Minutes of the annual meeting of Shotton Parish Council held in Shotton Community Hub, Bridge Road, Shotton Colliery, County Durham, DH6 2PQ, on Monday 29th June 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors I. Cochrane (Chairman); D. Brooks; J. A. Dale; L. Hill.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. K. Murray-Hetherington (Parish Clerk); County Councillor H. Brown (Durham County Council) and nine members of the public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Mr. D. Blakey asked the Parish Council to consider his written application for a grant of financial assistance. Mr. G. Coxon asked the Parish Council to consider his written application for grant funding. Mr. D. Beeston was advised that a report on his proposal relating to football pitch availability and facilities for rugby and cricket activities would be deferred until the next meeting. A member of the public raised concerns and made representations regarding section 106 funding originally earmarked for Shotton Parish which had been allocated to Haswell Parish. There was no representative present from Durham Action Group, which had been invited at their request to present concerns about the increasing number and scale of solar farms across East Durham.

Minute No.	Agenda item

2089. **APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:** Members considered applications for grants of financial assistance submitted in writing prior to the meeting.

2089.1 **RESOLVED**: To approve a grant of £158.66 to Mr. Dixon Blakey for the cost of a ceremonial bugler and liability insurance for Remembrance Sunday event.

2089.2 **RESOLVED**: To approve a grant of £790.00 to Mr. Norman Kitching for the cost of a piper and drummer to lead the parade at the Remembrance Sunday event.

2089.3 **RESOLVED**: To approve a grant of £1,150.00 to Shotton Colliery Football Club for new goals.

2089.4 **RESOLVED**: To approve a grant of £400.00 to Shotton Banner Group to pay for transport to and from Durham Miners' Gala and expenses for the volunteer banner carriers. [*Cllr. Cochrane declared a registerable interest and took no part in the discussion and voting*].

2090. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: RESOLVED**: To accept apologies and reasons for non-attendance from Cllr. R. Hardy (holiday); S. W. Maitland (family emergency); H. Mountain (unforeseen car repairs); M. A. Mountain (unforeseen car repairs).

2091. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr. Brooks declared a registerable interest in an item relating to the Christmas tree.

2092. **MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY:** On the motion of Cllr. Brooks, seconded by Cllr. Hill it was **RESOLVED**: To approve and sign as a true record the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 26th May 2026.

2093. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** On the motion of Cllr. Hill, seconded by Cllr. Dale it was **RESOLVED**: To approve and sign as a true record the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 26th May 2026.

2094. **GROUNDSMAN'S REPORT:** Mr. L. Hammond gave verbal update on matters relating to grounds maintenance. **RESOLVED**: To approve quotes for the removal of three trees at the Community Park and three trees at the War Memorial for reasons of public safety. Quotes had been received for repairs to the Spinmee Roundabout at the Community Park. **RESOLVED**: To contact *Haggs* to confirm whether the equipment is covered by a guarantee.

2095. **POLICE REPORT:** There was no report from Easington Neighbourhood Policing Team.

2096. **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL (DCC):** Cllrs. Brown gave a report on issues relating to DCC, including the new Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 which enables a national scheme of delegation, shifting more planning decisions from locally elected councillors to professionally trained planning officers, and routine and policy-compliant applications will be processed directly by officers rather than going to democratically elected committees from 31st October 2026. He explained that DCC had expanded Article 4 Directions for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) beyond Durham City to cover the entire county, coming into effect on 17th August 2026 to prevent an overconcentration of HMOs across the county and to protect living conditions of neighbouring occupiers. Cllr. Brown explained that DCC's Lane Rental Scheme (DLRS) is a major initiative targeting road congestion. It charges utility companies and contractors per day for carrying out works on the busiest roads during peak hours. The scheme encourages contractors to work at off-peak times and complete projects faster. He agreed to take up various items of casework raised by Cllrs. H. Mountain; L. Hill and J. Dale.

2097. **SHOTTON PARTNERSHIP:** Cllr. Hardy had confirmed that

2098. **REPORTS:** There were no reports on meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council.

2099. **CLERK'S REPORT:** The action log recording agreed tasks was updated and all completed tasks removed. **RESOLVED**: To approve a discussion with Bowls England regarding the potential for maximising use of the bowling green which is currently very well maintained.

2100. **FINANCIAL MATTERS: RESOLVED**: To receive the schedule of monthly income and expenditure and approve payment of invoices which were presented to the meeting. The Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) gave an update on bank mandate changes and interim banking arrangements.

2101. **PLANNING:** There were no valid planning applications to consider.

2102. **CHRISTMAS TREE:** [*Cllr. Brooks declared a registerable interest during discussion on this item as a member of Shotton Residents' Association*]. **RESOLVED**: That consideration of the proposal for the Parish Council to take on responsibility for the management of the Christmas tree shall be deferred until the next parish council meeting. The Parish Clerk was asked to contact Peterlee Town Council to enquire about an arrangement for regular watering.

2103. **NEXT MEETING: RESOLVED**: That the next meeting of the Parish Council shall be held on Monday 27th July 2026 commencing at 6:00 p.m. in Shotton Community Hub.

2104. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC: RESOLVED**: That the public and the press shall be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the next items of business due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

2105. **ASSETS REGISTER:** The Parish Clerk explained that he had reviewed and updated the assets register against current insurance values. **RESOLVED**: That the Parish Clerk shall circulate a copy of the updated assets register to parish councillors for discussion at the next parish council meeting.

2105.1 **RESOLVED**: That a quote for the cost of repairing the roof on the Parish Rooms shall be deferred for consideration at the next parish council meeting.

2106. **COMMUNITY PARK: RESOLVED**: That a report from the Community Park Working Group on a proposal relating to football pitch availability and facilities for rugby and cricket activities shall be deferred for consideration at the next parish council meeting.

2107. **CONCLUSION OF MEETING:** The meeting closed at 7:33 p.m.

Chairman's Signature: Date: Monday 27th July 2026