

**ORDINARY MEETING OF EASINGTON VILLAGE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT 1800 Hrs ON MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Present: Cllr W Day (Chair)  
Cllr J Lee (Vice Chair)  
Cllr J Ramshaw  
Cllr A Lumsden  
Cllr S Gibbins  
Cllr A Dent  
Cllr R Godfrey  
Cllr N Fenwick

Staff: Mr P Moore (Clerk to Council)  
Mrs H Hall (Deputy Clerk)

In Attendance: Cllr Louise Penders DCC

Dr Brian Brown – East Durham Action Group (EDAG)  
Ms Lisa Miller – EDAG  
Mr Gordon Towers – EDAG (Online)

The Council heard a briefing by Mr Brown on the work of the East Durham Action Group who are campaigning against the installation of several large solar arrays and the Murton Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). Council heard details regarding the loss of agricultural land and impact on the environment. Of more concern were the details given regarding the environmental risks and risks to health should one of the BESS containers become damaged or catch fire.

Dr Brown took questions from Council and requested that Council support the EDAG campaign by writing to the leader of DCC requesting full transparency on all matters regarding the BESS sites, and for Council to consider a small financial donation to the EDAG campaign fund.

EVPC/25/26/241 **Exclusion of Press and Public**

The Council **RESOLVED** that in accordance with Section 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public may be excluded from the meeting for any item of business to be transacted by reason of the confidential nature.

EVPC 25/26/242 **Apologies for Absence**

None

EVPC 25/26/243 **Declarations of Interest by members on items on the Agenda.**

Cllr Lee & Cllr Dent as allotment holders – Agenda Item 6 (Request to keep a caravan at Sunderland Road allotments)



EVPC 25/26/244

**Public Participation**

None

EVPC/25/26/245

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Easington Village Parish Council held on Monday 08 December 2025**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes be confirmed as an approved and correct record, and as such were signed by the Chair of that meeting.

EVPC/25/26/246

**Request to keep a caravan on site (Sunderland Road)**

**RESOLVED:** That the siting of a caravan be approved retrospectively in this instance, but any future application must be made before bringing a caravan onto site as per the allotment management rules.

EVPC 25/26/247

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Easington Village Parish Council held on Monday 08 December 2025**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes be confirmed as an approved and correct record, and as such were signed by the Chair of that meeting.

EVPC/25/26/248

**Durham Police Report (Easington PCSO's)**

Please find below crime statistics and Anti -social behaviour incidents from the 9th December 2025 to the 09th of January 2026

Burglary- 0

Theft and Handling – 1

05/01/26 – Low Row Store – Theft of washing powder. Known suspect. CCTV provided for local Neighbourhood team to progress.

ASB – 2

12/12/25 – Parsley Close – X2 males on off road bikes.

05/01/26 – Thorpe Road – Electric motorbikes in area.

Vehicle Crime - 0

Criminal Damage – 2

16/12/25 – Local Farm – damage to crop by unknown vehicle in field.

23/12/25 – Morris Square – Window smashed on property.

The next PACT meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 6pm in The Parish Rooms, Crawlaw Road, Easington SR8 3LP.

The next PCSO drop-in session will be held at Seaton Holme on 15th January 2026 between 2pm and 3pm.

**RESOLVED:** That the information received is noted and accepted and that PCSO's be invited to future meetings.

**Report from Durham County Councillor Louise Penders:****Salt Grit Bins**

I requested salt bins for Milburn Close, North Hill Close and Cadwell Lane due to dangerous and hazardous conditions in these areas when it is icy. I wasn't optimistic they would be installed so I also requested a quote to see if it would be viable to pay for them from the Councillor Grant. The initial supply, install and for it to be filled is £442, but I would have to agree for it to be maintained and filled over a three-year period which brings the total cost to £1,405 per bin. The new bins are 3x the size of the old ones, but I'm unsure it justifies the cost.

This morning, I have received a reply regarding the request for the one at North Hill Close and an investigation has taken place and they do not deem it hazardous or dangerous enough to install a bin at this time. I have asked what the criteria is for bins to be installed and have also copied Cllr Ramshaw into the email so he can pass the response onto residents on the estate.

**Speed Watch**

I have emailed PC Natasha Gahan from Easington Neighbourhood Policing Team to request training on their Speed Watch equipment. I will inform you and other Parish Members of this date as I think it would be good for a few of us to utilise the equipment to gather evidence that traffic calming measures are needed.

**Carlton Terrace**

I received reports from residents that the road was in a state of disrepair despite being resurfaced in July 2025 by DCC. As its an unadopted road I make some enquiries to Highways to see who funded this. Last night I said I was due an update by 22/02/2026 but this morning I have received a response.

The works were funded by previous Councillors and the works was to scrape and level off the street. Cllrs were aware it was a quick fix as a more robust sealed surface was unfeasible due to levels/underlying construction and were happy to do anything to improve the surface as the bin wagon could not go down the street.

I have asked why it was unfeasible to do a proper job and requested a quote for if it was to be done properly.

**The Road Sign at North Hill Close**

As per Cllr Ramshaw's request I have chased this up again.

**The Old School Site**

Please see below my objection/comments and reasons on the proposed site:

Dear Planning Dept,  
Prior to and at the public consultation, regarding the above planning application, I aired my concerns about some issues that are sure to arise unless some small variations were made to the plans. The officers, architects and builder agreed that it was easy to make the following adjustments...



1. The proposed path that will run from Seaside Lane through to School Street will act as a rat run for the many shop lifters who frequent the neighbouring Co Op and aid drug runners to cut through or do deals off the beaten track. It was suggested and agreed that the path would stop at the end of last bungalow to stop this from happening.
2. It was agreed that the Suds would be fenced off to stop children playing within the boundary. With the location of the Suds it could be dangerous as it is not visible to many properties.
3. With adding two additional junctions to the main road, it poses a hazard to pedestrians, especially school children who use that stretch twice per day, some as young as 8 years old walk to and from school alone from Easington Colliery Primary School. It was discussed that the current parking on Seaside Lane could be switched to the opposite side of the road and parking permits issued to residents of Seaside Lane South. This will minimise the safety hazards for both pedestrians and vehicles exiting the new site as they will have more visibility.
4. That stretch of road is also like a racetrack most of the time and the additional junctions will cause more hazards and potentially an RTA. It was agreed that traffic calming measures would be put in place to minimise the risk.

However, none of these adjustments have been mentioned or changed in the plans. Residents' safety comes first and foremost within the community so unless these adjustments are made, I will not be supporting this application.

#### **Station Road Incident**

On 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 emergency services were called to an address on Station Road. A man in his 40s was taken to Sunderland Royal Hospital and a woman in her 30s was arrested at the scene. Police remained on scene for 3 days and forensics also attended. I have not received another update from the Police, but I will inform you when/if I do.

#### **Actions for me**

1. Email Stephen Reed regarding EVPC S106 application.
2. Attempt to find out what is happening at The Kings Head regarding maintenance.
3. Keep an eye on/check planning for the house next to North Hill Close.
4. Report fly tipping at Little Thorpe.

**RESOLVED:** That the information received be noted and accepted.

EVPC/25/26/250

#### **Member Reports – Attendance at Meetings and Events on Behalf of The Parish Council**

Cllr Ramshaw – attended East Durham Action Group Meeting

**RESOLVED:** That the information received be noted and accepted.

EVPC/25/26/251(a) **Financial Matters - Monthly Report – December 2025 (Attached)**

#### **Bank Balance Report at 31/12/25**

**RESOLVED:** that the Bank Balance Report be APPROVED

#### **Income and Expenditure Report to 31/12/25**



**RESOLVED:** that the Income and Expenditure report be APPROVED

**Bank Transfer Report** to 31/12/25

**RESOLVED:** that the Bank Transfer Report be APPROVED

**Invoices for Endorsement of Payment Report** to 31/12/25

**RESOLVED:** that the Invoices for Endorsement of Payment Report be APPROVED

**Income Received Report** to 31/12/25

**RESOLVED:** that the Income Received Report be APPROVED

EVPC/25/26/251(b) **Bank and Cash reconciliation** - The Clerk requested that a Councillor volunteer to complete a physical check of cash and bank reconciliations for the month of December before Friday 16 January 2026.

**RESOLVED:** that Cllr Lumsden would complete the necessary checks.

EVPC/25/26/251(c) **Minutes of the EVPC Budget & Precept Meeting held on 03 December 2025**

**RESOLVED:** that the information received be noted and accepted.

EVPC/25/26/251(d) **Minutes of the EVPC Budget & Precept Meeting held on 15 December 2025**

**RESOLVED:** that the information received be noted and accepted.

EVPC/25/26/251(e) **Minutes of the EVPC Budget & Precept Meeting held on 07 January 2026**

**RESOLVED:** that the information received be noted and accepted.

EVPC/25/26/251(f) **Budget & Precept 2026-27 – to set a budget and precept for financial year 2026 – 2027**

**RESOLVED:** that the Budget for 2026-27 be set on the following terms:

Cost centre budget lines to increase at the rate of inflation – currently taken to be 3.8%

Assumption – 5% increase in staff wages in 2026/27

Assumption – No apprentice wages in 2026/27

Council operates at budget deficit of £26087 in 2026/27

**RESOLVED:** that the Precept for 2026-27 be set on the following terms:

Precept £212278. (Increase of 10%)

Band D Council tax - £220 per household



The DCC Official Precept Request for 2026/27 was then signed by the Chair and Clerk, to be forwarded to DCC.

EVPC/25/26/252

**Planning Applications**

- a. **Planning Applications**  
DM/25/02660/FPA  
DM/25/02320/FPA
- b. **Planning Refusals** - None to consider
- c. **Planning Applications Withdrawn** – None to consider
- d. **Planning Appeals / Objections** – None to consider
- e. **Other Planning Matters** – None to consider

**RESOLVED:** That this information be received and noted.

EVPC/25/26/253

**Creative Youth Opportunities Update (December 2025)**

**RESOLVED:** That the information as received be noted and accepted.

EVPC/25/26/254

**Verbal Report from the Clerk on matters not covered elsewhere.**

The Parish Office will be closed Wed 04 Feb to Fri 06 Feb due to staff leave.

It was **RESOLVED:** that the information as received be NOTED.

EVPC/25/26/255

**Date and Time of Next Meeting (s)**

Cemetery & Grounds Committee – Monday 09 February 2026 at 1100 hrs

Ordinary Meeting of Council – Monday 09 February 2026 at 1800 hrs

All Council meetings will take place in the Milburn Room, Seaton Holme unless otherwise stated.

**RESOLVED:** that the information given be NOTED.

EVPC/25/26/256

**Exclusion of the Press and Public** – In accordance with Section 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

Not required

EVPC/25/26/257

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1930 Hrs.

Councillors are respectfully reminded that items for inclusion on the agenda for the next ordinary meeting must be received by the Clerk in writing no later than 1800 hrs on Monday 02 February 2026.

**CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD**

Chairman ..... *J. Lee* .....

Date ..... *9.2.26* .....

Distribution / Publication:

- All Easington Village Parish Councillors
- EVPC Website
- Councillor L Penders DCC
- Councillor H Brown DCC
- Councillor L Taylor DCC

