WOLSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
TUESDAY 8th September 2026 6.30PM
Town Hall, Wolsingham

PRESENT: A Bonar, S Bittlestone, Y Bell, P Gardner, J Bartram, A Savory, R Ormerod

All Councillors extend their Condolences and best wishes to Sarah-Ann Baxter on the loss of her Mum.

1) **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** I Rodgers, D Brown, J Bell, SA Baxter (Clerk)
2) **TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** Martin Bell, in his capacity as Treasurer of the Charles Attwood extended thanks on behalf of the Club and marketplace traders for the Council permitting the fun fair to take place in the Market Place on show weekend. Aside from the history behind the fair, it still brings people into the town on show weekend. He noted that the pubs had been full, No. 10 had been busy and the takings of The Charles Attwood over the weekend far outstripped their usual monthly takings (£7-8,000 per month v £20,000 over the weekend).

   A member of the public asked for another sign regarding dogs to be put up at the play park at St Anne's as the previous one has gone missing – this will be done (SAB)

3) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Savory - planning
4) **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD: 14th July 2026** – Cllr Gardner felt the Minutes did not accurately reflect the purposes of the Local Networks following a letter he had received from the Head of the Local Networks at DCC; however the Council agreed that the Minutes were an accurate reflection of discussions at the meeting.

5) **MATTERS ARISING:**
   i) **Christmas** – the Working Group need to have a meeting, which will be held on Friday 25th September at 4pm at St Anne's. This will be circulated among members of the group as soon as possible.
   ii) Summer Fair – It was agreed that the fair had been well attended and successful in its purpose of community engagement. As it was not ticketed, and there were many 'entrances' it was not possible to gather numbers. The finances have not been finalised; however, we expect to break even and have a lot of stock left that will roll over to the Christmas celebrations.
   iii) **S106 Play Ground Equipment** – the total amount of £180,000 is going through stages at County Hall. It was hoped the new Play Park would be open next Easter.
   iv) Bike Track in Recreation Woods Update – Our insurers will cover this as long as. Regular inspections are made and recorded.
   v) Closed Church Wall Repair – A quote had been received from a current supplier, and this was approved.
   vi) Demesne Mill Overhanging Trees – DCC has agreed these can be trimmed back to 1-2m. This will be programmed in. Cllr Savory noted that the Head Arborist at DCC is very reluctant to allow any work that could damage a tree.

Cllr Gardner queried the effect of the dry weather on the root systems and potential impact on costs for the Council going forward re: insurance and care. It was agreed to ask our Contractor when the next Tree Survey is due.

vii) Ninja Trail – this is in discussion for installation in the autumn.

6) CORRESPONDENCE - None

7) Maintenance Works

a. St Annes Hall – the roof lights have been done and the taps in the toilets have been replaced with push taps. All other toilets in the Council's estate will have this work done next week.
b. Recreation Ground – the football club has sourced a second hand goal post at a fraction of the cost of a new one.
c. Town Hall – The quote in respect of the replacement door was discussed. It was not clear whether three quotes had been received and it was agreed to clarify this before the quote presented was agreed.
   Chairs with arms had been sourced by Cllr Savory and these are now installed in the Town Hall.
d. Demesne Mill – the new Heritage 100 Trail signpost has been installed.
e. Thornley Woods – nothing to report
f. Allotments – the Council reminded the allotment holders to keep the boundary walls clear. The wall in the Recreation Ground allotments is becoming overgrown with brambles again. It was noted that this allotment is awaiting a new tenant, and it was hoped this would now be dealt with.
   It was noted that one of the Allotment trophies had not been returned as yet. The incumbent was encouraged to return this as soon as possible to the Parish Clerk or to Cllr Y Bell so that it can be engraved and presented to this year's winner.
g. Angate Street Toilets – These have been vandalised and damaged several times. If anyone has any information or has seen any damage caused they are encouraged to contact the police.

8) PLACE Lab installation – the Councillors were invited to attend a bus tour of these art installations starting and finishing at Root & Branch café in Stanhope with lunch on the return. This event is on Friday 2nd October leaving at 11am and finish at 2pm

9) Discover Weardale – Cllr Gardner had spoken to a lady from this website at her stand during Wolsingham Show. There was no indication of any Wolsingham businesses on her stand. It was agreed to invite them to come and talk to the Council.

10) Demesne Mill Repairs – Clerk/Councillor Savory confirmed that photographs had been taken but asked if this could be delayed until the October meeting. This was agreed.

11) FINANCE:

i) Payments/Accounts for July & August 2026 – these were agreed
ii) Clerk's Salary – the increase was approved.

12) PLANNING: Nothing to Report

Next Meeting Date:

Monthly Parish Council Meeting 13th October 2026 St Anne's Hall, Wolsingham, 6.30pm