



www.cornforthparishcouncil.org

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held Monday 12 October 2026 at 6:30pm in West Cornforth Community Centre, Station Road, Cornforth, DL17 9LA.

Present: Councillors Joanne Beetham-Yelland (in the Chair), Nick Coombs, Pauline Crathorne, Pat Drew, Carole Hesp, Michaela Thompson & Rasheed Vaughan.

In attendance: Mr Richard Ormerod (Parish Clerk), County Councillors Jan Blakey & Gary Hutchinson and several members of the public.

1	Apologies Apologies were received from Councillors Paul Metcalfe, Susan Metcalfe, Linden Parkins, Victoria Parnaby & Malcolm Williams. Resolved: To receive and accept the apologies. Additional apologies were received from County Councillors Jan Blakey, Kyle Genner and Gary Hutchinson. Resolved: To note the apologies.
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. Cllrs J Beetham-Yelland and M Thompson declared an interest in item 12 as allotment holders.
3	Members' dispensation None.
4	Public participation A member of the public drew the council's attention to the overgrown area around the benches at Stobb Cross and at donkey woods. Resolved: That the Clerk investigate ownership of the areas in question and alert the relevant bodies to the problems. A member of the public drew the council's attention issues on the council website, including the appointments and archive minutes sections. Resolved: That the Clerk update the website and attempt to find a way of making the archive minutes more user-friendly. A member of the public drew the council's attention to the decision by the council in 2010 to pay for CCTV in the village. Resolved: That Cllr P Crathorne attempt to find details.
5	Minutes Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 21 September 2026. It was proposed by Cllr P Crathorne and seconded by Cllr N Coombs, and it was Resolved: That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 21

Signed

Date

	<i>September 2026 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair at this meeting, subject to the addition of the surname of the councillor seconding the proposal on item 14 (Cllr Vaughan) and the correction that it was Cllr Crathorne and not Cllr Drew who had proposed the resolution on item 16.</i>
6	Chair's Announcements The Chair informed members that information on an award to showcase and celebrate the people of the region that epitomise the spirit of belonging had been circulated. Members were asked to nominate any local residents they thought were deserving of this.
7	County Councillor's report None. County Councillor Hutchinson had informed the Clerk that there had been no complaints or issues raised from residents pertaining to the parish.
8	Police And Communities Together (PACT) Cllr N Coombs informed the meeting that no PACT meetings had taken place since the previous meeting of the council but that he would be attending the next one later in the week.
9	Clerk's update The Clerk had circulated a written report. It was noted that repairs had been carried out to the road surface and bench base on the Green. It was noted that Cllr N Coombs had repaired the door on the noticeboard on the High Street, for which he was thanked. Members were encouraged to contact Mr Gary Stokoe to set up council email addresses, if they had not done so already. It was proposed by Cllr P Crathorne and seconded by Cllr N Coombs, and it was <i>Resolved: That the council receive the report.</i> <i>Resolved: That the Clerk set up a meeting between Mr Gary Stokoe and the Chair to sort out issues around email.</i> <i>Resolved: That the Chair take up issues pertaining to CCTV with DCC staff and county councillors.</i>
10	Planning No issues were raised.
11	Financial matters Members had received the Receipts and Payments Analysis for September 2026, the bank reconciliation at 30 September 2026, the expenditure against budget analysis from 1 April 2026 to 30 September 2026 and the list of pending payments. It was noted that the council had £17,401.55 in its current account and £276,823.70 in the reserve account. It was proposed by Cllr P Crathorne and seconded by Cllr N Coombs, and it was <i>Resolved: To receive and approve the Receipts and Payments Analysis for September 2026.</i> It was proposed by Cllr P Crathorne and seconded by Cllr R Vaughan, and it was <i>Resolved: To receive and approve the bank reconciliation at 30 September 2026 and for it to be signed by Cllr P Drew.</i>

Signed

Date

	It was proposed by Cllr P Crathorne and seconded by Cllr R Vaughan, and it was <i>Resolved: To receive and approve the expenditure against budget analysis for the period 1 April 2026 to 30 September 2026.</i> It was proposed by Cllr P Crathorne and seconded by Cllr N Coombs, and it was <i>Resolved: To approve the pending payments.</i> <i>Resolved: To transfer £20,000 from the reserve account to the current account.</i> <i>Resolved: To note the audited Annual Governance & Accountability Return for 2025-26.</i>
12	Meeting of the Allotment Committee held on 12 October 2026 No recommendations had been made to council. It was noted that a further meeting of the Allotment Committee would be taking place on Monday 26 October 2026 at 6pm.
13	The Green, Cornforth (benches) Members had been sent proposed wording for the inscriptions on the two benches. A discussion took place. It was proposed by Cllr P Crathorne and seconded by Cllr C Hesp and it was <i>Resolved: That the council approve the proposed wording on the two benches.</i>
14	Cornforth Parish Council representation on Durham County Council's Coxhoe, Ferryhill, Spennymoor areas Local Network It was noted that one parish council representative would be elected from the six parish councils in the Local Network. In the event of a contested election, each council, as a body, would have one vote. A discussion took place. It was proposed by Cllr R Vaughan and seconded by Cllr J Beetham-Yelland and it was <i>Resolved: That the council nominate Cllr P Crathorne for the position of parish council representative on Durham County Council's Coxhoe, Ferryhill & Spennymoor areas Local Network.</i>
15	Motions on notice: None.