

WOLSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD
MONDAY 10TH November 2025
7.00 PM
Town Hall, Wolsingham

PRESENT: I Rodgers, A Bonar, Y Bell, S Bittlestone, J Bell, D Brown, P Gardner,
Sarah-Ann Baxter(Clerk)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 1 member of the public attended

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: A Savory

Cllr Rodgers informed the meeting that Cllr Yeulet has resigned, he thanked her for her work whilst on the Council and she will be missed. There are now two vacancies on the Council which will be advertised in due course.

2) TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR: None Received

3) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr Y Bell - Allotments

4) MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 14th October 2025: Minutes were agreed as a true record

5) MATTERS ARISING:

- i) Christmas – The Community Christmas Festival will be held on the 28th & 29th November. The Christmas Light switch on will be on Friday 28th November with stalls in the Town Hall and carols around the tree. The Christmas Tree Festival will be on Saturday 29th at St Anne’s Hall as well as the stalls in the Town Hall and the WI running a free crafting event. Details will be circulated via posters and social media.
- ii) PROW 167 – The footpath has been inspected by DCC and we are awaiting an update.
- iii) Signs/Goods in Market Place – A letter was read out from Chris White suggesting the Council should not be targeting local businesses and instead encouraging them, also the parking issues around the market Place should be more of a priority. Cllr Rodgers explained that it is Durham County Council who are responsible for the parking. Cllr Bittlestone noted that cars were still parking in the lane adjacent to the Black Bull and that bins were again being left out, despite letters being written to the residents.
- iv) Heritage – Cllr Gardner suggested there had been a lack of displays at Wolsingham Show regarding the history of the town, unlike Stanhope Show, where the Weardale Together organisations had been engaging with the public. Cllr Gardner suggested these organisations could initially be invited to a meeting, Councillors thought that attending a summer fete run in the Recreation ground might be an appropriate point of contact with the public. Cllr Brown asked did anyone know if the historical battle would be recognised in any way.

6) CORRESPONDENCE:

5i) Wear Bridge Closure – Maggie Marlborough had written to highlight the 4-week closure of the bridge at the end of November, including for pedestrians from the 8th December to the 19th December. This is to replace the bridge deck and Councillors agreed this was unfortunately a necessity, but commended the contractors with how well the works had been carried out so far.

- ii) Defibrillators - Durham Community Action. It was agreed to submit an expression of interest for the possible installation of a defibrillator at St Anne's Hall. However there will be ongoing costs which would need to be considered.
- iii) Signs/Goods in Market Place - Chris White. Discussed as above item 5iii.

7) MAINTENANCE WORKS:

- a) St Anne's Hall– The door replacement has been chased up by the Clerk. A heating pump & valve has had to be replaced.
- b) Recreation Ground –Cllr J Bell expressed his happiness over the installation of the lights on the trees at the entrance to the Recreation Ground. Thanks were given to the Bowling Club members for tidying up & weeding around St Anne's Hall. Cllr J Bell volunteered to clean the leaves out of the skatepark. The Recreation Toilets doors need attention as not shutting again.
- c) Town Hall – Some interest has been shown in letting the office. It was agreed to discuss the library rent at the upcoming budget meeting as costs to the Parish Council have increased.
- d) Demesne Mill – Due to damp causing issues to the parking meter printer it was agreed to look into putting some form of cover around it.
- e) Thornley Woods – Nothing to Report
- f) Allotments – Cllr Y Bell explained that the allotment holders group had been consulting on measures to control the rats using ferrets & dogs. The allotment holders had agreed to this as long as no poisons were used. Cllr Y Bell is to liaise with the Clerk to ensure correct practices are used.
- g) Angate Street Toilets – Both toilets are now on winter hours and will be closed at 4pm.

8) Finance

- i) Payments / Accounts October – these were agreed

9) PLANNING – Nothing to Report

Date of next meeting – December 9th 2025 to held at the Town Hall, Wolsingham at 7pm