

CLERK'S REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2025

1. Council membership

Councillor Katy McMillan resigned from the Parish Council with immediate effect on 5 September 2025. Councillor Jo Robinson will be resigning from her role as of Tuesday 16 September 2025.

2. Scope clothes recycling bank – sports fields car park

Scope was unable to commit to any changes that would remove or substantially reduce the issues around the dumping of clothing bags and waste around the bank and therefore has agreed to remove it on 16 September 2025.

3. Poplar suckers at sports fields

Some new tree root suckers were noted in the western sports field which have been spot treated.

4. Clerk Training

In July the Clerk attended a free training webinar on Events, Risks and Playparks.

5. Repairs to play equipment at Branch End Play Area

The climber equipment was repaired by Playdale on 8/9 July and the Clerk put articles on the Facebook page and website keeping residents updated. Replacement parts for various play equipment in the fenced play area, ordered on 3 June, arrived on 10 September and the council's grounds maintenance contractor will carry out repairs shortly.

6. Planters at Bywell Bridge

Some of the newly planted bedding plants were stolen from the planter in June. They were promptly replaced by the council's grounds maintenance contractor.

7. Defibrillator update

The battery was replaced in the Birkdene, Sports Fields and Branch End Play Area defibrillators as they had expired. They were replaced with new batteries ordered in the previous financial year for this purpose. A further battery was purchased in August to replace the existing battery in the Ridley Mill defibrillator which had expired.

8. Blooming Doorsteps Challenge

The PC entry for the Stocksfield Plants and Gardens Society's Blooming Doorsteps Challenge is located outside the door to the Clerk's office. Thanks to Cllr Hills for assisting the Clerk with the planting.

9. Balsam clearing session

Members of the Rights of Way and Environment Advisory Group ran balsam bashes on Wednesday 18th June along Guessburn near the Scouts Hut and on Thursday 14th August along Stocksfield Burn at the sports fields. Thanks go to the organisers and all those who came to help.

10. Community Rounders

The Clerk was unable to contact the organiser in order for them to provide the relevant paperwork and she has since been informed by the cricket club that these sessions did not go ahead, so she has emailed the organiser to confirm that consent is withdrawn.

11. Lithium battery campaign

The Campaign has written to the council as follows:

“Lord Foster is extremely grateful for all the hard work that many of you have put in to help this Lithium-ion safety campaign: It has been successful. The Government’s Product Safety and Metrology (PRAM) Act has now been passed into law and the Government has agreed to include a number of our asks regarding battery safety in regulations to be issued under the Act....Once again, thank you for your hard work – it has been productive and inspiring.”