MELDON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27TH AUGUST 2026 AT 7.30PM IN THE DYKE NEUK, MELDON

Present:

Councillors: G Sanger
A Frankland
T Garnick
J Garnett
A Lloyd

Clerk: D Smith - Clerk

Apologies: A Taylor
D Ferguson

Northumberland County Council (NCC) Councillor Glen Sanderson and one member of the public was also in attendance.

26. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed everyone present.

27. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations on this occasion.

28. Public Participation Time

A member of the public reported issues regarding verge cutting and speeding in Pigdon.

29. Co-option – Three Vacancies in the Office of Councillor

a. Members were advised that there are currently two vacancies on the Parish Council. Members were asked to consider co-option for these vacancies.

b. Members were asked to consider a response to a request from NCC regarding a decrease in council membership.

RESOLVED

a. Members noted the two vacancies on the Council.

b. Members agreed a membership of 6, down from 9 members. This is due to the low electorate, no services or assets and the issue of retaining members on the council.

30. Northumberland County Councillor Update

NCC Councillor Glen Sanderson gave the following update:

• Looking at the next budget, £15m down on government settlement. Not looking at cutting frontline services or removing free parking in town centres. The BEST transformation programme is looking at how NCC can save money and become more efficient, including looking at improvements to call centres.
• SEN children transport and adult social care costs are rising.
• Library review taking place.
• Working with the North East Mayor, Kim McGuiness, regarding dualling the A1.
• After the incident on the River Tyne, 15 tonne of nurdles went into the water and are now washing up on Northumberland beaches. At this time, volunteers are picking up the nurdles however, to date, less than 10% have been retrieved. The nurdles are now spreading in the water north and south. Questions are being asked about who is going to decide when to stop looking for nurdles and who will make that decision.
• From October 2026, officers will follow a new delegation scheme when considering planning application, unless they are major applications. This means, that applications will be given to officers to decide unless there is a strong reason for them to go to committee.

31. Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd June 2026

Members were asked to approve the draft minutes of the above meeting.

RESOLVED

That the above minutes, a copy of which has been previously circulated to each member, be approved and signed as correct by the Chairman.

32. Matters Arising from previous Council meetings

There were no matters arising on this occasion.

33. Town and Country Planning Act 1990

There were no planning applications to discuss on this occasion.

34. Financial Matters

a. Members were provided, for information, with a payments and receipts list and budget report up to 31st July 2026.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

b. Year End Accounts for 2025/2026

Members were advised that no issues have been raised regarding the external audit.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

c. Grant Funding

Members were asked to consider a grant request from Meldon PCC

RESOLVED

Members awarded £900.

35. Highways

a. Pigdon Speeding Concerns

Members considered concerns raised from local residents regarding speed concerns in Pigdon.

RESOLVED

To ask NCC for speeding strips in Pigdon.

b. Grass Verges

Members considered concerns raised from local residents regarding verge cutting in the parish. Members were informed that this service is contracted out by NCC and they are aware that the work has not been completed to the correct standard.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

c. Any Other Highways Issues

(i) Councillor Sanger reported that the road repairs on the road to Molesden have been completed.

RESOLVED

To thank NCC for this work.

(ii) Councillor Sanger reported that red markings have been put on the road between Rivergreen Kennels and Rivergreen, which looks like road repairs are about to be carried out.

RESOLVED

Information duly noted.

36. Joint Town & Parish Autumn Conference

Members were asked to consider attendance at the above conference.

RESOLVED

Councillor Garnick to attend.

37. Any Other Urgent Business

a. Concerns were raised regarding planning control breaches in Molesden.

b. To remove this agenda item from future agendas.

38. Date & Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place Wednesday 11th November 2026, 7.30pm in the Dyke Neuk.

The meeting concluded at 8.10pm.