

Stocksfield Parish Council

Papers for the meeting of
the Parish Council
to be held on

Monday 09 March 2026

Additional papers and reports may be included on the website where it has been impractical to incorporate them within this document or may have been circulated separately.

This document relates only to the items to be considered during the section of the meeting which is open to the public and press.

Documents containing confidential information are not included, even though the related item may be considered during the open section of the meeting.

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 23rd February 2026
at Stocksfield Community Centre**

Present: Mr T Hills (Chair), Mr C Liddle, Professor L Paley, Mr M Parker and Professor P Vickers
Mrs G Maughan (Clerk to the Council)

Apologies: None.

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

26/02/207 Apologies for absence

No apologies for absence were received, however the Chair informed the meeting that a resignation was received from Mr Kevin Lewins.

26/02/208 Declarations of Interest

None.

26/02/209 Public Participation

None.

26/02/210 Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2026

It was AGREED that the previously circulated minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2026 were a true and accurate record.

26/02/211 Environment & Climate Grant Application

It was AGREED (proposed Mr Liddle, seconded Prof Paley) to submit the grant application for '*Big Houses for Small Creatures*' at BEPA.

Action: Clerk DISCH

26/02/212 RoSPA Report

It was AGREED (proposed Prof Vickers, seconded Chair) to give delegated authority to the Clerk for an initial budget of £1,000 to address items on the RoSPA report. The Clerk confirmed the new swings for BEPA were due to be delivered imminently. Councillors were made aware to expect a quotation to be brought to a future meeting for two specific replacements in the play areas.

Action: Clerk

26/02/213 – EE Phone Contract & e-SIM

It was AGREED (proposed Chair, seconded Mr Parker) to give delegated authority to the Clerk to upgrade the phone contract to a SIM only contract at £10-£12 per month and transfer the use to an e-SIM.

Action: Clerk

26/02/214 – Appointment of Internal Auditor

Councillors AGREED to confirm the appointment of Mrs M Weatherley as the Internal Auditor for 2025/26.

26/02/215 - Resolution under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960

It was AGREED to exclude members of the press and public to consider the following item due to the confidential nature of the business.

26/02/216 – Sports Field Grass Cutting Contract 2026-2029

It was AGREED to accept the contents of a letter received from Stocksfield Cricket Club.

Action: Clerk

26/02/217 – Any other urgent business

The Clerk informed Councillors that the surface wear and potholes in the Sports Field Car Park have now been repaired and that the planings which were removed during this work will be used for the hardstanding for the storage container. The Clerk also informed the meeting that Planning Permission for the Storage Container had been granted.

26/02/218 Date of next meeting

Monday 9th March 2026

The Chair thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 7.58pm.

Stocksfield Parish Council
Agenda Item 7(a)

Listing of payments dated between 01/02/2026 and 28/02/2026

Date	Ref.	Account	Supplier / customer	Auth	Net £	VAT £	Total £
02/02/2026	DD	Mobile	EE	COU	-18.29	-3.66	-21.95
04/02/2026	Transfer	Cliff Hanger Inspection	RoSPA Play Safety	CK	-274.00	-54.80	-328.80
04/02/2026	Transfer	Microsoft	Microsoft 365	COU	-8.51	-1.70	-10.21
04/02/2026	Transfer	Salary	Northumberland County Council	CON	-1,721.62	0.00	-1,721.62
04/02/2026	Transfer	Payroll Admin	Northumberland County Council	CON	-8.75	-1.75	-10.50
04/02/2026	Transfer	NI	Northumberland County Council	CON	-195.69	0.00	-195.69
04/02/2026	Transfer	External Audit	Forvis Mazars	COU	-420.00	-84.00	-504.00
04/02/2026	Transfer	Grounds Service	Neetfleet	COU	-2,095.00	0.00	-2,095.00
04/02/2026	Transfer	Litter Picking - A695	Neetfleet	COU	-50.00	0.00	-50.00
04/02/2026	Transfer	Replace pads on Cliff Hanger	Neetfleet	COU	-50.00	0.00	-50.00
04/02/2026	Transfer	Living Roof Inspection	Neetfleet	COU	-40.00	0.00	-40.00
04/02/2026	Transfer	Donation	Charlotte Straker	COU	-250.00	0.00	-250.00
23/02/2026	Transfer	Carpark Repairs	Debmat	COU	-3,623.00	-724.60	-4,347.60
23/02/2026	Transfer	Playing Field Rent	Allendale Estates	CON	-875.00	0.00	-875.00
23/02/2026	Transfer	LP Training	Northumberland Assoc of Local Councils	CKC	-35.00	-7.00	-42.00
23/02/2026	Transfer	PC Speaker	Amazon	CK	-12.77	-2.56	-15.33
23/02/2026	Transfer	Regional Training Seminar	Society of Local Council Clerks	CKC	-85.00	-17.00	-102.00
27/02/2026	Transfer	Replacement Bin - Lead Road	Glasdon UK Ltd	CK	-426.40	-85.28	-511.68
27/02/2026	Transfer	Payroll Admin	Northumberland County Council	CON	-8.75	-1.75	-10.50
27/02/2026	Transfer	Salary (Plus NS hours)	Northumberland County Council	CON	-3,417.77	0.00	-3,417.77
27/02/2026	Transfer	NI	Northumberland County Council	CON	-387.56	0.00	-387.56
28/02/2026	DD	Bank charges	Unity Trust	CON	-8.85	0.00	-8.85
					-14,011.96	-984.10	-14,996.06

Authorities key

CON Continuing authority of the Council

COU Other existing authority of the Council

CK Delegated authority of the Clerk

CKC Delegated authority of the Clerk in consultation with the Chair and/or Vice Chair

Stocksfield Parish Council

Budget report from 1-Feb-2026 to 28-Feb-2026 (figures exclude VAT) Agenda Item 7(a)

Payments

Employment

Salary	
National Insurance	5,139.39
Employee pension	583.25
Employer pension contribution	0.00
Payroll	0.00
Clerk expenses	0.00
Total Employment	5,722.64

Administration

Office rent	0.00
Meeting room hire	0.00
Telephone	18.29
Stationery	0.00
Office equipment	12.77
Photocopier lease	0.00
Photocopy and print	0.00
Audit fees	420.00
Courses and training	120.00
Subscriptions	8.51
Insurance	0.00
Misc Admin	0.00
Bank charges	8.85
Payroll	17.50
Councillor expenses	0.00
Total Administration	605.92

Environment

Estate and verge cutting	0.00
Seats	0.00
Planters	0.00
Bedding plants	0.00
Grounds Services contract	2,095.00
Grounds Services ex contract	90.00

Environment (contd)

Defibrillators	32.37
Tree inspections	0.00
Bus shelters	0.00
Christmas tree	0.00
Misc Environment	0.00
Litter bins	426.40
VATCS maintenance	0.00
Climate change	0.00
Total Environment	2,643.77

Communications

Website	0.00
Newsletter printing	0.00
Newsletter design	0.00
Newsletter delivery	0.00
Misc comms	0.00
Total Communications	0.00

Sports Facilities

Grass cutting (SF)	0.00
Sports field rent	875.00
Sports field rates	0.00
Sports field initiatives	0.00
Car park loan	0.00
Sports field maintenance	3,623.00
MUGA rent	0.00
Total Sports Facilities	4,498.00

Play Facilities

Grass cutting (PF)	0.00
Equipment inspection	274.00
BEPA maintenance	50.00
Kates Plain Maintenance	0.00
Kates Plain rent	0.00

Play Facilities (contd)

Footbridge	0.00
Total Play Facilities	324.00

Community Support

Remembrance Service	0.00
Burial Board	0.00
Grants - Sec 137 Parish	0.00
Grants - Sec 137 non Parish	0.00
Grants - general	250.00
Total Community Support	250.00

Contingency

Contingency	
Total Contingency	0.00

Total Payments

14,044.33

Receipts

Precept

Precept	0.00
Total Precept	0.00

Sports facilities

Sports field rents	1,475.00
MUGA rent	0.00
Total Sports facilities	1,475.00

Misc Receipts

VAT Repayments	0.00
Miscellaneous Receipts	0.00
Grounds services recharge	750.00
Bank Interest	0.00
Total Misc Receipts	750.00

Total Receipts

2,225.00

	Annual Budget	Receipts/ Payments to date	Committed future payments	Projected Balance	% spent or committed
RECEIPTS					
Precept	105016	105016			
Groundsman contract	750	750			
Sports Facilities	4045	3293			
Defibrillator					
Misc		26716.46			
VAT refund		10210			
Bank Interest		1893.23			
Total Receipts	109811	147878.69			
PAYMENTS					
Employment	32712	31943.52	1916	-1148	104%
Administration	11508	11292.12	725	-509	104%
Environment	36455	28046.5	10990	-2582	107%
Communications	2624	2140.96	200	283	89%
Sports Facilities	34113	38047.96	5337	-9272	127%
Play Facilities	16290	13443.04	4174	-1327	108%
Community Support	6400	6450		-50	101%
Contingency	0			0	
Total payments	140102	131364	23342	-14604	110%

Notes:

Environment projection is over budget due to works on the tree report being complete in this financial year for both the 2025 and 2024 report.

Sports Facilities projection includes a loan repayment due in March (paid twice per year) and ground works for the container. This cost centre is above current budget due to the pot hole repairs required in the sports field car park.

Following the approval of several items at recent meetings, including container ground works, pothole repairs, playground maintenance and two financial years' worth of tree works, it is recommended that the Council increases the following budget headings to reflect both previously approved expenditure and the approvals requested within the current meeting papers.

- Environment budget is proposed to increase by £2,500, bringing the total to £38,955.
- Sports Facilities budget is proposed to increase by £9,900, bringing the total to £44,013.
- Play Facilities budget is proposed to increase by £2,800, bringing the total to £19,090.

These adjustments will ensure that all approved works are appropriately accounted for, and the proposed increases can be met from the Council's reserves.

Agenda Item 8**New application(s) for note/endorsement/decision:**

Reference/ Address	Description	Parish Council recommendation – (see Planning Report for details if applicable)	NCC Decision/Date Copies of the Planning Decisions can be found on NCC website
26/00307/FUL Lilac Cottage, 8 Crabtree Road	Proposed two storey side extension with various internal alterations	No comment Note use of delegated powers	

Existing planning applications (for information only)

Reference/ Address	Description	Parish Council recommendation – (see Planning Report for details if applicable)	NCC Decision/Date Copies of the Planning Decisions can be found on NCC website
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Pending or recently decided application(s) for information:

22/03027/FUL Mickley Bank Farm	Retrospective application for the erection of storage sheds – appeal to Secretary of State	No further comment made. No comment was made for original application which was refused 04/11/2022	Refusal is being appealed
24/01965/AGRGDO Land west of Kipperlynn Farm	Notification for prior approval for a general purpose storage building	No comment Note use of delegated powers	Appeal made to Secretary of State
25/04240/FUL Local recycling Point Stocksfield	Steel storage container		Application Permitted 18/02/2026
23/01717/FUL Land at Whittonstall	Construction and operation of a renewable energy scheme comprising ground mounted photovoltaics with associated battery storage and associated infrastructure.	Objection made by Parish Council	Appeal made to The Planning Inspectorate
25/04555/FUL Hindley Farm	Erection of New Garage	No comment Note use of delegated powers	Application Permitted 26/02/2026
25/04457/FUL 163 New Ridley Road	Construction of two storey extension to rear and side. Construction of oak canopy above front entrance	No comment Note use of delegated powers	Application Permitted 13/02/2026
25/04683/FUL Greystones, 24 Painshawfield Road	Demolish existing garage and re- build	No comment Note use of delegated powers	Application Permitted 25/02/2026

Agenda Item 9**Parish Council Representatives**

Councillors should provide updates in respect of any representative meetings they have attended.

Agenda Item 10

RoSPA Report

Further to cost approval at the February meeting, works have started on the items listed on the RoSPA report.

The left hand side of the Fire Engine at BEPA has started rotting under the step and needs replacing, this was highlighted in the report. The quotation for this replacement part is £1,130.53 + VAT.

Councillors are asked to approve the purchase of this item and the installation costs of approximately £350.

Agenda Item 11

Routine and Operational Training

SLCC in conjunction with Ashington Town Council have organised a Routine and Operational Training Course for Play Area Inspectors. Riding Mill Clerk contacted Stocksfield Clerk to ask if SPC would be interested in sharing the cost of the refresher course for the shared Grounds Maintenance Contractor. This would be the refresher course only, not an examination. The cost is £300 total (£150 per Parish Council). Councillors are asked to approve this expenditure.

Agenda Item 12

Recruitment Campaign

A draft recruitment campaign for Councillors alongside some example artwork has been circulated to Councillors. Councillors are asked to approve the campaign and design concepts.

Agenda Item 13

Local Housing Survey

A survey regarding Local Housing Needs of Prudhoe and Neighbouring Parishes was previously circulated to Councillors. Councillors are asked to consider and agree their answers to this survey.

Agenda Item 14

Local Library Consultation

Councillors are asked to review the proposals set out in the consultation and agree on any comments they wish to make.

Information on the consultation can be found [here](#).

Agenda Item 15

Great British Spring Clean

The Clerk proposes that the Parish Council signs the pledge for the [Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean 2026 campaign](#), demonstrating the Council's support for the initiative and its commitment to maintaining a clean and welcoming environment.

It would have been great to organise a community litter pick, however, due to current time constraints and the practical requirements involved, including completion of risk assessments, arranging appropriate first aid provision/training and purchasing necessary equipment, it is not considered feasible to organise a community litter pick within the campaign's designated timeframe.

Should Councillors wish to proceed, the Clerk can begin working on the necessary arrangements to deliver a community litter pick later in the year, outside of the official campaign timeframe.

The Clerk recommends that the Council signs up to the Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean 2026 pledge and considers whether it wishes the Clerk to develop proposals for a community litter pick later in the year.

Agenda Item 16

Sports Field Rabbit Fence

The rabbit fence at the sports field has deteriorated significantly and has now failed, with large sections lying on the grass. It cannot remain in its current condition.

Councillors are asked to consider the following options:

- **Remove the fence** – approximately £1,000 (labour and skip hire).
- **Repair the fence** – approximately £650.
- **Leave as is** – not considered viable.

The Clerk makes no specific recommendation at this stage.

Agenda Item 17

Policies

Councillors are asked to review and approve the following policies:

- [Ad hoc use of sports fields](#)
- [Advisory groups](#)
- [Co-option](#)
- [Disciplinary](#)
- [Grievance](#)
- [Members' allowances](#)
- [Vexatious communications](#)
- [Volunteer](#)

Agenda Item 18

Grant Applications up to £500

Councillors are asked to consider the following grant applications:

- Stocksfield Community Association – Installation of two signs on the wall of SICA
- Friends of Stocksfield Community Woodland – Improve Stocksfield Community Woodland

Agenda Item 19

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION

Grass Maintenance Tender

Confidential paper circulated separately.

Parish Council Meeting Calendar for 2025/26 for information

Parish Council:

(All commence at 7.30pm in the Richardson Room)

Monday 13 April 2026

Monday 11 May 2026 (annual meeting)

Monday 8th June 2026

Monday 13th July 2026

Advisory Group Meetings:

General Governance Advisory Group (GGAG)

All Parish Councillors, whether or not members of the Advisory Group are welcome to attend GGAG meetings

(Meetings are held via Teams)

TBA

Rights of Way & Environment Advisory Group (RoWEAG)

Tuesday 24th March 2026

Communications Advisory Group

TBA

Sports Fields User Group (SFUG)

TBA