

MINUTES OF THE BEADNELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on Wednesday 25th March 2026 at 6pm in Beadnell W.I. Hall

Present: Chair- G Martindale, Vice-Chair J Hall
Parish Councillors: A Baker, T Jayes & A Nation
County Councillor G Renner-Thompson
Clerk: I Hunter
75+ Members of the public

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting and introduced all Parish Councillors, the Clerk & County Councillor G Renner-Thompson.

The Chair explained that dogs on leads on Beadnell beach would be considered at Agenda No 7.

Public Question Time: A member of the public read out the following question in relation to the Swinhoe crossroads:

- 1- Following a petition signed by over 1000 local people "Junction Safety Improvements" at Swinhoe Crossroads was included in the Council's 25/26 Local Transport Plan with a budget of £400,000. The plan expires at the end of this month. Can I ask if Parish Councillors are content with the progress made to date? And if they are content, the basis of that view?
- 2- There was to my knowledge no action taken for the first 6 months of the year. Thereafter, Appointment of a Project Manager
3 days monitoring of flows volumes speeds took place during November! Unable to explain how this is extrapolated to reflect summer traffic.
In January – 4-page Environmental Scoping Summary prepared to establish that there were no environmental issues impacting.
- 3- Has £400000 been spent? On what?
- 4- I have asked this question to tease out any information I was unaware of and to request that the Parish Council and County Councillor as Statutory Consultees adopt a more proactive stance and role to ensure the timeous delivery of this Project"

The Chair deferred to County Councillor G Renner-Thompson to answer the questions.

County Councillor G Renner-Thompson provided the following response:

There is £400K in the 2026/27 & £600K in the 2027/28 Local Transport Plan budget for the Swinhoe crossroads.

The screening process, environmental surveys & costings are being undertaken, at that point there will be options available, and once there is a preferred option a planning application will be submitted.

The appraisals have been completed and due diligence will be undertaken.

Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk email the Northumberland County Council Lead Highways Officer for the project & County Councillor M Mather Portfolio Holder for Highways for an update.

Apologies for Absence: Parish Councillor J Darcy.

Declaration of Interest: The Vice-Chair declared a personal interest in Agenda Item No 22 donation to Citizens Advice as a former employee and stated that she would not take part in the discussion or vote on that agenda item.

Request for Dispensation- None.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28th January 2026- Parish Councillors agreed that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 28th January 2026 were a true record of the meeting. The Chair signed a hard copy.

Any matters arising from the minutes if not already on the agenda-

Min 18/2026 (Min 8/2026)- Budget /Precept 2026/27

- Parish Councillor A Baker stated he was not in attendance at the January meeting and went on to explain the difference between the budget & the precept. The budget covers the total expected income & the total predicted expenditure for the year, whereas the precept covers the regular Parish Council, day to day expenditure.
The 2026/27 Parish Council precept which will be received via the Council Tax on Beadnell parish residential properties will be £20,500, which is a 2.5% increase. However, Parish Councillor A Nation did propose a 25% increase at the January meeting.

Min 19/2026 (Min 1/2026)- Beadnell Harbour Road seawall- Parish Councillor A Nation stated that two letters were sent out with differing dates for when the works were scheduled to commence. Works will commence on 6th April 2026, which will last for 22 weeks. The traffic in the area will be managed via traffic lights which will be an inconvenience.

The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on Wednesday 25th February 2026- Parish Councillors agreed that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25th February 2026 were a true record of the meeting. The Chair signed a hard copy.

Min 20/2026- No dog fouling signage & dog on leads on Beadnell beach research update

The Chair read out the statement attached to these minutes.

- Parish Councillor A Nation provided a verbal update on the possible options for “No dog fouling” notices which could be purchased and placed on Parish Council litter bins.
Parish Councillor A Nation also, reminded the meeting that anyone can report dog fouling on Northumberland County Council’s Fix my street.
Parish Councillors debated the options and agreed Parish Councillor A Nation obtain a quote for A4 black & yellow stickers. The Clerk to place the order for the stickers once agreement is reached.
- Parish Councillors noted all correspondence received in relation to “dogs on leads on Beadnell beach” which was approx. 600 emails from all over the country.
- Parish Councillor A Nation provided a verbal summary of her previously circulated report on her research into the possibility of requesting dogs being on leads on Beadnell beach during summer months as well as an offer from Northumberland County Council Animal Welfare Department to monitor the situation. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.
Parish Councillor A Nation, advised the meeting she had analysed the initial 215 emails and provided a summary of her analysis, stating also, that Beadnell bay is 1 of the 14 designated bathing areas in the county.
Members of the public raised several questions which included why was it considered necessary to undertake the research into the possibility of dogs on leads on Beadnell beach in the summer months and was there any evidence for the requirement.

- Parish Councillor A Nation proposed that the Parish Council accepts the offer from Northumberland County Council Animal Welfare Officer to observe Beadnell bay/beach during the summer months when they have capacity and report back to the Parish Council at the end of the summer with their observations. This was not seconded.
The Chair stated he wished no restrictions to be implemented.
Parish Councillor A Baker proposed that the Parish Council do not revisit this issue unless they receive a petition from at least 10% of residents with evidence of genuine concern requesting action to be taken. This was seconded by the Chair.
Parish Councillors voted as follows:
For the proposal -4
Parish Councillor A Nation abstained.
County Councillor G Renner-Thompson provided the following verbal response:
1- I would not support any restrictions.
2- The tourism trade is important to this area.
3- The proposal would not be accepted by Northumberland County Council; therefore, nothing would happen.
He concluded that there had been a healthy discussion on the subject.
Members of the public questioned the reasons for the Parish Council speaking to the press.
Parish Councillor A Nation confirmed that that the press had contacted her just after she had circulated her report to Parish Councillors.
A member of the public withdrew his FOI now that the Parish Council had voted not to make any changes to the current situation.

The majority of the members of the public left the meeting at that point.

Min 21/2026- County Councillor report- County Councillor G Renner-Thompson provided the following updates:

- **Bernicia Homes-** The development in North Sunderland is due to commence and the houses will be for rent.
- **The Kilns S106 Agreement-** I have no further updates as Northumberland County Council is continuing to investigate the situation.
- **Advertising noticeboards at The Kilns area-** Northumberland Estates have said the boards will be removed in approx. 3 months.
- **Bernicia garages-** I have some ideas for the area; however, I am awaiting an update from Bernicia Homes, who hope to link any development to another local site.
- **Parking of trading vehicles at the Bullring-** I circulated the updates I had received, and it appears all the permissions are in place. Parish Councillors raised concerns about the parking in the area.
- **Public toilet refurbishment-** The toilets are to be cleaned & painted. Parish Councillors agreed the public toilets were to be totally repainted and not paint around the graffiti/mural. Parish Councillors also queried what refresh means as the Parish Council is still awaiting the refurbishment. The Clerk to contact Northumberland County Council Neighbourhood Services.
- **Local Transport Plan-** There is £40K within the 2026/27 programme for works to the road at The Haven, and the Swinhoe crossroads is within the 2026/27 & 2027/28 programme.
- **Seawall Harbour Road-** The seawall is due to be clad as part of the works.

County Councillor G Renner-Thompson left the meeting at that point

Min 22/2026- Planning Applications

26/00230/FUL- Single storey garage extension- 9 Dunes Court Beadnell NE67 5EE.

Parish Councillors considered the above planning application and unanimously agreed to submit no comments to the planning application

25/03771/VARYCO- Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) on approved application 25/02774/FUL in order to make design changes to the approved plans and to allow the proposals to be building regulations compliant- 6 Harbour Road Beadnell Northumberland NE67 5BB.

The property owner spoke to the planning application and answered questions. Parish Councillors considered the above planning application and unanimously agreed to submit no objections to the planning application

26/00994/FUL- Reinstatement of two dwellings and entrance door to 35 Swinhoe Road. 33 Swinhoe Road Beadnell Northumberland NE67 5AG

Parish Councillors considered the above planning application and unanimously agreed to submit no comments to the planning application.

However, Parish Councillors would like confirmation from Northumberland County Council Planning Department if the permanent residency condition can be applied to this application as 1 new dwelling is being created.

Members of the public left the meeting at that point.

Min 23/2026- Cemetery- Parish Councillors considered the previously circulated report prepared by the Vice-Chair.

The Vice-Chair made the following comments/proposals:

- 1- There are 7 headstone fails identified in the previous Memorial Inspection report.
- 2- The Clerk contact Northumberland County Council and ask for the headstone on plot 691 to be re-checked. This was agreed.
- 3- Once the Parish Council receives an update from Northumberland County Council in relation to the condition of the headstone on plot 691, the Clerk contact 3 Memorial Masons and obtain quotes to lay the memorials in question flat. This was agreed.
- 4- The Parish Council prepare a notice for display on the cemetery gates to advise visitors to the cemetery of the situation. This was agreed.
- 5- There are only 2 unallocated cremation plots before we reach the cherry trees, therefore, she suggested once they are allocated, we start a new row north of cremation plot No 1 and head east to west. This was agreed.
- 6- The tree outside the cemetery gates needs to be trimmed, however, the Chair has already reported the issue on fix my street.

Parish Councillor A Baker proposed that all funds received in relation to the cemetery is ringfenced for works to be undertaken with the cemetery. This was agreed.

Min 24/2026- Financial Statement

Community Account	£ 18,840.41
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BEADNELL PARISH COUNCIL
Web Site ★ www.beadnellparishcouncil.gov.uk

Savings Account	£ 4,925.27
Playground Refurbishment A/C	£ 6,517.72

Min 25/2026- Finance:

Receipts

• Barclays Bank	£ 12.44	Savings A/c Interest
• Crowdfunder	£ 144.24	Refurbishment A/c- donations
• Barclays Bank	£ 31.88	Refurbishment A/c Interest
• Northern Powergrid	£ 1.53	Wayleave

Transfer

- Refurbishment A/c to Community A/c £10,029.44

Payments: Parish Councillors agreed the following payments.

• NALC	£ 42.00	Training- The Housing Puzzle Parish Councillor A Nation
• I Hunter	£ 583.50	Salary 65 hours @ £ 14.82 per hour
• HMRC	£ 379.80	PAYE
• Beadnell WI	£ 45.00	Room hire
• I Hunter	£ 11.92	Expenses
• Citizens Advice	£ 50.00	Donation
• North Northumberland HospiceCare	£ 100.00	Donation

Min 26/2026- Play Areas.

- Parish Councillors considered the report prepared by the Chairman of the Sub-Committee.
Parish Councillor A Baker provided the following verbal update:
 - 1- Kompan had installed the replacement basket swing & undertaken a health check on the new play equipment.
 - 2- The Kompan officer had spoken with the Northumberland County Council officer who undertook the weekly inspection whilst Kompan were on site and the Kompan officer was impressed at how the weekly inspection was undertaken.
 - 3- Beadnell in Bloom volunteers planted the new hedging on 23rd March
 - 4- The refurbished play area will officially be opened on 5th April at 2pm by The Squires family. Everyone is welcome to attend and Beadnell Community Volunteers are taking the lead in organising the event.

The Vice-Chair confirmed that she is keeping a note & receipts of expenditure.
- Longbeach Drive refurbishment- Parish Councillor A Baker advised the meeting that the £5K Northumberland Estate funding application had been successful, also, The Craster Arms have agreed to make a donation & the Parish Council agreed to make a £2K donation on receipt of the 1st ½ of the 2026/27 precept.
Parish Councillor A Baker stated that the level of donations for the holiday-lets may reduce this year.
The Vice-Chair proposed that as soon as the £5K is received from Northumberland Estates & the donation from The Craster Arms, the Clerk places the £20K + VAT order with Kompan for the purchase & installation of the new play equipment. The proposal was seconded by the

Chair. This was agreed.

- Parish Councillors noted the response from Northumberland County Council in relation questions asked by the Parish Council on the wording in the SLA.
- Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk contact Northumberland County Council about accuracy of the weekly inspection reports in relation to the new play equipment, as well as clarity on why some of the new items are identified as low risk.
- Parish Councillors considered the previously circulated quotes received from Stableyards, JobDunn & Timbercraft for the replacement of the fence at the Kennedy Green entrance to the Meadow Lane play area. Parish Councillors agreed to award the contact to Stableyards for £697 which includes materials.
- The Clerk to issue the purchase order to Stableyards, asking for the works to be undertaken in approx. 2 months' time. Also, the Clerk to advise the unsuccessful contractors.
- Parish Councillor A Nation asked for a timeline for undertaking the outstanding grounds maintenance works at the muga area on Meadow Lane play area, suggesting this could be undertaken whilst the refurbishment of Longbeach Drive play area was being undertaken. Parish Councillor A Baker advised the meeting that the costs involved to undertake the outstanding maintenance works is £5K and the current funding received is for new play equipment.
Parish Councillors agreed to monitor the financial situation and agreed to undertake the works when funds become available.
- Parish Councillor A Nation raised concerns about the height of the noticeboard on the Meadow Lane play area. Parish Councillors agreed Parish Councillor A Nation liaise with a volunteer about the adjustment of the height of the noticeboard.
- Parish Councillors agreed that in future the Clerk make the Chair aware of any urgent actions required to play equipment asap, and then update Parish Councillors in due course. Parish Councillors agreed to consider each issue on a case-by-case basis.

Min 27/2026- Annual Holiday Let donation

- Parish Councillors ratified the preparation and delivery of the annual holiday let donation letter.
- Parish Councillors agreed to make the payment to Shiel & Morrison for printing the holiday let letter on receipt of an invoice.

Min 28/2026- Parish Council Policies-

- Parish Councillors agreed to adopt the previously circulated Email Policy.
- Parish Councillors considered and agreed to adopt the previously circulated Assertion 10 document. The Clerk to remove the section in red.
- Parish Councillors agreed that the Parish Council is Assertion 10 compliant.
- Parish Councillors considered and agreed to adopt the previously circulated IT Policy.
- Parish Councillors agreed that the Parish Council is GDPR compliant.

Min 29/2026- Annual Audit

- Parish Councillors agreed the appointment of Mr C Brunt as the Internal Auditor for the 2025/26 Parish Council annual accounts.
The Clerk confirmed that she would be attending the online briefing with Mazars in April.

- Parish Councillor A Baker advised the meeting that he had undertaken the annual review of the Parish Council Assets and had updated the Asset Register to take into account the new play equipment. He concluded by saying that the rudder bench in the Lonnen requires painting.
- Parish Councillors considered and agreed the previously circulated Asset Register.
- Parish Councillors agreed that the Clerk could dispose of the 4-draw filing cabinet as it is no longer required.

Min 30/2026- North Northumberland Neighbourhood Review- Parish Councillors noted the information received from North Sunderland Parish Council following the meeting of the 3 Parish Councils held on 2nd March.

Parish Councillors agreed to make any comments at the forthcoming meeting which will be held on 27th March as all Parish Councillors are invited to attend.

Min 31/2026-Community Police- Parish Councillors noted the following report:

Incidents & Crimes –There have been no crimes recorded during the last eight weeks. The number of incidents recorded is extremely low and none of which have a wider impact on the community.

Community Issues – ASB: There has been no youth ASB reported to Police.
No disorder issues reported by any local pubs.

Community engagement – High visibility patrols are made in the area.

Min 32/2026- National Landscape- Parish Councillors agreed that there is to be a meeting with National Landscape in April.

Min 33/2026- Noticeboards- The Vice-Chair advised the meeting that BCV may consider providing a donation towards a noticeboard, however, she will not have an update until the Annual Parish Council meeting in May.

Min 34/2026- Litter bins

- Parish Councillors considered the possible purchase 1 or 2 litter bins for The Kilns area as per the request from a resident in The Kilns area.
- Parish Councillor A Baker proposed as the Parish Council have 5 litter bins near the Bullring area that the Parish Council move one of the litter bins to The Kilns area as a starting point.
- Parish Councillors agreed Parish Councillor A Baker organise the relocation of 1 litter bin from the Bullring area to The Kilns area, and monitor the situation.
- Parish Councillor A Nation suggested that a litter bin is required in the area of the Village Green south of the Church.
- Parish Councillors agreed to revisit this after the litter bin had been relocated to The Kilns & the stickers had been placed on the litter bins.

Min 35/2026- Consultations

- Parish Councillors considered the current Community Governance Review consultation which closes on 30th April 2026.
- Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk respond to the consultation stating the Parish Council require no changes.

- Parish Councillors noted the current Library Consultation which closes on 13th April 2026. Parish Councillors agreed people using the library service should make sure they respond to the consultation.

The Vice-Chair did not take part in the next agenda item

Min 36/2026- Request for a donation

- Parish Councillors considered the following requests for donations received in 2025/26
 1. Citizens Advice- Parish Councillor A Baker proposed & Parish Councillor A Nation seconded a donation of £50. This was agreed.
 2. HospiceCare- Parish Councillor A Baker proposed & Parish Councillor A Nation seconded a donation of £100. This was agreed.
 3. North East War Memorial Project. Parish Councillor A Baker proposed & Parish Councillor A Nation seconded not to make a donation. This was agreed.

The Vice-Chair re-joined the meeting

Min 37/2026- Correspondence- Parish Councillors noted the following correspondence.

- **NCC-** Email- Notice of making of the Public Spaces Protection Order for the control of dogs. Now in place as of 31st January 2026.
- **Member of public-** Email request for memorial bench
- **Alnwick Medical Group PPG-** Email- Newsletter
- **Beadnell Bay Camping and Caravanning Club Site-** Email- Invite to meet Parish Councillors virtually. Parish Councillors agreed to make a further response to the planning application consultation. Parish Councillor A Baker to draft a response for Parish Councillors to consider.
- **Chathill Rail Users Group-** Email- Newsletter No 6
Parish Councillors agreed anonymous correspondence will not be considered.

The meeting reached the 2-hour limit

The Vice-Chair proposed suspending Standing orders by 15 minutes to allow the remaining agenda items to be considered this was seconded by Parish Councillor T Jayes. This was agreed.

Min 38/2026- NALC- AGM update

- Parish Councillor A Nation suggested that the Parish Council should know what is the role of the Parish Council representative on the NALC committee, as there had been no contact from the Parish Council representative in the past.
- The Vice-Chair proposed & Parish Councillor A Baker seconded that the Clerk invite the North Sunderland Parish Councillor who represents our area on NALC to the July Parish Council meeting.
- Parish Councillor A Nation advised the meeting that some Parish Councillors have issues with their addresses being in the public domain.
The Clerk advised the meeting that any Parish Councillor who wishes their address to be withheld needs to contact The Monitoring Officer at Northumberland County Council giving valid reasons, and The Monitoring Officer will access the situation on a case-by-case basis.
- Parish Councillor A Nation advised the meeting at the NALC AGM there was an informal

conversation about some services Parish Councils volunteers undertake on a voluntary basis, i.e. updating bus timetables etc. It was agreed the NALC Chief Officer obtain clarification from Northumberland County Council as what services are available for Parish Councils and volunteers to undertake if they wish.

Min 39/2026- Frequency of meetings- Parish Councillor A Nation suggested that Beadnell Parish Council move to monthly meetings as the Parish Council have approx. 13 meetings per year. The Vice-Chair proposed & Parish Councillor A Baker seconded the Parish Council remain with bi-monthly meetings. This was agreed.
Parish Councillor A Nation abstained.

Min 40/2026- Updates

- Parish Councillors agreed Swinhoe crossroads had already been covered at Public Question Time.
- Parish Councillor A Nation advised the meeting that we are awaiting an update on the bus services, as we are currently working on the winter timetable.
- Parish Councillor A Nation advised the meeting that the latest CRAG newsletter had been circulated and works to the waiting room at Chathill Station will be undertaken in the summer.
- Parish Councillors noted that there are no updates on the extension to 30mph for Swinhoe Road.
- Parish Councillor A Nation advised the meeting that Parish Councillor J Darcy is collating a report in relation to locations for the installation of drop kerbs.
- Parish Councillors noted that Beadnell public toilets had already been covered under the County Councillor's report.
- Parish Councillors agreed that the CAN Community Housing be part of the Neighbourhood Plan discussion.
- Parish Councillor A Nation advised the meeting that she had circulated an update on the sewage spills & NWL pumping, then asked the following question to the Chair:
"Then does the Chair consider it acceptable that the public's attention is not drawn to possible sewage alerts that may impact their health at our designated bathing area with an excellent bathing water classification?" Answer was "Evidence"!?

Any Other urgent Business

Min 41/2026- Use of gov.uk email addresses- The Chair reminded Parish Councillors that all emails sent as a Parish Councillor must be sent from the gov.uk email address, the Clerk must be copied into the email and all emails should be circulated to all Parish Councillors for information.

The date of the Annual Parish & Annual Parish Council meetings 27th May 2026 at 6pm

Chair _____ Date _____