



Broomhaugh & Riding Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in Church Cottage, Church Lane, on Monday 10th November 2025.

Councillors present:

Cllr. Christine Howe (Chair)
Cllr. Bridget Jones
Cllr. David Irwin
Cllr. Andy Dunhill

Cllr. Andrew Ayre
Cllr. Lucie Armstrong
Cllr. Barbara Wood

In attendance:

County Councillor Nick Oliver
Mrs Catherine Harrison – Parish Clerk
4 members of the public were present

Cllr. Howe opened the meeting at 7.45 pm.

25/152 Apologies for Absence

None

25/153 Declaration of Interests

Cllr. Armstrong declared an interest in Item 14(i) – Planning application for 4 Hollin Hill Terrace.

25/154 Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2025

It was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting, and of the confidential Council meeting, were a true record and were duly signed off by Cllr. Howe (Proposed Cllr. Howe, seconded Cllr. Armstrong).

25/155 Matters Arising

- (i) *Minute 25/120 - Repairs to the abutments of the weir footbridge.* The Clerk reported that permission had been granted to undertake the repair work in the river although the conditions stated that it could not be undertaken until next spring due to fish migration;
- (ii) *Minute 25/139 – New sub-station at Broomhaugh.* The Clerk confirmed that the wayleave agreement had been signed and a one-off wayleave payment to the Parish Council would be made of £50;
- (iii) *Minute 25/146(ii) – Packhorse Bridge repairs.* The County Council had arranged contractors to undertake repairs to the bridge and fit a fence to stop anyone climbing the structure in the future. The Parish Council had been asked to make a contribution of £450 which was approved.

25/156 County Councillor Report

Cllr. Oliver reported on the following issues:

- (i) *Local Transport Plan priorities* – Cllr. Oliver reported that he had included traffic calming and road safety improvements along the A695 in his submission for the LTP which mirrored the Parish Council's submission. Results of the LTP should be known early in the new year;
- (ii) *Corbridge Middle School* – Cllr. Oliver reported that a meeting was to be held later in the week to discuss the proposed 3G football pitch, funds for which had been secured a number of years ago from an S106 agreement. The school was concerned about the cost of upkeep of the pitch and felt the funds could be reallocated for other projects, however, local football and rugby clubs were keen that the project progressed;
- (iii) *Corbridge main car park* – Cllr. Oliver reported that planning permission had been granted to allow the car park to be extended;
- (iv) *Local Services – Winter preparedness*. Cllr. Oliver noted that information had been circulated about the Council's Winter Services. He noted that this year new gritting routes had been devised which would hopefully provide greater efficiency;
- (v) *Speeding in Beauclerc* – Cllr. Oliver had raised a resident's concerns with the Highways team but the criteria for reducing speed in this area could not be met;
- (vi) *Review of Rights of Way* – Cllr. Oliver would be meeting the Footpaths Officer to review the Rights of Way network in the parish. Cllr. Dunhill was unable to attend the meeting and the Clerk was asked to see whether another member of the footpaths group could attend instead;

ACTION: CLERK

- (vii) *Footpath on the A695 to Grey Court* – Cllr. Oliver had received a request for footpath improvements near Grey Court but had been advised that the costs would be prohibitive;
- (viii) *Openreach complaint* – Cllr. Oliver had raised the Parish's complaint with Openreach but had not been able to make them reconsider their position;
- (ix) *Local Plan* – Cllr. Oliver reported that little had been submitted in Riding Mill following the Council's call for sites;
- (x) *County Council budget for 2026/27* – Cllr. Oliver reported that work continued on preparing next year's budget.

25/157 Riding Mill Outdoor Pre-School – request for temporary use of the Spinney

In the pre-meeting discussion, Councillors heard about the Pre-school's difficulties in moving to the proposed new site at Wentworth Grange. Pre-planning advice indicated that further surveys would need to be undertaken and these would take some time. It was therefore impossible to meet the deadline of moving the Pre-school to its new site in July 2026. The Pre-School had requested an extension to its current lease on the Broomhaugh First School site but this had been refused. They were therefore looking for a temporary solution, possibly 12 months but less if planning approval could be obtained earlier and requested use of the Spinney. They hoped to use the Spinney in conjunction with Church Cottage subject to church approval.

Councillors noted that the land had been gifted to the Parish Council with the only stipulation being that it was kept as 'open space'. Pre-School using this area was not considered to breach this requirement. Pre-school did not plan to install any structures and would use tarpaulins for cover which could easily be taken down. A small storage area and additional fencing would be required to ensure the site met Ofsted guidelines. They also offered to ensure the site was publicly accessible on evenings and weekends and during holiday periods. Cllr. Howe noted that a temporary change of use of the Spinney would be required as it was designated a Local Green Space in the neighbourhood plan and these had the same policy provisions as Green Belt.

Councillors noted that should the Pre-School close, six members of staff would lose their jobs. They also felt that losing the Pre-School would be detrimental to the village. Cllr. Howe therefore proposed that the Pre-School's request to use the Spinney should be granted for a 12-month period. This was seconded by Cllr. Armstrong and unanimously approved. Councillors asked that the Pre-School provide a plan of the proposed site set-up in advance of making an application for the change of use.

ACTION: CH/PRE-SCHOOL

25/158 Local Transport Plan 2026-29 / Speed Reduction Measures

(i) *Meeting to discuss speed reduction measures*

Cllr. Ayre recorded his thanks to Cllr. Oliver for arranging a meeting with the County Council Member for Highways and the Highways Infrastructure Manager. The meeting was considered to have been useful and had highlighted the issues but it had become clear that there was no reasonable prospect of physical traffic calming measures or a permanent 20 mph speed limit being introduced as these measures would be outside of the national guidelines. Other options were considered that could have the effect of slowing traffic including: raising sunken manholes, road markings renewed, red line marking similar to that deployed at the entrance to Stocksfield, installing repeater flashing speed limit signs both east and westbound nearer to the village centre, planters placed between the carriageways at the bottom of Whiteside bank, extending the double white lines at either end of the village to reflect the position of the 30 mph signs and to stop overtaking.

The County Council had agreed to undertake a new speed survey early in the new year and it was hoped that the highways team would come up with a possible design to incorporate the speed deterrents listed above. The Clerk noted that any additional speed signs would have to be funded by the Parish Council as it was not the County Council's policy to fund them and she would therefore include such costs for consideration at next month's budget meeting.

(ii) *Local Transport Plan – ratification of priorities submitted as part of the LTP*

It was unanimously agreed that the three priorities submitted for the Local Transport Plan should be ratified and approved (Proposed Cllr. Howe, seconded Cllr. Irwin):

- 1) Traffic calming and road safety improvements on the A695;
- 2) Resurfacing of estate roads including: Station Close, Dene Terrace to the station, The Street, Broomhaugh;
- 3) Resurfacing of the footpath to the roundabout.

25/159 Future newsletters / E-newsletter

It was agreed that a Christmas card would be delivered to all households to explain about the quarterly E-news and to encourage them to sign up to receive it. The card would include a short A4 summary of what had been covered in previous editions and any current information. It would also ask residents who wished to receive a paper copy of the newsletter to contact the Clerk to opt-in to this service.

ACTION: BJ/CLERK

Cllr. Jones confirmed that she and the Clerk would be meeting with the Parish News editors early in the new year to discuss options for collaboration between the two publications. A discussion was also held about a village Facebook page and it was noted that whilst the Riding Mill Forum was not particularly active, the village halls' Facebook page was well used with residents sharing news alerts as well as local events.

25/160 **East Tynedale Forum**

Cllr. Howe updated councillors on a recent meeting she had attended to discuss the future of the Forum. The Forum had been without a permanent chair since 2021 and the secretary had recently resigned. Attendance had been falling and it was agreed that if it was to continue a new chair needed to be found to reinvigorate the group. It was noted that similar groups had previously been formed in Northumberland but it was thought that all had since disbanded. All councillors were asked if they would be prepared to take on the role of chair of the Forum but no one was willing to be nominated. The Clerk was asked to convey this to the acting Chair of the Forum. The Forum would meet again in the new year and review the responses, before deciding if the group should continue.

ACTION: CLERK

25/161 **Reports from meetings which councillors attended**

- (i) Meeting with Wentworth Grange – Cllr. Howe reported on a meeting she had attended at Wentworth Grange with representatives from other local groups, including the Pre-School, the Church and Minsteracres (the First School had been invited but had given apologies). Cllr. Howe reported that Wentworth Grange wanted to increase their links with the local community. She noted that a number of events were open to non-residents and the Clerk confirmed that Wentworth Grange were supplying information which she included in the newsletters. It was also reported that the firework event held recently had been hugely popular with residents and very much appreciated.

25/162 **Climate Change**

It was noted that the County Council were offering free trees to residents and groups. Due to the amount of ash dieback work that was necessary, it would not be the ideal time for the Parish Council to plant trees but once this work had been completed, future tree offers would be accepted.

25/163 **Finance**

(a) *Monthly Accounts*

(i) *Payments/Receipts*

The following payments were agreed (Proposed Cllr. Howe, seconded Cllr. Dunhill)

Cambridge & Counties Bank – opening investment	£39,600.00
Royal British Legion – Poppy Appeal	£60.00
Northumberland CC – reimbursement of Clerk's September salary	£1,448.39 (inc. VAT £1.75)
Town & Parish Council Websites – Yearly web and email hosting fee	£505.00
Neetfleet – removal of dog waste bin as requested by NCC	£25.00
Marchburn Lane Yearly Frontager Fees	£150.00
Catherine Harrison – reimbursement of expenses (Mail Chimp subs, postage)	£21.30 (inc. VAT £2.01)

Standing Orders/Direct Debits:

Nest pension – October pension contribution	£55.46
Neetfleet – monthly handyman payment (paid in arrears to cover Oct)	£310.00
Monthly bank charges – October	£6.00

The following receipts were noted:

None

(ii) *Budget report*

The budget report was received and approved. There were no new issues to note.

(b) *Yearly Budget*

It was reported that the yearly budget would be set at next month's meeting. Ideas for capital expenditure projects should be notified to the Clerk in advance and an informal pre-meeting discussion would be arranged.

ACTION: CLERK

(c) *S137 Grants*

- (i) The S137 donation to the Royal British Legion was approved.
- (ii) It was noted that funding requests from other bodies would be considered at the December meeting.

(d) *Holiday Let Accommodation*

It was agreed that the Parish Council should continue to request a voluntary contribution from owners of holiday let accommodation in the village as these properties were subject to business rates rather than council tax and the Parish Council did not therefore receive any funds (Proposed Cllr. Irwin, seconded Cllr. Howe).

ACTION: CLERK

25/164 General Village Maintenance

- (i) *Handyman* – The Clerk reported that the handyman had completed the following tasks in October: cut back overhanging branches at the Spinney and from around the Old Playground, weeded and tidied garden areas, cleared leaves, removed the dog waste bin from Sandy Bank at the request of NCC as a new ROW marker was to be installed;
- (ii) *Play Park repairs* – The Clerk confirmed that she had obtained a quote for the repair of the swing so councillors would be able to consider whether to repair or replace the equipment at their budget meeting in December;
- (iii) *Safety mirrors*: The Clerk was asked to encourage the handyman to fit these as soon as possible.

ACTION: CLERK

25/165 Planning

Planning applications received and decisions made by Northumberland County Council:

- (i) It was reported that the following new planning applications were under consideration:
 - 25/03142/LBC – 4 Hollin Hill Terrace. Internal building works. PC – no objection;
 - 25/03831/PRUTPO – Oaktrees, Whiteside Bank. Removal of two diseased elm trees. PC – no objection;
 - 25/03837/FUL – Land north of Old Tavern House. New build two storey house with undercroft parking. PC – Support with comments.
- (ii) It was reported that the following planning applications had been granted permission:
 - 25/03061/LBC – 2 Hollin Hill Terrace. Internal building works.
 - 25/03394/FUL – Springburn House, Low Shilford, Installation of package treatment plant.
 - 25/00228/FUL – Beauclerc West. Demolition of garage and erection of new house.

25/166 Correspondence

The Clerk shared a letter from the treasurer of the Long Rigg Property Owners' Association regarding public liability insurance and asking the Parish Council to confirm if it supported other groups in the village with similar insurance. The Clerk had written back to outline the current position and had suggested what the Association would need to do if it wished to apply for funding.

25/167 **Minor Matters**

- (i) *Christmas tree / light switch on event* – This event was confirmed for Friday 5th December. Cllr. Armstrong had been liaising with the Scouts who had arranged to run activities and games in the Parish Hall prior to the light switch on. She had also arranged for a food truck to attend and there would be live music together with refreshments. The Clerk had contacted Tynedale Lions to see if the event would coincide with their Santa visit to the village but they had not confirmed their schedule as yet.

25/168 **Date of Future Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Monday 8th December 2025.

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.