

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CEMETERY AND GROUNDS
COMMITTEE HELD ON Monday 07th September 2026 at 1100hrs**

Present: Cllr J Lee (Chair)
Cllr A Lumsden
Cllr W Day

Staff: Mr P Moore (Clerk)

In Attendance: None

C&G 26/27/025 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

RESOLVED: That in accordance with Section 2 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public may be excluded from the meeting for any item on the agenda by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

C&G 26/27/026 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr A Dent
Cllr J Ramshaw
Mr W Hunter
Mrs H Hall (Deputy Clerk)

Apologies were **NOTED**.

C&G 26/27/027 **Declaration of Interest on Items on the Agenda** – To note any declarations in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Council's Code of Conduct.

Cllr Lee (Allotment holder)

Declaration - **NOTED**

C&G 26/27/028 **Public Participation**

None

C&G 26/27/029 **Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 06th July 2026.**

The minutes of the previous Cemetery & Grounds committee meeting held on Monday 06 July 2026 were ratified at a meeting of Council on Monday 13th July 2026.

C&G 26/27/030 **Play Equipment Inspection Report**

The latest Play Inspection Report had not been received from DCC and therefore could not be presented at the meeting. This will be circulated electronically when received.

RESOLVED: To receive the Play Equipment Report at a later date.



C&G
26/27/031

Allotments Report from Deputy Clerk

In the absence of the Deputy Clerk the allotment report will be circulated electronically at a later date.

RESOLVED: To receive the Allotment Report at a later date.

C&G
26/27/032

Allotment Review (Spare 10 for Ben)

The current allocation of a half-plot to the charity Spare 10 for Ben has been reviewed and is to continue on the same basis until a further review in September 2027.

RESOLVED: To continue to allocate one half-plot to the charity Spare 10 for Ben free of charge, and to review this in September 2027.

C&G
26/27/033

Cemetery Supervisor Report

In the absence of the Cemetery Supervisor the cemetery report will be received at a later date.

RESOLVED: To receive the Cemetery Report at a later date.

C&G
26/27/034

Cemetery Fees Review 2027-28

RESOLVED: that the Cemetery fees for 2027-28 have been reviewed and there is to be no change for the calendar year 2027-28.

C&G
26/27/035

Thorpe Road Playing Field

The Thorpe Road playing field goal posts were vandalised in mid-June. Peterlee Town Council were tasked with removing the goal post bases, posts and returned the ground to a safe and level condition.

Pitch marking has been paused while there are no goal posts.

This matter was considered at the July Ordinary Meeting of Council:

EVPC/26/27/072 Thorpe Road Playing Field

Thorpe Road playing field had recently been vandalised and both goal posts were torn down rendering the field as non-playable for football or other sports. The goal posts had been removed at a cost to council and the cost of replacing the goal posts had been obtained. Marking of the pitch has been paused but it is still on the DCC grass-cutting plan. It is known that this location attracts a degree of anti-social behaviour which causes local residents to be disturbed, and several residents would like to see the land used for other purposes, however, the land is listed as a designated playing field.



RESOLVED: that the Clerk confirm the designation of the playing field and request the police to visit the area on a regular basis over the school holidays to help reduce anti-social behaviour in that area. A decision to replace the goal posts would be taken at a later date.

It has been confirmed that the playing field is land owned by the Parish Council for the sole purpose of providing a children's playing field. (See attached Deed)

There have been no reports of anti-social behaviour on the playing field over the period of the school summer holidays.

RESOLVED: that the goal posts be replaced with a 12ft x 6ft mini heavy duty wheeled freestanding pair of goal posts.

C&G
26/27/036

HM Prison & Probation Service Community Placement Service

HM Prison & Probation Service operate a Community Placement Scheme where low risk offenders who have been served Community Orders are rehabilitated into the community by serving the time of their order by conducting work and skills based training, and work that has a benefit in the community. The CPS scheme is operating Nationally and across County Durham.

This serves two purposes: Firstly, to rehabilitate the offender and reduce the risk of re-offending, and secondly so that residents see, and feel the benefit of the work of those who have committed low level crimes within the community.

In general, a CPS group would be one supervisor plus a team of 6 or 7 offenders. They come fully trained, suitably dressed and equipped, and need little in the way of support other than access to welfare facilities.

Consumables ie. paint / brushes etc are to be provided by EVPC. Local tractor / trailer support may be required for some tasks and will therefore require EVPC groundsmen to engage with the CPS Supervisor and team. The hours of work are 0900 – 1500 hrs.

A recent visit to Easington Village identified a number of small projects that are suitable for a CPS group. Some examples are:

The Garth – cutting back the hedges / bushes to open it up and make the footpath feel lighter / safer for pedestrians.

The Form Seat – Repaint the Form Seat and all railings. Renovate / improve the immediate area.

Cemetery – All edging around footpaths. Trimming hedges and trees. Repaint all gates and railings.



Seaton Holme – Renovate and repaint the coal tub and the 'Seaton Holme' wall.

Allotments – Renovate / repaint ISO container

RESOLVED: that the engagement with the Community Placement Service be approved and reviewed in February 2027.

C&G
26/27/037

Report of the Clerk on any further cemetery or grounds issues

Email from resident re: memorial bench fitting in cemetery. Very complimentary message has been passed on to grounds staff.

Email from resident regarding well-kept cemetery. Very complimentary message has been passed on to grounds staff.

Repairs to Thorpe Road playing field gate causing noise nuisance – completed 27 July 26.

Repair to village green swing completed 02 September.

Repair to village green playpark gate – quote received and accepted. Awaiting parts & repair

Entry to Northumbria in Bloom competition & attendance at awards ceremony Wed 16th Sep. Deputy Clerk will be attending.

Community Placement Scheme – MOU signed and planning to start work on The Garth on Friday 11th September. (First 50 m only)
Potentially a longer-term relationship with the Community Placement Scheme

Bench fitting – Village Green. Gardens of Grace quote received and accepted. Work started 07 September.

Allotment Seating Area – two old benches from village green to be re-allocated to Sunderland Road allotment.

Village green playpark benches. Two existing benches. Allocate one from village green centre

Village green perimeter fence repairs. Work started 07 September.

Cemetery Digital Mapping – Awaiting cemetery staff input to comments. Version 2 of the map to be sent to Pear Technology by end of September.

Village memorial stone – in production. Should be in place by mid - October in time for dedication and Armistice Day. Minister of St Mary's Church will be invited to conduct dedication.

Tree works. Tree surveys have been carried out on Thorpe Rd, Village Green and Seaton Holme. A plan of works and cost will be produced shortly.

C&G
26/27/038

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday 02 November 2026 at 1100 hrs in the Milburn Room of Seaton Holme.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

CHAIR

DATE

J Lee
14.9.26

