GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
8th October 2026

IN ATTENDANCE

Chair - Councillor D Hales

Councillors – T Alderson, M Elgie, C Hales, M Hall
L Jackson, K Logan, A Smith

Emma McCann, Town Clerk (TC)

Meeting began at 6.00pm.

WELCOME

Councillor D Hales welcomed everyone in attendance and went through the safety procedures in the event of a fire.

54-2627 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.

55-2627 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors J Guthrie and S Jackson.
Proposed Councillor Elgie
Seconded Councillor Logan

56-2627 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None received. Councillors were reminded that they could declare an interest on an item on the agenda at the beginning of the item.

57-2627 MEMBERS DISPENSATIONS

None received.

58-2627 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A tenant from our Oakenshaw Allotment site attended the meeting to receive an award in recognition of their efforts and achievements in maintaining their allotment plots. They were congratulated and presented with a certificate.

59-2627 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 10TH SEPTEMBER 2026

i. **Matters arising**
None.

ii. **To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10th September 2026**
The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10th September 2026 as written and circulated were agreed as a true record.
Proposed Councillor Hall
Seconded Councillor L Jackson

Signed by the Chair _____
Dated: 12th November 2026

iii. Chair of the Meeting to sign the minutes as a true record
Councillor D Hales signed the minutes as a true record.

60-2627 PLANNING

i. To consider valid planning applications that have been received
DM/26/01919/FPA - Rose Hall, Lydia Street, Willington - Conversion of hall to 2 apartments (Use C3). Install solar panels and roof lights, construct pitched roof over part flat roofed offshoot, replace windows in white UPVC, extend front boundary wall and erect timber fence to garden area
For information Only

ii. To acknowledge any decisions on previous planning applications received
DM/26/02026/FPA - 28 Railway Terrace, Willington - Single storey sun room extension
Approved 15 September 2026 BNG Not Required

61-2627 TO CONSIDER THE ALLOTMENT REPORT

Councillor C Hales said there is not a lot to report this month. Himself and the Town Clerk are working on filling vacant plots.
A visit to Rosedale and Victoria Allotment site is to be undertaken soon which is not part of the review process. There are a few management issues to sort.

62-2627 BANK RECONCILIATION

i. To approve the Bank Reconciliation for September 2026
The Council began in September 2026 with a starting balance of £125,862.97. There was expenditure of £15,091.60 and credits of £2,000 due to successful funding from Point North. This leaves an end balance of £112,771.37.
Proposed Councillor Smith
Seconded Councillor C Hales

63-2627 BUDGET REPORT 2026-2027

i. To approve the Budget Report for August 2026
The budget for 2026-2027 has been increased £163,997.52 due to the £2,000 funding from Point North for Halloween and Pantomime and £300 which was funding awarded last year from Charity Shop 4 U but is being spent in this financial year.
There has been a total spend to date of £73,853.08 with committed costs of £1,639. This leaves an available resource on budget of £88,505.44
Proposed Councillor Smith
Seconded Councillor C Hales

ii. To approve financial decisions
None at present.

64-2627 TO RECEIVE TOWN COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor D Hales said she didn't have much to report this month.
Forthcoming events

Signed by the Chair _____
Dated: 12th November 2026

Halloween Disco on Friday 30th October 2026 from 1.30pm till 3.30pm. This will be held at Willington WMC. If any councillor is able to help, please let the Town Clerk know.
Remembrance Sunday on 8th November 2026. If any councillors would like to join us in processing from St Stephens Church to the War Memorial, we usually leave at 2.45pm.
Armistice Day on Wednesday 11th November 2026 at 10.50pm at the George Burdon McKean site. All the local schools have been invited.
Pantomime – the date has changed to Saturday 7th November 2026 at 3pm. If any councillors would like to help, please let the Town Clerk know.
Winter Wonderland is in hand for 11th December 2026. It will begin at 4pm until 8pm. It will be a magical evening on the Town Green for everyone.
Councillor Smith said she will be sending another email to Mary Kelly Foy regarding Coronation Terrace. How is it ever going to be resolved?! It is really hard for the residents who are living among this daily.
Councillor C Hales said he had a visit to Durham Hospital as an NHS Foundation Trust Public Governor. The Town Mayor is involved in this too. He attended an all day inspection and was very impressed with the services offered. He was particularly impressed with the x-ray department, all brand new, up to date, state of the art equipment.
County Councillor C Hunt said she will feed back this to the CQC.
Councillor Logan thanked councillors for prizes for the bingo afternoon. The group is about getting people out socialising. She asked if there will be a Warm Space this year. The Town Clerk said she is looking for funding opportunities but will be reviewing our budget before next meeting.
Councillor Hall said she had been reporting issues of dog fouling in the area. Signs have been displayed but more are needed. She had reported about the gate in the river near the pay bridge. County Councillor C Hunt said she will chase this with DCC. Councillor Hall asked how we choose who will light the Christmas Tree lights at the Switch On. Councillor D Hales said in her role as Mayor, she has asked Parkside Academy students and another student from the Primary Schools. This year the idea was to ask an elderly resident from the area. This person will be asked in due course. This was acknowledged by all councillors.

65-2627 TO RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

County Councillor C Hunt said the doorbell camera project had been signed off this week and is due to be rolled out.
Regarding dog poo, Neighbourhood Wardens now have more power to issue fines on the spot. Only in certain areas for now.
The play park on the town green is due to start soon. The delay was the CCTV element. They are in new negotiations for better equipment.
The works to the roundabout at the bottom of Willington will start in the next two weeks.
She has been in discussions about a play park at Low Willington, it has had a slow start but it is on the move.
Willington Cricket Club has received the full amount of s106 money that they applied for. The road is owned by Persimmon so they are going to speak to them regarding releasing that land.

Signed by the Chair _____
Dated: 12th November 2026

She also mentioned the homelessness issues within the area. She said that County Councillor E Hunt would appreciate a pin when locating homeless people.

66-2627 S137 PAYMENTS

i. To consider Community Fund Applications

Greater Willington Environmental Improvement Group have asked for £500 towards the cost of Willington Flower Beds. The total project costs is £699. All necessary documentation has been received. Councillors D Hales, C Hales and Smith declared an interest.

Resolved1. Approve £500.

Proposed Councillor L Jackson

Seconded Councillor Alderson

Willington Open Door Methodist Church thanked the Town Council for their funding award of £500.

ii. To consider Civic Fund Applications

None received.

67-2627 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

None.

68-2627 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Ordinary Meeting – Thursday 12th November 2026 at 6pm.

The meeting concluded at 6.47pm.

Signed by the Chair _____

Dated: 12th November 2026