MINUTES OF ELDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2025

Attendance: **Councillors: Gibson, Pennington & Troup**
County Councillor Ramage Public Participation: 2
Clerk: J Linsley

Item No.	Agenda	Ref
1.	**Welcome & Introductions, including Filming & Audio Recording Statement** It was noted that at this meeting the Clerk made written notes for the purpose of producing an accurate account of the minutes **Resolved:** Noted	D050/25
2.	**Apologies, acceptance or otherwise** Apologies received from Cllr's Anderson & Henry **Resolved:** Noted	D051/25
3.	**Disclosure of Interests, pecuniary or personnel** Disclosure of any personal or prejudicial interests by Councillors in relation to any matters to be considered at the meeting **Resolved: Item D**	D052/25
4.	**Any Applications for Dispensations** To consider applications for Dispensations from Councillors on this matter at this/future meeting **Resolved:** Item d059/25	D053/25
5.	**Minutes** The minutes of the Meeting held on 16th September 2025 were approved by Cllr's Gibson & Pennington **Resolved:** Noted	D054/25
6.	**Questions – to deal with any issues raised by members of the public** Mr Oxley a resident in Old Eldon, raised the matter of Financial Investment and Cllr Ramage explained that the 'pots of money' received in Spennymoor were not likely to replicate in Bishop Auckland, the main investment was the £23mill received by the 'Ruther' projects in the market place. In addition, DCC had been shortsighted in leasing off North Bondgate Carpark for a 125-year lease with no plans to review	D055/25

	the rental income. Cllr Ramage had raised the matter with Subsidy Control in respect of the Auckland Project and the investment received by DCC over the past few years. The NE Mayor had invested £2.2mill for the 'Stack' to be built in Newgate Street. Cllr Ramage suggested that the 'Steadings' skills base got involved with the Parish Council, to help to identify projects that could attract investment. Mr Oxley brought to the attention of the Council the complaint he had raised with DCC regarding the blocked drain in Old Eldon. Mr Oxley to provide the FS Case Reference. **Resolved:** Clerk to chase DCC on receipt of the case number.	
7.	**Reports** **a.** From representatives on Outside Bodies or attending Outside Bodies A report from DCC Neighbourhoods Wardens was circulated, to demonstrate the work that they are doing on a daily basis. **Resolved:** Noted **b.** From County Councillors - County Councillors are invited to all Parish Council meetings to report/discuss ongoing issues. Cllr Ramage asked that we look at footpaths and public rights of way, walk the routes, and see what improvements can be made, and he would look at providing money from his budget to make improvements. The clerk advised that she was in touch with the PROW as EPC had reported obstructed footpaths. **Resolved:** Noted	D056/25
8.	**Eldon Community Partnership Updates** **a.** Halloween Disco was well attended **b.** The date for the next summer fayre is 11th July 2026 **c.** Pensioners Christmas Dinner Saturday 13th December **d.** Childrens Disco 19th December The clerk advised that they had put in application for funding of IT equipment and were looking for funding for a community garden and refurbishment of the bar area.	D057/25
9.	**Correspondence/Communications Received** **a.** Emails from Mike Thornton Old Eldon Resident regarding financial investment in Eldon, a meeting was held to discuss the matter and Mr Thornton said that he would bring the matter to the attention of Cllr Ramage. **Resolved:** Noted **b.** Complaint re rubbish in rear garden in Eldon Bank, whist the majority of the rubbish had been cleared, there was still mirrored doors, a trampoline and a paddling pool in the front garden, The	D058/25

	Clerk had reported it online and the neighbourhood warden was investigating with the landlord. **Resolved:** Noted **c.** An updated list of outcomes and open FS Cases had been received from DCC. **Resolved:** The clerk continues to chase up open cases **d.** There will be a road closure at Eldon Lane overnight on 5th December for landscape work at the railway bridge. **Resolved:** Noted	
10.	**Application for Grants & Donations** ECP requested a donation to pay for the Insurance for the Community Centre and for Discos and Pensioners Meals and gardening, these were in the 2025/6 budget so were approved. A request was made for £1000 to repair the storage building roof, this was essential works as the units were needed for the storage of items used for the community. The donation was granted **Resolved:** All donations granted, the Clerk advised that no further donations were available in this financial year.	D059/25
11.	**Environment and Land** 1. The Trees above Pastures Row will be replanted as there are a number that have died due to drought conditions. 2. The hedgerows had been cut, including part of a DCC hedge that was obstructing a path. 3. Untidy Gardens were being investigated by the Neighbourhood Warden and an update would follow in the new year 4. Litter Picking had been requested online throughout the village particularly Main Road **Resolved:** The Clerk to contact Rob George to ask them not to block access to EPC land by planting too close to the hedgerow	D060/25
12.	**Planning Matters** In respect of the land off Pastures Row, DCC failed to attend the magistrates court so the case was dismissed. Cllr Ramage to raise the matter with Legal & Planning and pursue the FOI request **Resolved:** Noted	D061/25
13.	**Update on Target Hardening** **a.** CCTV No further update from Kate Ward, the relay needs replacing and it has yet to be received.	D062/25

	Resolved: Clerk to email Cllr. Ramage to escalate the matter	
14.	**Any questions from members for the Clerk or Chairman** Paul Henry had emailed the clerk to say that he would be resigning as Vice Chair in the New Year due to a change in family circumstances **Resolved:** The Clerk to notify Electoral Services on receipt of the resignation letter.	D063/25
15.	**Date of next meeting** 6th January 7.00pm	D064/25
16.	**2026/7 Budget** The clerk presented the 3 options for the forthcoming budget, whilst the outcome of the vote at DCC to introduce a contribution of 10% towards the council tax by all residents, who were previously in receipt of the LCTRS. **Resolved:** Councillors to review and suggest any changes in the meeting on the 6th January.	D065/25
17.	**Vouchers/Income/Expenditure** The cheques were signed and the accounts signed off	D066/25

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed by the Chairman  date 06.01.2026

Tuesday 6th January 2026 (meeting needs to be earlier because of budget setting and precept request to DCC)
Tuesday 17h March 2026
Tuesday 19th May 2026