HEDLEYHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21 July 2026
at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, East Hedleyhope

Present

Chair: Sarah Woodroffe (SW)
Cllrs: Pete Ayling (PA), Judith Patrick (JP), Tony Reeve (TR), Sarah Stuart (SS), Jean Thorburn (JT), Deb Warde (DW)
Officer: Gillian Bell (Clerk)

1. **Apologies for Absence**

   None received.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

   None to declare.

3. **Public Participation**

   No members of the public present.

4. **County Councillor's Report**

   No report received.

5. **PCSO briefing**

   No report received.

6. **Minutes and recommendations therein agreed from previous meeting on 23 June 2026**

   Proposed by SS, seconded by DW.

7. **Budget update**

   Balance as of 20 July 2026:

   Income: £6976.77
   Expenditure: £4533.08

   Earmarked project expenditure:
   Seat repair and installation: £1000
   Windfarm Community Fund (seating project): £394.25

   The bank reconciliation for June 2026 had been circulated.

8. **Matters relating to the village hall, village green and nature reserve**

   Upgrading the kitchen

   There was no update on the National Lottery Awards for All application.

Windfarm Community Fund projects - update

The Clerk had ordered the seat, which should be delivered within the next week. It would then need to be assembled and fixed to the paving. DCBS had repaired the damaged section of concrete in front of the village hall and would look at options to repair the step.

DW had purchased hooks to hang the photo collages and JP had asked a resident about further historical photos of the village.

New Windfarm Community Fund application – furniture for the village hall and seat restoration

The Tow Law fund would be opening again shortly. It was agreed to include new flat seats for the swings in the application.

S106 play area project - update

A date still needed to be arranged with Makepeace Landscapes to repaint the multi play unit.

New S106 play area project – replacement equipment

There was no update on the application.

Play area inspection report

The ROSPA play area inspection report had been circulated and the contents noted.

Insurance renewal

The insurance renewal for 2026-27 was £674.25. The Clerk had contacted Zurich regarding the reinstatement cost assessment for the village hall and was waiting for a response.

9. **Future Projects**

Bulb planting – SS suggested a box of 250 mixed bulbs costing £19.99 from Thompson & Morgan and it was agreed to purchase two boxes. These would be planted in front of the village hall in September. DCC would also be asked not to cut the grass while the bulbs were flowering in the spring.
Christmas planning - in terms of outside decorations, the village hall now had the festoon lights and there were still lights on the tree in the turning circle, although the batteries would need to be checked. There was discussion about having a Christmas tree outside the village hall, which could be purchased through the Community Association. DW suggested a commercial-grade artificial tree and offered to research options and prices. Having a real tree, either in the half barrel or planted outside the hall, was also considered. It was agreed to make a final decision at the September meeting.

10. **Planning Application Received**

DM/26/01319/FPA *Construction of two storey side and front extension and single storey rear extension to existing farmhouse. - Low Hedley Hope Hall Farm East Hedleyhope Bishop Auckland DL13 4PR*

There was no objection to the extension but there were some concerns as to whether public access to the footpath could be affected by the foundations or during construction. The Clerk was asked to draft and circulate a comment regarding these concerns.

11. **Members' reports**

None to report.

12. **Clerk's report**

Financial

Payments made in June and July 2026:

Wickes	£ 63.00	Setcrete for village hall step repair
G Bell	£ 461.28	June salary & IT costs
Octopus Energy	£ 45.84	Village hall electricity charges: June 2026
20i	£ 12.00	Website hosting – July 2026
TalkMobile	£ 6.95	Village hall WiFi
Play Safety	£ 99.60	Play area inspection
Total:	**£ 688.67**	

Payments received:

Community Association	£ 500.00	Contribution for village hall bench
Unity Trust Bank	£ 49.60	Interest
Total:	**£ 549.60**	

- A resident on West View had asked if her son could put a net on one of the goalposts on the village green. This was agreed but it was noted that the original hooks had been ground off for safety reasons and new ones would need to be supplied. It was also suggested that the goalposts at the top of the pitch be used. The Clerk would let the resident know.

13. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 29 September 2026 at 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Signed

Cllr Sarah Woodroffe
Chair
29 September 2026