

**BRANDON & BYSHOTTLES PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN**  
**THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 6, GOATBECK TERRACE,**  
**LANGLEY MOOR, DURHAM, DH7 8JJ**  
**ON FRIDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MAY 2026, AT 6.30 PM**

**Present:**

Councillor S Leckenby (Chair)

Councillors, P Askill, D Bell, A Bonner, F Bonner, J S Burt, J C Chapman, P A B Elmer, J Grantham, D Hindmarch, J E Hirst, J Jamieson, E H Simpson, F D Simpson, C J Smith, P Stoddart, J A Turnbull, and M Wilson.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mrs C Dixon (Clerk) and 4 members of the public

**1. Election of Chair for 2026/27**

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Sarah Leckenby be elected Chair for the 2026/27 year.

The newly elected Chair signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The newly elected Chair presented the past Chairman's medal to Councillor Jamieson and thanked him for his service.

It was also announced that Eva Leckenby would act as the Chair's Consort.

**2. Election of Vice- Chair for 2025/26**

**RESOLVED:** that Councillor D Bell be elected Vice-Chair for the 2026/27 year.

**3. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies received from Councillors D Bregazzi, D Rowland and Mrs S Cash (Assistant Clerk)

**RESOLVED:** To **RECEIVE** the apologies. To **NOTE** there were no apologies received from Cllr M Wall.

**4. Declarations of Interest & Requests for Dispensations**

Declarations of interest were received from the following:

Item 19 and 24 - Cllr J Grantham Brandon Carrside - Committee Member.

Item 19 and 24 - Cllr S Leckenby - Brandon Carrside - Committee Member.

Item 19 and 24 - Cllr J Turnbull - Brandon Carrside - Committee Member.

**RESOLVED:** To **RECEIVE** the declarations of interest.

**5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026.**

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026 were **CONFIRMED** as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**6. Allotment Meeting Minutes**

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026 were received.

**7. Review Committees & Working Groups, Scheme of Delegation and Terms of Reference**

**RESOLVED:** That consideration of the Committees & Working Groups, Scheme of Delegation and Terms of Reference be **DEFERRED** to a Special Meeting of the Council to allow them to be further reviewed and considered.

**8. Standing Orders Review**

**RESOLVED:** That consideration of the Standing Orders be **DEFERRED** to a Special Meeting of the Council to allow requested amendments to be reviewed and considered.

**9. Financial Regulations Review**

**RESOLVED:** to **APPROVE** Financial Regulations.

**10. Complaints Procedure Review**

**RESOLVED:** That consideration of the Complaints Procedure be **DEFERRED** to a Special Meeting of the Council to allow requested amendments to be reviewed and considered.

**11. Calendar of Meetings 2026/27**

**RESOLVED:** to **APPROVE** the calendar of meetings for 2026/27.

**12. Representatives to Outside Bodies – to appoint the following representatives for 2026/2027.**

**a) County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) including Larger Councils Forum**

**RESOLVED:** to **APPOINT** Councillors D Bell, P Stoddart and the Clerk as representatives for the 2026/27 year;

**b) National Association of Councillors**

**RESOLVED:** to **APPOINT** Councillors D Bell and A Bonner as representatives for the 2026/27 year;

**c) Mid-Durham Parish Councils Committee**

**RESOLVED:** to **APPOINT** Councillors D Bell, A Bonner, J Turnbull and the Clerk as representatives for the 2026/27 year;

**d) Brandon Table Tennis Club**

**RESOLVED:** to **APPOINT** Councillor J Grantham as representative for the 2026/27 year;

**e) Brandon Carrside Youth & Community Project**

**RESOLVED:** to **APPOINT** Councillors J Jamieson and D Simpson as representatives for the 2026/27 year;

**13. Subscriptions**

**RESOLVED:** to **APPROVE** the subscriptions for 2026/27 to the following representative bodies:

**a) County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC)**

**b) Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC)**

**c) National Association of Councillors (NAC)**

**d) The National Allotment Society (NAS)**

**e) The Open Spaces Society**

**14. Chair's Allowance**

**RESOLVED:** to **CONFIRM** the Chair's Allowance at £1,513 as per the agreed budget for 2026/27. Cllrs E Simpson and D Simpson abstaining from the vote.

#### **15. Bank Signatories**

**RESOLVED:** to **CONFIRM** the bank signatories for the Council's accounts with The Cooperative Bank as Councillors D Bell, A Bonner, J Turnbull, J Burt, D Hindmarsh, D Simpson the Clerk and Assistant Clerk, and the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund as Councillors D Bell, A Bonner, J Turnbull, the Clerk and Assistant Clerk.

*The Chair varied the order of business and agreed that Agenda Item 16 and 17 would be brought forward and taken before Agenda Item 7.*

**16. Public Participation** – to receive any questions or representations from members of the public.

**RESOLVED:** There was **NO** public participation.

#### **17. Presentation of Donations**

**a. Esh Winning Residents Association**

**b. Browney Residents Association**

**RESOLVED:** There were no representatives present.

#### **18. Donations**

**a. Durham Jets Netball Club**

**RESOLVED:** To **APPROVE** £200 from the Ushaw Moor ward.

**b. Browney Residents Association**

**RESOLVED:** To **DEFER** the request until the special meeting of the Council when the Grants Awarding Policy will be discussed.

#### **19. Brandon Carrside**

**RESOLVED:** to **NOTE** there was no report provided.

#### **20. Planning Applications**

DM/26/00361/FPA Mrs Tracey Anne Pears -Land north west of The Robins, Browney Lane, Browney, Durham, DH7 8HU - Erection of 1 no. dwelling and garage.

DM/26/00918/VOC Mr Paul Aitchinson - White House, Cockhouse Lane, Ushaw Moor Durham, DH7 7PW - Variation of condition no.2 in relation to previous planning application DM/19/02830/FPA.

**RESOLVED:** to **NOTE** there were no comments or objections raised to any of the planning applications.

#### **21. Invoices for payment**

Authorisation was requested to pay accounts for £19,942.74 and additional list of £680.31.

**RESOLVED:** To authorise payment of the accounts amounting to £20,623.05 to be checked and verified by two Councillors.

**22. Bank Transfer**

**RESOLVED:** To **APPROVE** the request of £10,000 being transferred.

**23. NAC Executive Committee**

**RESOLVED:** to **APPROVE** Cllr D Bell's attendance.

**24. Brandon Carrside Youth & Community Project Toilet Refurbishment**

**RESOLVED:** To **APPROVE** that ward Councillors from Central and South ward discuss and agree the split between the wards and inform the Clerk.

**25. Durham Miners Gala**

**RESOLVED:** To **APPROVE** a half page advert.

**26. Play Area Inspections**

**RESOLVED:** To **NOTE** the information and request that inspections sheets be provided by Durham County Council.

**27. Broompark Play Area Complaint**

**RESOLVED:** To **RECEIVE** the information.

The meeting closed at 18.56 PM

Signed .....

Date .....