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Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held Monday 13 October 2025 at 7pm in West Cornforth Community Centre, Station Road, Cornforth, DL17 9LA.

Present: Councillors J Snowball (in the Chair), P Crathorne, M Cunningham, P Metcalfe, S Metcalfe & R Vaughan.

In attendance: Mr R Ormerod (Parish Clerk), County Councillor J Blakey and one member of the public.

1	Apologies Apologies were received from Councillors J Beetham-Yelland, N Coombs, H Gibson, J Grafton and V Parnaby. <i>Resolved: To receive and accept the apologies.</i>
2	Declarations of interest The Chair invited members who wished to do so to make declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting. <i>Cllr P Drew declared an interest in respect of item 15.</i>
3	Members' dispensation The Clerk informed the meeting that there were no dispensations for this meeting. It was noted that there were no dispensations.
4	Public participation: The Revd Lindsay Southern offered to update the council on the current situation regarding the churchyard at a future meeting, if needed. She also agreed to write an article for the next parish council newsletter.
5	Minutes Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 9 September 2025 It was proposed by Cllr P Crathorne and seconded by Cllr S Metcalfe, and it was <i>Resolved: That the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 9 September 2025 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair at this meeting.</i>
6	Chair's Announcements It was noted that the parish council's room in Cornforth House had moved to an upstairs room. The Cornforth Partnership had been successful in obtaining a grant of £40,000 for upgrades to the building. The parish council had been successful in obtaining a £500 grant towards new goal posts at the Bill Wilson Memorial Park from Livin Housing. The parish council had been successful in obtaining grants towards new goal posts at Stobbs Cross play area and new play equipment at the Bill Wilson Memorial Park from

	Ashcourt Tees Valley. Cllr J Beetham-Yelland and the Clerk were formally thanked for their work on the bid. It was noted that arrangements were in place for the Remembrance Day events. Resolved: That the Clerk contact the British Legion to check that wreaths have been ordered for the parish council and what the arrangements were for the memorial at Metal Bridge and also the event on 11 November.
7	County Councillor's report County Councillor J Blakey gave a verbal report. Topics included PACT meetings, speeding traffic, anti-social behaviour, Remembrance Day events and spillages from quarry vehicles. Resolved: That the Clerk keep Cllr Blakey informed on what the arrangements were for the Remembrance Day event at Metal Bridge.
8	Police And Communities Together (PACT) No report received.
9	Clerk's update The Clerk had circulated a written report. Topics included CCTV, Applications to outside bodies for funding for leisure equipment (see Chair's announcements above), the sink-hole at Middleham Road and 64 High Street. It was proposed by Cllr P Crathorne and seconded by Cllr P Drew, and it was Resolved: That the council receive the report. Resolved: That the Clerk write to the local Member of Parliament requesting assistance in regard to getting the owners of 64 High Street to improve and make safer their property. Resolved: That the Clerk contact CDALC for advice on the possibility of a compulsory purchase of 64 High Street. Resolved: That the Clerk chase DCC for a response regarding the cause of the sink-hole at Middleham Road.
10	Planning No issues were raised.
11	Financial matters Members had received the Receipts and Payments Analysis for September 2025, the bank reconciliation at 30 September 2025, the expenditure against budget analysis from 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025 and the list of pending payments. It was noted that the council had £141,204.38 in its current account and £192,277.09 in the reserve account. It was proposed by Councillor P Crathorne and seconded by Councillor P Metcalfe and it was; Resolved: To receive and approve the Receipts and Payments Analysis for September 2025. It was proposed by Councillor P Crathorne and seconded by Councillor S Metcalfe and it was; Resolved: To receive and approve the bank reconciliation at 30 September 2025 and for it to be signed by Cllr P Drew. It was proposed by Councillor P Crathorne and seconded by Councillor S Metcalfe and it

Signed

Date

	was; Resolved: To receive and approve the expenditure against budget analysis for the period 1 April to 30 September 2025. Resolved: That the Clerk investigate further the method for gaining access to the defibrillator at the medical centre as there are funds set aside for keeping it in good order. It was proposed by Councillor P Crathorne and seconded by Councillor S Metcalfe and it was; Resolved: To receive and approve the pending payments. Members had received the report from the External Auditor (Forvis Mazars) which stated that in their opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. The auditor's letter listed four areas where there was minor scope for improvement. Resolved: To note the report from the external auditor.
12	Meeting of the Allotments Committee held on 13 September 2025 The committee met on 13 October and made the no recommendations to council.
13	Tree survey A discussion took place on the tree survey carried out by Batson Groundcare on behalf of the parish council in February 2025. It was proposed by Councillor P Metcalfe and seconded by Councillor P Crathorne and it was; Resolved: That the rowan tree be replaced like-for like and that the raising of crowns on two other trees be done by SE Landscaping. Resolved: That the Clerk contact Sue Mullinger at DCC to see if grants are currently available for tree planting. Resolved: That the council install a COVID-19 memorial plaque at the rowan tree.
14	State of roads and cobbles around The Green It was noted that there were significant defects on the roads and cobbles on the unadopted roads and it was noted that the parish council had carried out repairs in this area in the past. A discussion took place. It was proposed by Councillor P Metcalfe and seconded by Councillor R Vaughan and it was; Resolved: That the council attempt to devise an objective points-based system for determining when it will intervene in respect of unadopted roads, taking advice from CDALC and the Community Clerks' Network if necessary.
15	Memorials to former Councillor Dr Stephen Drew It was noted that work was ongoing in conjunction with West Cornforth Medical Centre and the Woodland Trust. A discussion took place. It was proposed by Councillor P Metcalfe and seconded by Councillor S Metcalfe, and it was; Resolved: That the council ask the Woodland Trust whether the woodland in the

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	<i>village can be named in honour of Dr Drew.</i>
16	Security at Bill Wilson Memorial Park A discussion took place. It was proposed by Councillor P Crathorne and seconded by Councillor P Metcalfe, and it was; <i>Resolved: That the council obtain three quotes for installation of galvanised, black powder-coated fencing along the south edge of the park.</i>
17	Land between Bill Wilson Memorial Park and Laburnum Road A discussion took place on the possibility of converting the land into a dog exercise park. Opinion was divided among members. It was proposed by Councillor P Crathorne and seconded by Councillor P Metcalfe, and it was; <i>Resolved: That the council revisit the issue in November 2025.</i> <i>Resolved: That the Clerk contact Livin Housing to enquire about the possibility of the parish council renting the land from them for a “peppercorn rent”.</i>
18	CDALC Annual General Meeting, 25 October 2025 It was noted that Councillor J Snowball was unable to attend and it was not known whether Councillor N Coombs would be attending. <i>Resolved: That the council send no substitute member.</i>
19	DCC consultations Budget proposals for 2026/27 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2026/27-2029/30 and Exceptions to the Empty and Unfurnished Properties and Second Homes Council Tax Premium A discussion took place. It was proposed by Councillor P Crathorne and seconded by Councillor P Metcalfe, and it was; <i>Resolved: That the parish council supports a Council Tax “freeze” and opposes any reduction in help available to residents through the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme, and undertakes to make representations to DCC accordingly.</i>
20	Motions on notice None.