

**ORDINARY MEETING OF EASINGTON VILLAGE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT 1800 Hrs ON MONDAY 13th April 2026**

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

Staff: Mr P Moore (Clerk to Council)

In Attendance: Cllr L Penders DCC
Cllr Howard Brown DCC

EVPC/25/26/289 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 25/26/290 Apologies for Absence

Cllr A Dent
Cllr L Taylor DCC
Mrs H Hall (Deputy Clerk)

EVPC 25/26/291 Declarations of Interest by members on items on the Agenda.

None

EVPC 25/26/292 Public Participation

None

EVPC/25/26/293 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Easington Village Parish Council held on Monday 09 March 2026

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

EVPC/25/26/294 Minutes of the Events Management Committee Meeting held on Monday 09 March 2026

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

EVPC/25/26/295 Durham Police Report (Easington PCSO's)

Easington Village Crime statistics and Anti -Social behaviour incidents from the 9th March 2026 to 7th April 2026



Burglary- 0

Theft and Handling – 0

ASB – 2

Personal – 1

- 20/03/2026 – Merrick House – Resident screaming and shouting, staff managed to get resident to calm down without police help.

Nuisance- 1

- 28/03/2026 – Seaside Lane – Quad bike on green.

Environmental – 0

Criminal Damage – 1

- 17/03/2026 – The Grange – damage to property door and letter box.

There have been reports of opportunists trying home/ car door handles in and around Easington Village. Easington neighbourhood police team will make efforts to safeguard those that could have been affected by providing advice as well as reassurance.

The next PACT meeting will be held on Wednesday 06th May 2026 at 6pm at The Parish Rooms, Crawlaw Road, Easington SR8 3LP.

Note: PACT meetings are held for both the Colliery and the Village. PACT meetings are primarily for Police issues, and at this time are not joint meetings held with our local county councillor.

The next Drop-in session/Cuppa with a Copper will be held on Thursday 07th May at Seaton Holme 2pm to 3pm.

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

EVPC/25/26/296

Report from Durham County Councillors

Cllr Brown DCC gave a verbal report on DCC and local issues including:

1) **Food waste bins:**

These will be coming to our area in the summer – Residents will have 3 main bins

- dry recyclable materials (plastic, metal, glass, paper and card)
- food waste
- non-recyclable general waste (also called residual waste)

- Please put paper towels, blue roll and any soft plastic packaging such as cling film and crisp packets in the general waste bin.
- Greasy, used pizza boxes should always go in the general waste bin. The current glass bottle bins should be left behind for residents use – BUT they are not.

2) HMOs – Article 4

Comes into force in August 17th

A House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) is defined as a building or flat in which three or more people live, forming two or more households, and share basic amenities, such as a bathroom, toilet, or cooking facilities. Under planning rules, dwelling houses occupied by people living together as a single household (Use Class C3) can change to a small HMO with between three and six residents (Use Class C4) without the need for planning permission. This is referred to as ‘permitted development.’

Where local authorities consider that there is a local need to control the spread of HMOs, they can remove permitted development rights through a mechanism called an Article 4 Direction.

In light of evidence, the number of HMOs has increased outside of the existing Durham City Article 4 areas, the council has taken forward a further Article 4 to remove permitted development rights across the remainder of the county. This will come into effect on 17 August 2026.

A planning policy is now required for HMOs outside of the Durham City Article 4 areas. Consultation will be undertaken on the interim HMO policy from 25 March 2026 to 5 May 2026.

3) Cockerel Gate

Our policy on banning Cockerels from allotments is causing a lot of noise/friction. We are reviewing the that aspect of the Allotment Policy

4) Durham Bus Station

Plastic Cladding – Cost us a fortune. Tarmac subsidising – may get money back on this

EVPC/25/26/297

Member Reports – Attendance at meetings and events on behalf of the Parish Council

None

EVPC/25/26/298

Financial Monthly Report – March 2026

Bank Balance Report at 32/03/26

RESOLVED: that the Bank Balance Report be APPROVED

Bank Transfer Report to 31/03/26

RESOLVED: that the Bank Transfer Report be APPROVED

WSD 1769

Expenditure Report to 31/03/26

RESOLVED: that the Expenditure Report be APPROVED.

Income Report to 31/03/26

RESOLVED: that the Income Report be APPROVED.

EVPC/25/26/299

Appointment of Internal Auditor for Financial Year 2026/27 – Mr Gordon Fletcher

RESOLVED: that Mr Gordon Fletcher be appointed as Internal Auditor for the financial year 2026/27

EVPC/25/26/300

End of Year 2025-26 Internal Audit

RESOLVED: Approved and noted.

EVPC/25/26/301

Request for a donation – Easington Village Brownies

RESOLVED: that the request for a donation be approved and £130 be allocated to this.

EVPC/25/26/302

Monthly Cash & Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED: that Cllr Fenwick would make a reconciliation of cash and bank during the week of 13-17 April.

EVPC/25/26/303

Planning Applications

a. Planning Applications

Weekly list 12 March 2026 – DM/26/00397/VOC
Land west of Aireville, Loaning Burn, SR8 3TX

RESOLVED: No objection or comment

Weekly list 26 March 2026 – DM/26/00729/OUT
Land to north of 14 Shakespeare Terrace, SR8 3DT

RESOLVED: Object on the basis that the site is well known to be damp. Request reassurance that these concerns will be mitigated.

- b. Planning Decisions – None to consider**
- c. Planning Refusals - None to consider**
- d. Planning Applications Withdrawn – None to consider**
- e. Planning Appeals / Objections – None to consider**
- f. Other Planning Matters**

Delegated Authority List 27 March 2026 – DM/25/00669/FPA Garden House,
Rectory Farm, Hall Walks, SR8 3BS

RESOLVED: No objection or comment

RESOLVED: That this information be received and noted.

 1770

EVPC/25/26/304

Verbal Report from the Clerk on matters not covered elsewhere.

1. All Cllrs have received an IT upgrade to Office 365 Basic which includes Word / Excel/One Drive / Teams etc. This will allow greater flexibility and most importantly, the opportunity for remote meetings using Teams. This may prevent meetings having to be postponed or being inquorate at short notice.
2. Cemetery & Grounds meeting today (13 April) was inquorate and has been re-scheduled to Monday 18 May 26.
3. Village in Bloom walk about on Wed 15 April 26.
4. ADT are fitting extra security measures within Seaton Holme Wed 15-Fri 17 April.
5. All S106 items (Bins, Benches and Planters) have now been received and will be sited shortly.
6. A formal complaint to DCC submitted on 12 March 2026 has not been responded to. A hastener has been sent.
7. A Freedom of Information request sent to DCC on 12 March 26 has been responded to in a letter which tells the Chair of this Council to write to himself. This is a very disappointing reply from DCC.

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

EVPC/25/26/305

Date and Time of Next Meeting (s)

Annual Electors Meeting 2026 - Monday 11 May 2026 at 1800 Hrs.

- Burn Room

Annual Meeting of Council 2026 – Monday 11 May 2026 at 1815 Hrs

- Burn Room

Council Ordinary Meeting - Monday 11 May 2026 at 1830 Hrs.

- Burn Room

Cemetery & Grounds Committee Meeting – Monday 18 May 2026 at 1100 Hrs

Events Management Committee Meeting – Monday 18 May 2026 at 1700 Hrs

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

RESOLVED: that the information given be NOTED.

EVPC/25/26/306

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

None



CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

Chairman *wssj*

Date *11th MAY 2026*

Distribution / Publication:

All Easington Village Parish Councillors

EVPC Website

Councillor L Penders DCC

Councillor H Brown DCC

Councillor L Taylor DCC