



SACRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 6.30 pm In The Fulforth Centre

Present: Cllr H. Dixon (Chair), Cllr G Ludlow (Vice Chair), Cllr S Wilson, Cllr K Wilson, Cllr E. Waldock, Cllr D. Robson, Cllr D. Forth, Cllr R. Sharp, Cllr L Burn, and Mrs C. Dixon (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr A. Page, Cllr A-M Johnson, Cllr F. Morrell, and Cllr L. Claughan

Item No:

1.	Introductions and Apologies for Absence	The Chair opened the meeting at 6.30 pm and welcomed everyone. Apologies received and accepted from Cllr A. Page, Cllr A-M Johnson, Cllr F. Morrell, and Cllr L. Claughan
2.	Disclosure of Interest from Members	Cllr S Wilson declared an interest in any planning applications. Cllr Waldock declared an interest in all licensing matters.
3.	Questions from the public	(Questions & Comments from the public in attendance – max 5 mins per item/individual) No members of the public in attendance.
4.	Previous meeting minutes	Previous minutes from the meeting held on 4th December 2024 and the extraordinary meeting held on 17th December 2024 were accepted and signed as a true record by the Chair. The Chair had sent correspondence to DCC regarding Durham United Football Club but had not yet received a response. Cllr Dixon informed the meeting that he had visited Cooper Stott Solicitors to swear an oath in the presence of the solicitor regarding the signing of paperwork for the Crossroads Project. The completed paperwork was then hand-delivered to County Hall to ensure that we could secure funding for the project before the Christmas closure. Cllr Waldock confirmed that the funding was still available; however, the AAP could not clarify whether we would definitely receive it. The clerk confirmed that she received an email from the legal team today at DCC, notifying her that the invoice had not been paid. She has responded to them, confirming that payment was sent on January 2nd, and requested clarification on the matter.

		Members confirmed that they would like Cllr S Wilson to submit a complaint regarding how the Crossroads Project has been dealt with by DCC. Charlaw Terrace Update The Chair personally delivered letters to all residents, providing details about Beamish Pest Control and requesting that they contact Michael (BPC) directly to schedule an appointment. Michael has informed the clerk that he will not charge for the initial visit. Although two residents reached out to pest control, he has only visited one of their properties so far. The Parish Council believes that if residents do not contact Beamish Pest Control, then they have exhausted all available avenues. The clerk provided an update on her conversation with Beamish Pest Control following his recent visit. He identified a broken drain at the property, which he would return to repair, and he had also installed some bait stations on the premises. The clerk informed Beamish Pest Control that he must communicate with the residents regarding any work, as the Council will not be responsible for any payments related to this. He confirmed that he understood. While at Charlaw Terrace, BPC spoke to another resident about the rat problem, which led to a heated discussion. BPC noticed two holes in the brickwork that could provide an entry point for the rats. Additionally, the yard was covered in dog faeces. Cllr S Wilson has communicated with public health, who informed him they cannot work in such a broad area. <u>RESOLVED</u> Cllr S. Wilson will speak with the neighbourhood warden to request that he inspect the area.
5.	Police Matters	Cllr Waldock is waiting for the PSPO meeting to be held. A separate meeting has been held with the local PCSO, Sam regarding the data surrounding this. Cllr Burn informed the meeting that there had been an incident at the rear of the car wash regarding drug taking. A warning has been issued regarding requests for money on local Sacriston Facebook pages. A known person in the village was jailed over Christmas.

		The recent incident at the Front Street flats was unrelated to the residents.
6.	Clerks Report	An email with a survey included has been received from Northumbria in Bloom as they would like to obtain further information on why we are no longer taking part. Members confirmed the reasons and asked the clerk to respond.
7.	Sacriston in Bloom	Nothing further to report.
8.	Parish Assets	Bus Shelters – the works to replace the shelter will be executed on Monday 17th February 2025. Village Clock – Nothing to report. Parish Building – Nothing to report. War Memorial – Nothing to report. Pit Wheel – Nothing to report.
9.	County Councillor's Reports	Cllr S Wilson; • Wear Rivers Trust email has been forwarded to the Clerk today. They are requesting funding. • The demolition of block C is still being planned at Fyndoune. • Concerns have been raised by the neighbourhood warden in Findon Hill regarding potential asbestos. • Pursuing the double yellow lines on the upper road near the Fulforth Centre. Cllr E Waldock; • Casework • Chasing up meetings A request has been made to address the issue of the van parked on Plawsworth Road, as it is obstructing visibility up the road.
10.	Group Representative Reports	Fulforth Centre Committee Meeting – There are no meetings scheduled for January. – No purchases have been made yet from the County Councillors' funding. – The heating system is broken, and some minor repairs are needed. – The date for the Party in the Park is set for 7th June 2025. We should aim to keep this event on the first weekend of June each year. HR & Finance Group

		– Precept discussed again. Allotment Association Meeting – The price is to increase for the National Allotment Society membership. – The name of the bank account is to change from a treasurer's account to a community account and there will be a monthly charge of £4.25. – The insurance was discussed but this will be raised at the AGM with plot holders. New Hill Allotments – Nothing to report.																								
11.	Budget & Grant Applications	<u>Bank Account</u> As of the 6th January 2025, the bank balance was £77,644.93. <u>Invoices paid in December</u> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>2/12/2024</td><td>Mobile phone contract</td><td>£6.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>2/12/2024</td><td>Allotments Database</td><td>£21.60</td></tr> <tr> <td>2/12/2024</td><td>Pension contributions</td><td>£49.60</td></tr> <tr> <td>18/12/2024</td><td>Durham County Council</td><td>£6,550.08</td></tr> <tr> <td>18/12/2024</td><td>SLCC</td><td>£183.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>19/12/2024</td><td>Cooper Stott Solicitor</td><td>£60.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>23/12/2024</td><td>Printer Ink Subscription</td><td>£11.99</td></tr> <tr> <td>27/12/2024</td><td>HMRC</td><td>£188.60</td></tr> </table> <u>Invoices to Pay</u> Lite - £2437.44 <u>RESOLVED</u> Members agreed to pay. The clerk discussed the tax base for the 2025/2026 financial year and confirmed the council's position. 1.380.4 x £45.91 = £63,374.16 Plus, LCTRS grant of £2,278.00 (decrease from last year) = £65,652.16 (decrease of £381.40 from last year) After forecasting expenditures, we expect to carry over around £50,000 into next year. Therefore, members propose not increasing the precept this year.	2/12/2024	Mobile phone contract	£6.00	2/12/2024	Allotments Database	£21.60	2/12/2024	Pension contributions	£49.60	18/12/2024	Durham County Council	£6,550.08	18/12/2024	SLCC	£183.00	19/12/2024	Cooper Stott Solicitor	£60.00	23/12/2024	Printer Ink Subscription	£11.99	27/12/2024	HMRC	£188.60
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11.1	Precept 2025 - 2026																									

		Precept to be requested = £65,652.16 <u>RESOLVED</u> All members agreed with the figures above, stating that the precept will not be increased again this year since the council is in a healthy financial position.
12.	Date and time of next meeting	The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th February 2025 at 6.30 pm. The meeting closed at 7.31 pm

Agreed and signed by Chair of Sacriston Parish Council Date