Sportsturf Ltd	TRANSFER	600.00	Bru Hold/Nutri Smart
08/05/2026	TJ's Heating Home Improvements	TRANSFER	160.00	Boiler Servicing
08/05/2026	Finch's Motor Repairs	TRANSFER	100.00	Machine Repairs
08/05/2026	Co-operative Bank	BACS	6.98	Bank Fees
09/05/2026	Co-operative Bank	BACS	-6.98	Bank Fees
10/05/2026	Viking	TRANSFER	106.87	Toner Cartridge/File dividers

15. **REVIEW OF POLICIES**

- Standing Orders

The Clerk advised that Standing Orders were up to date.

- Financial Regulations

The Clerk advised that Financial Regulations were up to date.

RESOLVED that the existing policies be endorsed.

16. **WELFARE MATTERS**

An update was provided regarding any issues that were being experienced.

It was reported that a horse was grazing in the bungalow near the park.

RESOLVED that the horses be reported to the neighbourhood wardens and PCSO.

17. **REPORTS**

a) **Durham County Council**

There was no report.

18. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 18 June 2026.