MINUTES OF ELDON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18TH MAY 2026

Attendance: **Councillors: Gibson, Pennington, Anderson & Troup**
Ward Councillor: James Stephenson
Public Participation: 1 and Safer Places Officer K Ward
Clerk: J Linsley

Item No.	Agenda	Ref
1.	**Election of Chairman for the 2026/27 Municipal Year** Cllr John Gibson was elected as Chairman by a show of hands	D001/26
2.	**Election of Vice Chairman for the 2026/27 Municipal Year** Cllr Dawn Anderson was elected as Vice Chair	D002/26
3.	**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	D003/26
4.	**Apologies, acceptance or otherwise** Cllr W Troup was absent from the meeting and apologies were received **Resolved:** Noted	D004/26
5.	**Disclosure of Interests, pecuniary or personnel** All Councillors completed the updated version of the form, in accordance with the advice from NALC **Resolved:** Noted	D005/26
6.	**Any Applications for Dispensations** All Councillors completed the form giving dispensation rights for a further 4 years, being their term of office. **Resolved:** Cllr B Troup to complete the forms by end of June	D006/26
7.	**Minutes** The minutes of the Meeting held on 11th March 2025 were approved by Cllr's Gibson & Pennington. **Resolved:** Noted	D007/26

8.	**Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour** No information was received from Durham Police. Safer Places Officer Kate Ward attended the meeting to update the Council on the CCTV Installation. The equipment had been upgraded and it was agreed that Cllr Gibson & Liam Donkin (Neighbourhood Warden) would receive training to use the equipment and monitor the CCTV in the event if there was an incident. **Resolved:** Noted	D008/26
9.	**Questions – to deal with any issues raised by members of the public** The residents at the Steadings proposed a footpath to Middridge Village, Mr K Oxley to provide the map and information ahead of the next meeting so that an application for funding can be presented to the Ward Councillors. Mr Oxley notified the Council that the long-awaited chevron sign on the sharp bend in the village had finally been installed. . **Resolved:** Noted Cllr Stephenson was in attendance and he discussed several issues that are happening in the Ward of Shildon, Dene Valley & Coundon. Cllr Gibson, updated him on the issues with housing, S106 Monies, lack of investment and the work of Eldon Community Partnership. Cllr Stephenson said he may be able to financially support the Summer Fayre in July. **Resolved:** Noted	D009/26
10.	**Appointments of Representatives on Outside Bodies for 2026/27** The Clerk raised the matter of the Councillors having no representation in recent years on any of the following committees and forums. (a) Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP Local Councils Committee (2 members) (b) Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP or its Task and Finish Groups (c) Police and Crime Commissioner Community Panel (Bishop Auckland) (1 member) (d) CDALC Smaller Local Councils Forum (Up to 2 members plus Clerk) (e) SCYPAN (f) South Durham Residents, Business and Travellers Forum (1 member plus/or Clerk) The Councillors stated that they did not want to be represent Eldon on any outside bodies, however they agree that the Clerk could represent the Parish Council at the CDALC Smaller Councils meetings. **Resolved:** Noted	D010/26

11.	**Dates and times of future meetings** The following dates, were approved for the upcoming year: Tuesday 14h July 2026 6.30pm Tuesday 15th September 2026 6.30pm Tuesday 17th November 2026 6.30pm Tuesday 5th January 2027 (meeting needs to be earlier because of budget setting and precept request to DCC) Tuesday 16th March 2027 6.30pm Tuesday 18th May 2027 7.00pm **Resolved:** Noted and to be publicised on the Parish Noticeboard and website	D011/26
12.	**Date for Parish Residents Annual Meeting** The following dates, were approved for the upcoming year: Tuesday 18th May 2027 at 6.30pm **Resolved:** Noted	D012/26
13.	**Reports** **a.** From representatives on Outside Bodies or attending Outside Bodies No reports had been received and no attendance from outside bodies **Resolved:** Noted **b.** From County Councillors - County Councillors are invited to all Parish Council meetings to report/discuss ongoing issues. **Resolved:** The Clerk to write to Councillors to ask them notify them of the upcoming meetings,	D013/26
14.	**Eldon Community Partnership Updates** **a. Cornforth Partnership** There was no uptake for the Mens Gardening Club or the Toodelr Group, which was disappointing. **Resolved:** Noted **b**. Planning for Village Fayre The Clerk advised that there was no Face painter booked and that the Summer Fayre Clashed with Durham Miners Gala, so would look at an alternative such as a children's tattoo painter. **Resolved:** The Clerk to procure a face painter,	D015/26
15.	**Annual Accounts** The 2025/2026 accounts were presented to the Full Council in	D016/26

	preparation for the accounts to go to the new Internal Auditor Gordon Fletcher. Cllr. Gibson signed the accounts as a true record of the transactions of the Parish Council **Resolved:** Clerk to take the Accounts for Audit.	
15.	**Date of next meeting** 14th July 2026 6.30pm	D017/26
16.	**Vouchers/Invoices & Income/Expenditure** Cllr. Gibson & the Clerk signed the cheques for salaries and invoices **Resolved:** Cheques were signed by two authorised signatories	D018/26

The meeting closed at 8.23pm

Signed by the Chairman……date……..