

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 2026**

**Present: Councillor L Stewart (Chair)
Councillors E Carr, J Huntington,
L Johnson, B Miller, C Stogdale**

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N Craggs, J Miller and L White.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 The Minutes of the last meeting held on 12 January 2026, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There was no public present at the meeting.

5 POLICE MATTERS

At the last meeting Members reported that there had been numerous break-ins in the village and questioned why they were not included in the Police report. In addition, it was pointed out that the Police had not attended a Cuppa with a Copper held on 8 January 2026.

Following the meeting the Clerk raised these queries with the Police.

The Police advised that there had been several burglaries in the village but due to the ongoing investigation they were unable to disclose any further details at this stage. In relation to a Cuppa with a Copper, the Police apologised for not attending and advised that they were tied up elsewhere and were unable to let anyone know at the time. Moving forward the Police were looking at hosting this at a different time due to poor attendance.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

There was no County Councillor present at the meeting.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Request for Financial Assistance

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Durham Hospitals Radio.

RESOLVED that no donation be made.

(2) Heritage Centre

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Wheatley Hill Heritage Society which

outlined the following proposals for the Heritage Centre.

- **Opening Times**

The volunteers running the Heritage Centre were considering ways to increase footfall and interest in general and had suggested changing the opening times.

The Heritage Centre was currently open on a Tuesday and Thursday between 10am - 12noon and 2pm - 4pm. The proposal was to change this to Tuesday and Thursday from 11am - 3pm. Changing the two sessions to one would give continuity to the day and make it easier for visitors travelling from out of the area and provide a longer session if there was an event being held.

- **World Heritage Youth Ambassadors**

The Clerk reported that M Hedley had been working closely with the World Heritage Sites (Castle and Cathedral) and had been asked to host a group of their Youth Ambassadors in the Heritage Centre on 14 March 2026 as part of their World Heritage training.

Members were advised that there would be approx. 20 young people and they would be accompanied by a supervisor. This was a great accolade for Wheatley Hill and the Heritage Centre.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

8 PLANNING

There were no planning matters.

9 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Allotments

(i) Plot 6

The Clerk provided Members with an update in relation to plot 6.

RESOLVED that plot 6 be allocated to applicant 3/2022.

(ii) Plot 23

The Clerk reported that communal plot 23 was vacant. This was a large plot, and it was suggested that it be divided into 3 individual plots.

RESOLVED that plot 23 be divided into 3 individual plots.

(iii) Application for an Allotment

The Clerk reported the receipt of an application for an allotment.

RESOLVED that applicant 1/2026 be accepted onto the waiting list for an allotment.

(2) Cuppa with a Copper

The Clerk reported that the next meeting would be held on 12 February 2026 at 1.30pm in Wheatley House.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) PACT Meeting

The Clerk reported that the next meeting would be held on 5 March 2026 at 6pm in Wheatley Hill Community Centre.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

10 MEMBER ISSUES

(1) Woodlands Avenue

Members reported the uneven surface of the road at Woodlands Avenue just before the zebra crossing at Vincents Corner.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

(2) Mud - Footpaths and Roads

Members reported that the footpaths and roads around the re-development at the garage on the A181 and the new housing development required cleaning as they were covered in mud and in a deplorable state.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

(3) Dog Fouling

Members reported an increase in dog fouling throughout the village, particular reference was made to Burns Street and East View.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

(4) Illegally Parked Vehicle – Quilstyle Road

Members reported a vehicle that was regularly parked on the footpath between the Working Mens Club and the Co Op Funeral Parlour, Quilstyle Road. There were double yellow lines at this location, and pedestrians were being forced to leave the footpath and go onto the road to pass the vehicle as it was taking up the whole footpath.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council and the Police.

(5) Potholes

Members reported 4 deep potholes to the rear of 15 – 17 Gable Terrace.

RESOLVED that the potholes be reported to Durham County Council.

11 PAYMENTS

The following schedule of payments was circulated together with figures for all income and expenditure at 31 January 2026.

PAYMENT	TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
Direct Debit	E-on Next	Gas - Heritage Centre	150.07	7.50	157.57
Direct Debit	E-on Next	Electric - Heritage Centre	50.20	2.51	52.71
Debit Card	Amazon	Fan Heater	8.99	1.80	10.79

Wheatley Hill Parish Council – 9 February 2026

Debit Card	Acre Rigg Filling Station	Machine Fuel		31.48	6.30	37.78
Internet Banking	Madhouse Media	Website Hosting and Support		400.00	80.00	480.00
Internet Banking	Forvis Mazars	External Audit		420.00	84.00	504.00
Internet Banking	J Thompson	Telephone Allowance		25.00		25.00
Internet Banking	Payroll	Wages - February 2026		5,782.34		5,782.34
Internet Banking	HMRC/DCC	PAYE/Pension - February 2026		4,106.33		4,106.33
Internet Banking	JAC's Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - February 2026		37.50	7.50	45.00
Direct Debit	British Telecom	Telephone/Internet		37.02	7.40	44.42
Invoice 105	Co-Op Bank	Charges		13.05		13.05
			TOTAL	11,061.98	197.01	11,258.99

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted and the payments be approved.

12 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Clerk advised that there was nothing to report.

..... Signed

.....Dated