

**ORDINARY MEETING OF EASINGTON VILLAGE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT 1830 Hrs ON MONDAY 14th September 2026**

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

Staff: Mr Paul Moore (Clerk)

In Attendance: Cllr L Penders DCC
Officer J Parry – Durham & Cleveland Fire Service

Prior to the start of the Council meeting, Officer Justin Parry of Durham and Cleveland Fire Service gave details and statistics of the level of staffing and coverage of firefighting services in the East Durham / Peterlee area. This was in response to questions previously raised by Cllr Dale regarding fire cover in the area. Officer Parry then responded to questions from Councillors and the public.

EVPC 26/27/078 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 26/27/079 Apologies for Absence

Cllr J Ramshaw
Cllr A Dent
Cllr H Brown DCC
Mrs H Hall (Deputy Clerk)

EVPC 26/27/080 Declarations of Interest by members on items on the Agenda

None

EVPC 26/27/081 Public Participation

Two Durham & Cleveland Firefighters and one member of the public.

EVPC 26/27/082 Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of Easington Village Parish Council held on Monday 13 July 2026

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

EVPC/26/27/083 Minutes of the Cemetery & Grounds Committee Meeting held on Monday 07 September 2026

WSD

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

EVPC/26/27/084

Durham Police Report (Easington PCSO's)

Easington crime statistics and Anti -social behaviour incidents from the 5th of May 2026 to 10th September 2026

Burglary – 0

Theft and Handling- 2

17/05/2026 -Carlton Terrace – Plant pots stolen from garden.

03/07/2026 – Building site – Cables stolen from building site.

ASB-

Personal – 0

Nuisance – 6

11/05/2026 – Sunderland Rd – Reports of 5x Off- road bikes.

25/06/2026 – Rymers Cl – Noise Report

25/07/2026 – Local Air BnB – Noise report.

11/08/2026 – Lee House – Reports of Youths gathering and causing a nuisance.

08/09/2026 – Village Green – Reports of Youths gathering and causing a nuisance.

09/09/2026 – Thorpe Rd – Reports of Off-road bikes.

Environmental – 0

Vehicle Crime- 6 –

02/06/2026 – Seaside Ln – Hire van stolen with money inside.

18/08/2026 – Little Thorpe – Camping equipment stolen from Vehicle.

22/05/2026 – West Vw – Car window smashed.

22/05/2026 – Thorpe Rd – Car window smashed.

15/08/2026 – Carlton Ter - Windscreen smashed.

10/09/2026 – Laburnum Cres – vehicles damaged parked up on the roadside.

Criminal Damage-6

12/05/2026 – Low Row – Youths damaged bus stop.

19/05/2026 – Kings Mews – Windows Smashed.

25/05/2026 – Thorpe Rd - Damage to house windows.

17/06/2026 – The village Green – Graffiti on goal posts.

18/08/2026 – North Cr – Graffiti on an address.

WSD

03/09/2026 – Parsley Cl – Damage to house windows.

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

Easington PCSO's are holding a drop-in session at Easington Colliery library on Thursday 8th October 2026 between 2pm and 3pm. Officers from the local team will be available to chat about any issues affecting the community.

The next PACT meeting will be held on Wednesday 18th November 2026 at The Parish Rooms, Crawlaw Road, Easington Colliery.

Please note that PACT meetings are held jointly for both the Colliery and the Village. PACT meetings are specifically for Police issues and are not joint meetings held with our local county councillor.

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

EVPC/26/27/085

Report from Durham County Councillors

Cllr Louise Penders:

Traffic Regulation Order

Work for the proposed double yellow lines will finally be completed mid-October.

House on Clappersgate

The owners had until 19th August to submit planning application for various things which they did not do. It has now gone to the enforcement stage. I will update further when I hear any more but I'm told to expect the applications to be put in on retrospect.

East Grange Court Tree TPO

I visited residents and its clear the tree is damaging external areas of properties. The neighbouring driveway is being ruined by the wall as is the garden the tree is in, the wall that is 100s of years old between the 2 properties keeps being pushed back by the roots. I'm looking at other examples where trees with TPOs have been cut down in conservations areas. An application just went through in Shadforth so I'm keeping an eye on the process in the hope I can help these residents as well.

Off road vehicle

Portfolio holder Kyle Genner has written to the Secretary of State to request more legislation around the purchasing and use of these vehicles. He has also called for more powers for local authorities and the police as well as increased penalties.

WAD

Road sign outside Delanoys / Stockton Rd

This was mentioned at a road safety meeting. DCC are going to see what sign it previously was and replace it. They were unaware it was missing.

RESOLVED: that the County Councillor Reports for September 2026 be noted and accepted.

EVPC/26/27/086

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

None

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

EVPC/26/27/087

EVPC Monthly Financial Report – July 2026

Bank Balance Report at 31/07/26

RESOLVED: that the Bank Balance Report be APPROVED

Bank Transfer Report to 31/07/26

RESOLVED: that the Bank Transfer Report be APPROVED

Expenditure Report to 31/07/26

RESOLVED: that the Expenditure Report be APPROVED.

Income Report to 31/07/26

RESOLVED: that the Income Report be APPROVED.

EVPC/26/27/088

EVPC Monthly Financial Report – August 2026

Bank Balance Report at 31/08/26

RESOLVED: that the Bank Balance Report be APPROVED

Bank Transfer Report to 31/08/26

RESOLVED: that the Bank Transfer Report be APPROVED

Expenditure Report to 31/08/26

RESOLVED: that the Expenditure Report be APPROVED.

Income Report to 31/08/26

RESOLVED: that the Income Report be APPROVED.

WLD

EVPC/26/27/088

Monthly Cash & Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED: that Cllr Dale would make a reconciliation of cash and bank during the week of 21 – 25 September 2026.

EVPC/26/27/089

Local Government Services Pay Award 2026

The Local Government Services Pay Award for 2026 was agreed on 24 August 2026 backdated to 01 April 2026. It is recommended that employers implement this 3.30% increase for all staff as soon as possible.

RESOLVED: that the pay award would be included in the September pay roll.

EVPC/26/27/090

Annual Governance & Accountability Review 2025-2026 (Notice of Completion)

Mazar LLP have completed their review for the year ended 31 March 2026. In accordance with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, the following action has taken place:

Published (including publication on the authority's website) a statement on 04 September to confirm that:

- the review has been concluded and that the statement of accounts has been published;
- the rights of inspection conferred on local government electors by section 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; and
- the address at which, and the hours during which, those rights may be exercised.
- The Parish Council keep copies of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for purchase by any person on payment of a reasonable sum.
- The Annual Governance and Accountability Return remains available for public access for a period of not less than five years beginning with the date on which the Annual Governance and Accountability Return was first published.

The External Auditor's Report gave details of minor scope for improvement in 2026/27. These are:

The authority did not quantify and explain the variance in Box 9 (Total Fixed Assets and Long-Term Investments and Assets) in the significant variances document. As Box 9 is exempt from the 15% threshold, any movement must be fully explained and reconciled to the pound.

Although explanations were subsequently obtained the authority must ensure that for the 2026/2027 AGAR, any variance in Box 9 is clearly quantified and explained within the significant variances document to comply with reporting requirements.

Amendment to the Practitioners' Guide 2026/27 in respect of Section 2 Box 11 Trust Fund Transactions As part of the Accounting Statements (Section 2), the authority is asked to confirm whether there are any trust fund transactions included in the figures. Box 11 has been amended to state the authority should answer based on whether trust fund transactions have been excluded from the AGAR.

We wish to draw attention to a change within the 2026/27 Practitioner's Guide (point 2.32) which confirms the authority will need to respond 'Yes' where the figures include trust fund transactions. We would encourage all authorities to familiarise themselves with the 2026/27 Practitioner's Guide (available on the NALC website) ahead of completing their 2026/27 AGAR. Accessibility Regulations.

We are aware that the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 requirement for a physical 'wet ink' signature on the original AGAR, does not allow parish council's to fully comply with the Accessibility Regulations. The National Audit Office are aware that the two pieces of legislation are not compatible, therefore smaller authorities are advised to make it clear on their website that the document is a scan and will not be fully compliant with the Accessibility Regulations.

RESOLVED: that the Notice of Completion for the 2025/26 Annual Governance and Accountability Review be accepted.

EVPC/26/27/091

Planning Applications

a. Planning Applications – Planning Weekly Lists July / August/ September 2026

List 23 July 26 – DM/26/01744 Fellside, Seaside Lane, Easington Village.
First floor rear extension.

List 30 July 26 – DM/26/01756/FPA 2 Land at Petwell Crescent, Easington Village.
Demolition of existing dwellings and construction of 37 affordable dwellings with associated parking, open space and SUDS.

List 05 Aug 26 – DM/26/01837/FPA Land to north-west of Hallfield Farm, Easington Village.
Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with associated infrastructure, access and ancillary works including drainage, landscaping and bio-diversity enhancements.

List 13 August 2026 – DM/26/02072/FPA 31 St Mary's Close, Easington Village.
Single storey rear extension.

List 13 August 2026 – DM/26/02057/TPO Mill Cottage, Thorpe Road, Easington Village.
Management of trees – T38, T39, T40, T41

RESOLVED: No objections.

b. Planning Decisions – List 31 July 26

DM/26/00869/FPA, 2 Lea Lane, Easington Village (Approved)
Single storey rear extension with rendered finish, installation of canopy to the front elevation.

DM/26/01030/FPA, Unit 1, Cook Way, NW Industrial Estate, Peterlee (Approved)
Installation of 2 x 20 foot shipping containers as hot food takeaway (Retrospective)

DM/26/01416/FPA, 5 Highgrove Court, Little Thorpe (Approved)
Erection of detached sunroom in garden (Retrospective)

DM/26/02056/TCA – T35 Easington Village Green, Sycamore – (Approved)



Remove all deadwood within the canopy, pruning back.

DM/26/020058 – Trees requiring management. Seaton Holme, Easington Village.
T6, T7, T8, T9, T13, T18, T19, T20, T21, T23, T29 – (Approved)

RESOLVED: No observations.

- c. **Planning Refusals** – None to report.
- d. **Planning Applications Withdrawn** – None to report
- e. **Planning Appeals / Objections** – None to report
- f. **Other Planning Matters:**

Letter from Grahame Morris MP to Ministers of State for Housing and Planning and Energy. (In response to a query from Cllr Ramshaw). Cllrs expressed their appreciation for Mr Morris letter.

RESOLVED: That this information be received and noted.

Confirmation has been received from Planning Enforcement regarding an investigation into facilities within the village.

RESOLVED: That this information be received and noted.

EVPC/26/27/092

EVPC Confirmation of Council Re-Commitment to Civility and Respect Pledge

RESOLVED: that the Chairman sign the pledge on behalf of the Council.

EVPC/26/27/093

Verbal Report from the Clerk on matters not covered elsewhere.

1	SH Maintenance Working Group was formed in July. – Need 3 Cllrs to form group. Cllr Day and Cllr Dale volunteered.
2	Village Tree survey complete and quote for tree works received. Work to be split into 3 areas. Thorpe Rd, Village Green and Seaton Holme. Date: TBC
3	Birds mouth fence around village green has been repaired. The fences around memorial trees have been removed to allow trees to develop. Brass plaques are in office and will be re-installed in the spring 2027
4	4 x new benches and 3 x bins have been installed on VG. Awaiting DCC to repair playground gate spring. Possibility of a bench placed in play park.
5	EVPC Payroll provider – April 2027 onwards. Looking at options. Will bring to Council in Oct / Nov.
6	Cemetery mapping – want to send this off by end September. Cemetery staff are involved and consulted.



7	Kings Mews Manager (Darren Ellis) keen to meet Council – suggested date Monday 28 September at 1700 hrs.
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It was **RESOLVED**: that the information is received be NOTED

EVPC/26/27/094 **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Council Ordinary Meeting - Monday 12 October 2026 at 1800 Hrs.

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

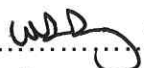
RESOLVED: that the information given be NOTED.

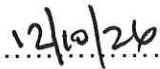
EVPC/26/27/095 **Exclusion of the Press and Public** – In accordance with Section 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

None

The meeting closed at 1935 hrs.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

Chairman 

Date 

Distribution / Publication:

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