

WOLSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD
TUESDAY 9TH December 2025
7.00 PM
Town Hall, Wolsingham

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

- 1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** A Bonar, D Brown
- 2) TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR:** Lee representing the Foodie Book Club put forward a proposal asking the Parish Council to fund future lunches to an amount of £1200.00. Funding is currently raised by the volunteers and they are looking into other funding streams. It was agreed to defer the decision until the January meeting. Enid Martin again raised the issue of the parking around the Black Bull and that the wheelie bin is being left out permanently on the street, Cllr Savory agreed to take up this matter.
- 3) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Savory – Planning Matters
- 4) MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 10TH November 2025:** Minutes were agreed as a true record
- 5) MATTERS ARISING:**
 - i)** Christmas – The Chair thanked the Clerk and everyone involved with the Christmas events including the WI, which everyone appeared to enjoy. The Clerk thanked all the businesses who had donated prizes for the Christmas raffle and Mr & Mrs Pybourn for taking on the task of judging the Christmas Trees. A working group will be set-up in January for the 2026 Christmas Festival. Cllr Yvonne bell also thanked the Stanhope Fire Brigade for once again helping to put up the poppies and the flag for Remembrance Day.
 - ii)** PROW 167 – Cllr Savory advised that the footpath is now open with two new stiles installed, the Wolsingham Wayfarers have offered assistance to the landowner and this has been accepted.
- 6) CORRESPONDENCE: None**
- 7) MAINTENANCE WORKS:**
 - a)** St Anne's Hall– Cllr Savory agreed to chase up the door installation.
 - b)** Recreation Ground –Cllr J Bell informed the meeting that the toilet doors were not shutting again, it was agreed that he could get another contractor to have a look at the doors and liaise with the Clerk. The emergency tree works have now been completed.
 - c)** Town Hall – The Clerk has had the sink in the ladies toilet fixed and all of the boilers are due to be serviced in January.
 - d)** Demesne Mill – Cllr J Bell reported that during the recent heavy rain the car park was flooded in places. It was agreed that works to repair the drainage and resurfacing is becoming a priority but costs would need to be looked into prior to any work commencing.
 - e)** Thornley Woods – The Clerk explained that NWL are looking into putting a sewage pipeline from Tow Law to the River Wear and this may cross the Thornley Woods area.
 - f)** Allotments – Nothing to report

g) Angate Street Toilets – The Clerk will make enquiries regarding getting the roof repaired.

8) **Local GP Catchment Area Boundaries** – Cllr Rogers explained that a resident in Thornley had tried to register with the Tow Law practice to be told that Thornley wasn't in their catchment area. On enquiring with Wolsingham practice they were told the same. It was agreed that a letter be written to both practices to see if a solution can be found.

9) **Ninja Trail** – The Clerk informed the Council that it they had been successful in their National Lottery Grant application and that funding for the new equipment had been granted. It would likely be installed at some point in the Spring of 2026. Cllr Savory will look into funding, from her resources, the disposal of the old trail and the provision of a new gate into the play area. Cllr Rodgers, Cllr Savory and the Clerk will meet to agree which other play equipment could also be replaced using S106 funds.

10) **16-24 Survey** – Cllr Gardner explained where he was at with the survey and Cllr Savory suggested she speak to the Angelina Maddison from DCC regarding networking.

11) **Finance**

- i) **Budget Proposals 2026/27** – The Clerk explained that following a budget meeting it was proposed to increase the Precept for a Band D property by 4.58%, a yearly increase of £2.92. The total Precept received by the Council would increase from £65,000 to £69,225. It was also agreed that all the hall hire rates would increase by £2/hour starting from April 2026. The increase in the precept and hall hire rates were necessary due to increased costs across the board, energy prices have gone up for both the Town Hall & St Anne's Hall and there has also been a significant increase by DCC for the grass cutting in the Recreation Ground and the Demesne Mill.
- The Council agreed the proposed budget.**
Cllr J Bell suggested the Chair could provide a breakdown / explanation of the running costs of the Council to be printed in the Town Crier, to help residents understand where and how the money received by the Council is spent. Cllr Savory seconded this proposal.
- ii) **Payments / Accounts December** – these were agreed

12) PLANNING – Nothing to Report

Date of next meeting – 13th January 2026 to held at the Town Hall, Wolsingham at 7pm