

High Coniscliffe Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 18th February 2026

18.30 hours

St. Edwin's Church Hall, High Coniscliffe

MINUTES

Attendance

Simon Atkinson
Paul Branch
Rebecca Knowles
Anne Llewellyn (Clerk)
Michael Ramsay (Chair)
Chris Simmonds

Apologies.

Ian Calvesbert
Duncan Laidler

Minutes of last meeting.

Agreed as an accurate record.

Matters arising.

- AL reported that she had contacted Michelle Attey about the possibility of having a permanent Xmas Tree and that Michelle is intending to attend the open meeting in March to present the case.
- AL reported that a group of volunteers from High Coniscliffe and Low Coniscliffe and Merrybent had cleared the laybys on the A67. It was agreed that volunteers would be invited to litter pick on the 1st Saturday of each month. AL to put messages on social media sites.

Correspondence

- Invasive Species Works. AL reported that she had received an email from Tees River Trust about the delivery of a 5 year invasive species project on Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and Giant hogweed. The Parish Council agreed that they would support this in principle and AL will contact the private landowners to ask for their permissions to access their land.
- AL reported that she had received a letter from St Edwin's Parish Council thanking HCPC for organising the evening of carols with Aycliffe and Brancepeth brass band. The evening raised £229.93 which was donated to the church along with a further £40.00 to cover heating costs.

Finance.

The current balance is £5659.65. The precept of £8,000 is due on 1st April 2026.

Business

- a. Update on Speed cameras. AL reported that she had tried to contact the company that had installed the cameras in Merrybent but the email had failed to deliver and there were no contact details online. She has contacted Darlington Borough Council to establish whether they have any recommendations but has not received a response. She has also contacted 2 other companies that she found online and has had one response from a company called Truvelo who have provided a quote of £8,766.00 + VAT for 2 x solar/battery powered TruSign SIDs. It was agreed that Simon Atkinson will speak to a contact of his to obtain a 2nd quote and we will decide which company to engage at the next meeting.
- b. Update on discussion with Reverend Debs Robinson about lighting between Church Hall and Lych Gate. AL has received details from Pat Howarth on the company that installed similar lights in Bishop Auckland. It was decided that we will defer a decision on the progression of these works pending decisions about the speed cameras.
- c. Update on gravel on church path. It was decided that we will suspend work on this project.
- d. Update on bus shelter refurbishment. Materials have been purchased and CS and PB will progress this.
- e. Free trees from the Local Woodland Trust. AL to respond to the Woodland Trust.
- f. Summer event working group. It was agreed that we would not progress this but would concentrate on the brass band evening in December as the main social occasion that HCPC would fund.
- g. March open meeting format and advertising. The format is laid out in the Public Participation at Parish Council Meetings Policy which can be found online. Each attendee may speak for a maximum of 5 minutes. The meeting will be advertised through our social media channels and notice board. AL to put messages on social media and RK to put notice on notice board.

Any Other Business.

It was agreed that a meeting will be organised between Parish Councillors, Wellfield Trustees and Members of the Community Garden to establish a budget for landscaping works in the Wellfield and priorities for developments.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Open Meeting on 18.3.26 at 18.30 hours in St Edwin's Church Hall.

Agreed as an accurate record on 18.3.26

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RK', is written below the 'Signed:' text.

Michael Ramsay (Vice Chair of HCPC)

Date: 14.04.2026