

THE MINUTES OF CASTLE EDEN PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON TUESDAY 23 APRIL 2026

Present: Councillors M Wilmer, J Welsh, J McCallum, D Gordon

Also Present: County Councillor Woodhouse

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Taylor.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **POLICE REPORT**

There were 6 calls for April, 1 off road bike, 2 civil disputes, 1 rural crime poaching and 1 duplicate report.

Some parish councillors and residents were being trained on the community speed watch equipment.

4. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 19 March 2026, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. **MATTERS ARISING**

Signs – Councillor Woodhouse advised he would speak to Highways regarding the erection of the signs.

Mini Roundabouts – there had only been 2 recorded incidents over 5 years, however there had been many more which had not been recorded. If not taken away in an ambulance it was not recorded as serious. Councillor Woodhouse advised that it was an expensive project and had some complications regarding land ownership. A semi-permanent measure would be to install bollards to stop u turns on the roundabout. It was suggested that Councillor

Beechwood – bollards had been erected in the wrong location. They should have been at the entrance to Burdon Walk.

Speed Test on Stockton Road – Councillor Woodhouse advised that he could fund a speed test from his Member budget.

STOP sign – Councillor Woodhouse advised that a sign would not be agreed as they had to go through a central government process.

6. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Councillor Woodhouse advised the new food waste bins were slightly behind schedule being rolled out across the County. All glass should now be placed in the blue bin for collection.

Funding had been awarded to Castle Eden Ladies Cricket Team for young people to become involved.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Request to extend garden at 7 Burdon Walk, Castle Eden – A resident wished to extend their garden. The parish council would not make the decision, it would be Durham County Council, however there were no objections.

8. **PLANNING PROPOSALS**

DM/26/00683/HRN Removal of 4m of hedgerow (amended description) at Land To The West Of Former Spoil Heap, Hesleden

RESOLVED that no objection be made.

9. **FINANCE**

Bank Balances as at 7 April 2026

Bank Statements were viewed by the Chair

Bank Balances were as follows:

Current Account £50,073.98

10. **VILLAGE MATTERS**

a) **Mini Roundabout** – this was discussed earlier in the agenda.

b) **Castle Eden Inn** – residents had expressed concern regarding a social media post about improvements that were proposed to be made to the public house. Concerns included that the changes were not in keeping with the building, impact on local residents, potential for anti social behaviour during the summer months and the impact on the grade 2 building. The Clerk advised that any alterations would be subject to the necessary permissions and residents would be consulted by Durham County Council if and when a planning application was submitted.

c) **Litter pick/Signs** – The litter pick was attended by 10 residents and 28 bags were picked, this covered most of the village and the walkway. A resident had offered to pay for some signage to deter littering around the village, using positive messages. The Chair advised that the parish council would pay for any signage that was required. The challenge that was faced is if DCC would allow the signs to be erected.

d) **Village Hall** – the committee had agreed to not increase prices for hire of the hall due to having regular bookings. Improvement work had been carried out over the summer months.

e) **Motorbikes on the Walkway** – There had been a lot more footfall on the walkway since the surface had been tarmacked but had not seen a reduction in the number of motorbikes using it.