MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF

SOUTH HETTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON TUESDAY 16 JUNE 2026

Present: Councillors G Rodgers (Chair), S Mason, R Stephenson, P Casson and S Elliott

Also Present: County Councillor Griffiths, Chris Whitehead and Jamie Grant - Morven

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors L Haswell, D Rodgers and C Charters.

2. **OPEN FORUM**

There was no public present.

3. **MORVEN OFFSHORE WIND FARM**

Chris Whithead and Jamie Grant provided an update on the project, route planning and site selection to date. Connections south of the border would come in at Hawthorn pit. Non statutory consultation had taken place in 2025. The south corridor had been discounted because of the cliff height, therefore only the north and central corridor could be considered.

Statutory consultation would take place from September 2026 with an application to the Planning Inspectorate and Marine Licenses scheduled to be submitted in Q2 of 2027. Q3 would be the acceptance phase and pre examination.

Following a questions and answer session, the Chair thanked them for the update.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

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

There were none.

5. **POLICE REPORT**

Consideration was given to the police report, which had previously been circulated to Members. The calls related to ASB – 5, Personal – 0, Nuisance/Environmental – 4, Burglary – 2, Criminal Damage – 5, Vehicle – 0, Theft and handling - 3.

The next cuppa with a copper will be held on Tuesday 7 July 2026 at East Durham Garden Centre between 10am and 11am.

The next face to face PACT meeting will be held on Thursday 16 July 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.

6. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 MAY 2026** a copy of which had been circulated to each Member were approved and signed by the Chair.

7. **MATTERS ARISING**
There were no matters arising.

8. **PLANNING MATTERS**

a) Planning Applications
DM/26/01191/DRC Discharge of Conditions 3 (Biodiversity Net Gain) and 4 (HMMP) pursuant to planning permission DM/26/00449/FPA at Welfare Park, Front Street, South Hetton

RESOLVED that no objection be made.

b) Planning Approvals
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

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**
Durham Explorer Bus Service – a promotional email had been received regarding this service. The Chair had expressed her frustration that it was disappointing for residents of East Durham and in particular South Hetton that bus services were not accessible. There was no bus service to Durham on a weekend and only one per day Monday to Friday and requested consideration of a connecting service for weekends. The Network and Planning Manager at DCC had advised that the explorer service was a pilot to encourage greater use of public transport to reach key destinations across County Durham. He would welcome details of any specific journeys or demand patterns to help inform future service planning.

Fencing around the Cricket Club – the wall and fencing around the cricket club was in need off replacing. A quotation had been received and would be £4680 for a like for like design with decorative panels. The County Councillors had agreed to fund half of the cost

RESOLVED that £2340 be agreed for half the cost.

10. **FINANCIAL POSITION – BANK RECONCILIATION**
The Clerk submitted a report setting out the bank reconciliation as at May 2026.

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

11. **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.

12. **ACCOUNTS**

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

DATE	PAYEE	CHEQUE NO/DD/T/BACS	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
11/05/2026	Co-operative Bank	BACS	6.98	Bank Fees
12/05/2026	EE Ltd	DD	47.10	Mobile Phones
15/05/2026	Groundsman1	BACS	1,775.66	Salary - May
15/05/2026	Clerk	BACS	845.76	Salary - May
15/05/2026	Groundsman2	BACS	1,754.66	Salary - May
18/05/2026	British Gas	DD	67.79	Gas - April
19/05/2026	Groundsman1	DD	1,028.72	Salary Deductions - April
19/05/2026	Clerk	BACS	308.58	Salary Deductions - April
19/05/2026	Groundsman2	BACS	1,049.72	Salary Deductions - April
20/05/2026	E.on Next	DD	239.62	Electric
27/05/2026	Aitken's Sportsturf Ltd	TRANSFER	1,060.12	Grass Seed
27/05/2026	Durham County Council	TRANSFER	2,264.18	Payroll SLA
28/05/2026	Co-operative Bank	DD	788.28	Tank/Repairs/Fuel/Picker
01/06/2026	Clerk	TRANSFER	205.76	Expenses - June
05/06/2026	The Right Fuel Card Co Ltd	DD	171.06	Fuel
08/06/2026	Turfcare Specialists Ltd	TRANSFER	273.60	White Marking Paint

13. **MILEAGE ALLOWANCES**

HMRC has increased the mileage allowance from 45p to 55p per mile from April 2026.

RESOLVED that the mileage allowance payable be agreed at 55p per mile backdated to April.

14. **WELFARE MATTERS**

The wall to the left and right of the cricket club was crumbling and the render would need to be removed. A quote would be sought.

15. **REPORTS**

a) **Durham County Council**

Councillor Griffiths advised that she had a successful surgery with the residents of South Hetton. Lots of issues were raised and she would be working her way through them to find resolutions.

16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 21 May 2026 at 7pm