

GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
9th October 2025

IN ATTENDANCE

Chair - Councillor D Hales
Councillors - M Elgie, C Hales,
L Jackson, S Jackson, K Logan, P Savage, A Smith
Emma McCann, Town Clerk (TC)
County Councillors Cathy Hunt, Emma Hunt
3 residents

Meeting started at 6.00pm.

WELCOME

Councillor D Hales welcomed everyone in attendance.

Andrew Smith, Chair of Springfield Allotment Association, was presented with an award for his late father, Bert Smith. Bert dedicated over 40 years to the Allotment Association, offering advice and support to all allotment holders, this award recognises his commitment.

John Glasper was presented with an award for all his time and dedication alongside Bert, in helping to manage the site.

Jackie Fleming was presented with an award for everything he has done for Park Top Allotments and for all the help he has provided across other sites when needed.

Well done to all three allotmenters. We appreciate all you have done for the Town Council.

58-2526 NOTICE OF MEETING

It was confirmed that a Public Notice of the Meeting has been given in accordance with Schedule 12, paragraph 10(2) of the LGA 1972.

59-2526 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

60-2526 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received. Councillors were reminded that they could declare an interest on anything on the agenda at the start of the topic.

61-2526 MEMBERS DISPENSATIONS

None received.

62-2526 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None received.

Signed by the Chair _____
Dated: 13th November 2025

63-2526 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 11TH SEPTEMBER 2025

i. Matters arising

Under Public Participation - A response was provided to Mr Wooff regarding his proposal. Councillors have already received this via email. The public toilet door and lock have been repaired but there is still an issue with the toilet as its continuously flushing. A repair request has been made to have this looked at asap. We will be updated when this has been resolved.

ii. To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11th September 2025

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11th September 2025, as written, and circulated were agreed as a true record.

Proposed Councillor Elgie

Seconded Councillor Smith

iii. Chair of the Meeting to sign the minutes as a true record

Councillor D Hales signed the minutes as a true record.

64-2526 PLANNING

i. To consider valid planning applications that have been received

- DM/25/02415/CEU – 3A Commercial Street, Willington - This application seeks a Certificate of Lawfulness under Section 191 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the use of a container as a self-contained dwellinghouse (Use Class C3)

ii. To acknowledge any decisions on previous planning applications received

- DM/25/01952/DRC - Our Lady And St Thomas RC Primary School, Cumberland Terrace, Willington - Discharge of condition 4 (canopy details) pursuant to DM/24/03326/FPA
Approved 12 September 2025
- DM/25/01290/FPA - Boyne Cottage, Park Street, Willington - Retention of fence on garden wall
Approved 17 September 2025 – BNG Not Required
- DM/25/01225/FPA - Oxenhope House, 2 Hunwick Lane, Sunnybrow - Demolition of existing garage and replacement with new ground floor wrap around side and rear extension with pitched roof. Extension of two front bay windows on ground and first floors
Approved 24 September 2025 – BNG Not Required
- DM/25/02103/DRC - Phoenix House, 29 Watling Terrace, Willington - Discharge of conditions 3 (windows - front elevation only - retrospective), 5 (WSI) and 6 (Post Investigation Assessment) pursuant to DM/21/00429/FPA
Approved 24 September 2025

65-2526 TO CONSIDER THE ALLOTMENT REPORT

Councillor C Hales confirmed the next allotment reviews will be taking place on 3rd November 2025.

He went on to thank Jackie Fleming for his help across all sites.

Signed by the Chair _____

Dated: 13th November 2025

There has been an issue of security on one site due to padlocks being removed. This has now been resolved.

All sites are functioning well. It is now the quiet part of the season where tenants will be starting to plant winter vegetables.

All empty plots have been offered to the next people on the waiting lists.

Some have accepted. Some are still needing to confirm if they want to take them.

Thank you to Emma McCann, Town Clerk and Councillor Smith for all their support in helping to manage the allotments.

66-2526 BANK RECONCILIATION

i. To approve the Bank Reconciliation for September 2025

The Council began in September 2025 with a starting balance of £100,001.02.

There was expenditure of £10,302.44 and £0.00 credits, leaving an end balance of £89,698.58.

Proposed Councillor Logan

Seconded Councillor Elgie

67-2526 BUDGET REPORT 2025-2026

i. To approve the Budget Report for September 2025

The budget report for September 2025 was circulated prior to the meeting for consideration.

The TC reported the Budget for 2025-2026 is now £172,594.22 following approval at the last meeting in September 2025.

The current spend to date is £100,155.47 with further committed costs of £16,579.16. This leaves an available resource on budget of £55,859.59.

Proposed Councillor Smith

Seconded Councillor L Jackson

ii. To approve Financial Decisions

The AGAR is now complete. The approved documents were received from Mazars and displayed in the office window and website in accordance with the guidelines. This has been passed.

Acorn Stairlift – Annual Cost £325. 4 year period £695 (£173.75 per year).

Proposed Councillor C Hales

Seconded Councillor S Jackson

New Signage – IRO £2,000 (remove old sign, supply and install new sign).

There will be remedial works to do behind the sign and pointing to the front and back of the building. We have been advised by contractors that this is a job for early Spring.

Replacement window – rear of the Community Hub - £890. Further quotes pending.

Resolved1: Update councillors with full costs when all received.

Proposed Councillor C Hales

Seconded Councillor L Jackson

Signed by the Chair _____

Dated: 13th November 2025

TO RECEIVE TOWN COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Smith gave an update on Coronation Terrace. She informed members that there had been workmen on site approximately six weeks ago. Councillor Smith and Councillor D Hales attended the site and the workmen said they were doing investigative works. She has already sent an email to our local MP. Lots of residents are still struggling with mental health as this issue still isn't resolved since the explosion in June 2024. There are issues with other properties within the parish - this has also been highlighted to the MP. County Councillor Cathy Hunt said she has also highlighted this issue. She will contact the MP also and the insurance companies involved.

The Town Clerk said she had received concerns from residents in the vicinity of Kensington Terrace of potential burglaries. She asked that everyone is vigilant and make sure their homes are secure. This has also been reported to the Police. Councillor Smith advised the Town Clerk to bring it to the attention of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office and the Neighbourhood Wardens.

Councillor Savage said she has been in contact with the Youth Justice Service. The young people will plant this year on the grassed area near the War Memorial. This will be done following risk assessments.

Councillor Elgie asked County Councillor Emma Hunt if there was any progress on what was discussed at the last meeting regarding the allotments at the rear of Wareham Way and Helmington Grove. County Councillor Emma Hunt confirmed that she has a meeting scheduled with an officer from DCC on Saturday and they will make a visit to the allotments.

Councillor D Hales asked the County Councillors if they were able to help with having the flags removed from the lamp posts in the town on High Street and Commercial Street, as she understands DCC have advised their employees not to remove the flags. The columns are due to be tested, and the flags are causing an obstruction. The flags would need to be removed until around 5th January 2026. County Councillor Emma Hunt informed Councillor D Hales that she knows the person who put up the flags, and she will ask him to remove them for the festive period. Councillor D Hales thanked Emma Hunt for this. She explained that if the flags were not removed, we would not be able to install the Christmas decorations this year.

Councillor D Hales reminded members of the awards that were won at Northumbria In Bloom. A thank you event was held on 25th September 2025 to say well done to everyone who helped in making the town bloom.

Councillor D Hales and Councillor C Hales had attended St Stephens Church on 28th September 2025 to present the Church with their gold award from Northumbria In Bloom.

They have also been invited by Oakenshaw Community Association to attend their War and miners memorial dedication service on Sunday 12th October 2025. The residents of Oakenshaw will be parading with the facsimile banner. Councillor D Hales reminded fellow Councillors of the Halloween Disco that we have organised, is to be held at Willington WMC on Wednesday 22nd October 2025 starting at 4.45pm till 6.45pm.

There will be first, second and third prizes for children's fancy dress.

If any councillors are available to help on the night, please let the Town Clerk know in advance.

Signed by the Chair _____

Dated: 13th November 2025

69-2526

TO RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

County Councillor Cathy Hunt said they have been working with Willington FC on the licence for the container.

The issues relating to a resident at Park Terrace is still ongoing. There have been conditions placed on the resident which must be adhered to. If there are any other issues occurring, people are encouraged to report them to the Police.

A meeting has been arranged with the Chief Inspector which will be taking place soon in relation to the issues with motorbikes across the towns.

County Councillors are currently dealing with an average caseload.

They have been in contact with the developers from the bottom end of Willington and it has been confirmed that they are responsible for the roundabout. The developers have designed some plans for this.

Some of the plants on the grassland opposite Cottles will be moved to the roundabout. Councillor Savage raised concerns that this would cause visibility issues. County Councillor Cathy Hunt said the roundabout would be maintained regularly.

They are looking to add additional road markings on the roundabout as it is currently causing problems.

County Councillor Emma Hunt said they have located money for a play area at Low Willington. This is to be investigated. Councillor S Jackson asked who would be responsible for the Parks. Would DCC only maintain them for 10 years. County Councillor Cathy Hunt said that it is possible an SLA will be in place going forward on who would be maintaining the areas.

County Councillor Emma Hunt informed councillors that the new equipment on the town green play park will be the same as what was there previously. The camera that will be placed on the park is moveable, which means it can be relocated to cover hot spot areas.

There will be more road surfacing works being carried out due to the conditions of roads within the parish.

They are looking to put more money into Clean and Green.

County Councillor Cathy Hunt said there is still plenty of money left in the Area Budget. She would like some ideas on what can be done across the areas of benefit so that the money can be split evenly. She would like the residents to decide on how the money is spent, not just have the Councillors decide.

They are also working on having a seat located on the grassland opposite Cottles. This is to raise awareness on Suicide. It will include QR codes to mental health teams for people to get in touch with. There will be an option for families to have a plaque put on the bench with their family members memory honoured.

70-2526

S137 PAYMENTS

i. To consider Community Fund Applications

None received.

ii. To consider Civic Fund Applications

None received.

71-2526

CO-OPTION

i. To update on second Co-option Round

Signed by the Chair _____

Dated: 13th November 2025

We have received applications from two residents within the Parish who are eligible to be town councillor.

ii. To agree next steps

To meet with the two applicants for an informal chat. They can then sign their declaration of office and be invited to the next town council meeting in November.

Proposed Councillor Smith

Seconded Councillor L Jackson

72-2526 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

The Town Council office will be closed week commencing 20th October 2025. It will reopen at 9am on Monday 27th October 2025.

73-2526 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Ordinary Meeting – Thursday 13th November 2025

The meeting concluded at 6.48pm.