

EDMONDSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Edmondsley Parish Council held on 7 May 2026 at 7pm

Present: G Wheatley (Chairman), J Armstrong (Vice Chairman), A Bell, J Curry, A Hodgson and D MacAlister

Also in attendance – Sarah Gemmell (Parish Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence:

All members present.

2. Disclosable Pecuniary Interest:

Cllr Wheatley has dispensation in place to speak during items involving the allotments.

3. Questions from members of the public:

- There were no questions from members of the public.

4. Police Report:

No police report was received.

5. Minutes of Council Meeting:

Resolved: The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5 March 2026 were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

6. Clerks report:

- The Clerk reported that:
 - Internal Audit – Audit is complete with no issues raised.
 - CiLCA - Training still ongoing.
 - Smart Meter – Complaint made to E.on regarding their no-show.
 - Food Hygiene training – Training is booked. All participating have been sent their log in details.

7. Parish Matters and on-going items

a) Planning applications

The following applications were received:

DM/26/00819/VOC

Mr Scott Hawthorn – Humble Burn Cottage Humbleburn Lane Edmondsley Durham DH7 6EW

Variation of Conditions 7 & 8 pursuant to planning permission DM/23/02346

DM/26/00833/FPA

Mr Richard Thompson – Land To The North Of The Former Blackhouse WMC Beechville Edmondsley Durham DH7 6ED

Erection of one detached dwelling

Resolved: It was agreed that no comments would be made on either application.

b) To consider any planning applications received after the agenda was published.

- No applications received.

c) Allotments / Leisure Gardens

- Cllr Wheatley gave an update: most plot holders are now working in their gardens. There is an ongoing issue with one plot holder.

The Council then voted and agreed that in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, and as extended by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted.

The Council discussed the ongoing issue with the plot holder.

Resolved: It was agreed to follow the advice provided by the Northern Counties Allotment Association, the legal consultant via CDALC, and the SLCC. Clerk to contact the Northern Counties Allotment Association who will assist in the next steps of the process. Replies are awaited relating to the police investigation.

d) County Councillors update

No County Councillors were present.

e) Certificate of Exemption

The Council considered whether it is able to certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review for 2025/26 under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015.

Resolved: It was agreed that the Council is able to certify as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 for 2025/26. The Certificate of Exemption was approved and signed.

f) Annual Internal Audit Report

The Council reviewed the Annual Internal Audit report for 2025/26.

Resolved: The Annual Internal Audit report was noted.

g) AGAR – Annual Governance Statement

The Council reviewed Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2025/26 – the Annual Governance Statement.

Resolved: The Annual Governance Statement was approved and signed by the Clerk and the Chairman.

h) AGAR – Accounting Statements

The Council reviewed Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2025/26 – the Accounting Statements.

Resolved: The Accounting Statements were approved and signed by the Chairman.

i) AGAR – Publication of Documents and Public Inspection Period

The Council discussed the publication of the necessary documents as required by the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities. The dates for the public inspection period were considered.

Resolved: The dates for the Public Inspection Period were set – this will commence on 3rd June 2026 and end on 14th July 2026. Notice to be published in due course.

j) Policies

- Freedom of Information Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Anti-Fraud Policy
- Information Technology Policy

Resolved: The above policies were reviewed and adopted.

k) Insurance

As the Council's current three-year deal is coming to an end, the Council reviewed its options for insurance going forward.

Resolved: It was agreed to accept the recommendation from the Council's insurance broker. A new three-year long-term agreement will be entered into with Hiscox via Gallagher for the Council's insurance cover.

l) Allotment Wall

The Clerk provided an update on the allotment wall repair. The Council considered whether to return the insurance payout and allow the insurance company to appoint a builder, as offered by the insurer, or whether to continue trying to obtain quotes for a repair directly.

Resolved: It was agreed that the insurance payout should be returned to the insurer and the insurer be instructed to appoint a builder to complete the repair.

m) Correspondence

- Email from DCC Clean & Green regarding the ownership of one of the benches in the village.

Resolved: It was noted that the Council are not sure who owns the bench, but that the school helped to design it. Clerk to inform DCC.

n) Correspondence since agenda was published (for information only):

- None received

o) Urgent issues for noting (the Clerk to use delegated powers) and any items Councillors wish to agenda for next meeting.

- No issues to note

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Payments - The following amounts were noted and approved:

- That the sum of £826.65 be paid for staffing costs
- That the sum of £140.28 be paid to Net island – annual web & email hosting
- That the sum of £20.00 be paid to S Gemmell – Candy Kids deposit
- That the sum of £4.49 be paid to HP Instant Ink – monthly print plan (March)
- That the sum of £48.00 be paid to Costco – annual membership
- That the sum of £205.00 be paid to Candy Kids – Balance for Easter disco & bunny
- That the sum of £120.00 be paid to Rachael Mangles – Face Painting Easter
- That the sum of £5.00 be paid to Lebara – monthly mobile phone plan (March)
- That the sum of £6.96 be paid to Home Bargains – Paper & envelopes
- That the sum of £84.99 be paid to Microsoft – Office 365 annual subscription
- That the sum of £65.93 be paid to E.On – monthly gas direct debit (March)
- That the sum of £46.15 be paid to E.On – monthly electricity direct debit (March)
- That the sum of £20.00 be paid to CDALC – planning training
- That the sum of £37.93 be paid to G Wheatley – Easter party food & decorations
- That the sum of £6.00 be paid to G Wheatley – plants
- That the sum of £17.50 be paid to Amazon – Easter food boxes
- That the sum of £260.00 be paid to G Wheatley – allotment fencing
- That the sum of £60.00 be paid to HSQE Ltd – food hygiene training
- That the sum of £42.19 be paid to Staples – stationery
- That the sum of £28.99 be paid to HP Instant Ink – monthly print plan (April)
- That the sum of £5.00 be paid to Lebara – monthly mobile phone plan (April)
- That the sum of £27.15 be paid to G Wheatley – Easter party items
- That the sum of £65.93 be paid to E.On – monthly gas direct debit (April)
- That the sum of £46.15 be paid to E.On – monthly electricity direct debit (April)
- That the sum of £1.84 be paid to Staples – stationery
- That the sum of £106.04 be paid to CDALC – annual subscription
- That the sum of £2.03 be paid to Staples – stationery
- That the sum of £100.00 be paid to CDALC – data protection training

Receipts – that the following amounts were noted:

- That the sum of £50.00 was received from G Wheatley – room hire
- That the sum of £20.00 was received from G Wheatley – room hire
- That the sum of £20.00 was received from G Wheatley – room hire
- That the sum of £20.00 was received from G Wheatley – room hire
- That the sum of £20.00 was received from G Wheatley – room hire
- That the sum of £315.00 was received from Real Life Options – room hire
- That the sum of £158.50 was received from G Wheatley – Easter party
- That the sum of £12,600 was received from DCC – precept 2026/27
- That the sum of £20.00 was received from G Wheatley – room hire
- That the sum of £372.00 was received from G Wheatley – allotment rents
- That the sum of £20.00 was received from G Wheatley – room hire
- That the sum of £20.00 was received from G Wheatley – room hire

9. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 2 July 2026 at 6:30pm

Meeting terminated at 7:23pm

Chairman

Date