

High Coniscliffe Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 18th March 2026

18.30 hours

St. Edwin's Church Hall, High Coniscliffe

MINUTES

Attendance

Michelle Alison
Councillor Simon Atkinson
Councillor Paul Branch
Councillor Ian Calvesbert (Chair)
Julie Calvesbert
Councillor Paul Crudass
Councillor Beccs Knowles
Councillor Duncan Laidler
Anne Llewellyn (Clerk)
Councillor Chris Simmonds
Carmen Ward
Mark Ward

Apologies

Councillor Michael Ramsay

Public Participation Issues Raised

- Michelle Alison raised an issue about planting a permanent christmas tree for sustainable and economic reasons. It had been previously agreed that this was not a feasible option at present. Julie Calvesbert questioned what the objections were. CS responded that people had previously objected that the Christmas tree obscured the view of the church. Additionally a permanent tree cannot be planted where the annual tree is placed as it is too near to the house and the underlying services.
- Action – Conduct a public vote and then feasibility study if the majority are in favour of the permanent Christmas tree. Practicalities to be discussed in PC business meeting.
- Michelle Alison raised a concern about the potholes on Ulnaby Lane. Darlington Borough Council has been contacted but will only fill potholes in if they are 4cm deep. Paul Crudass suggested that he is copied into any emails and will follow up. Action. AL to email DBC on behalf of HCPC
- Julie Calvesbert raised concerns about speeding through the village. AL response: DBC have agreed that the speed limit should be reduced to 40mph approaching the 30mph zones at either end of the village. AL to contact DBC to enquire when this is

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going to happen. Additionally new Speed Indicator Devices are to be installed at either end of the village – this is scheduled to happen in the next couple of weeks.

- AL informed the meeting that Lindsay Smith from St Edwin's Pre-School had emailed questioning the feasibility of having a crossing near the church. AL to email DBC.

Public participation meeting ended at 18.50 hours.

Committee Meeting

Minutes of last meeting.

Agreed as an accurate record of the meeting

Matters arising

None

Correspondence

A Planning Application has been submitted as follows:

Location:
Carlbury Court
Durham Lane
Piercebridge
Darlington
DL2 3TW.

Proposal: Erection of extensions to the north elevation to provide enlarged ground and first floors, alterations to existing conservatory including new roof together with new windows, doors, cladding and associated works

No objections were raised. AL to respond to DBC.

Finance

The current balance is £5,659.65 and the precept of £8,000 is due on 1st April 2026.

Business

a. Update on Speed Indicator Devices.

5 companies have been contacted for quotes for the procurement and installation of 2 solar powered speed indicator devices (1 at either end of the village, to replace the existing devices). 2 quotes have been received and were discussed. It was agreed that both products provided the required features, and we would order from Elan City as it provides better value for money. SA will place the order and Parish Councillors will install. The anticipated lead in time is 5-7 days.

Total cost will be £5500. AL will investigate whether VAT can be claimed.

b. Tennis club proposal for flood lighting

The Tennis Club are in discussions with the Wellfield Trustees about the installation of floodlights. This was raised for information only.

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c. Community Garden Quarterly Report

On behalf of the Community Garden Sub-Committee, AL reported:

- Philip Hughes has replaced George Hollis as Chair of the Community Garden Sub-Committee.
- The period since the last report in December has been reasonably quiet, with not much gardening due to the weather. As spring now approaches, we are starting to prepare the garden for new planting.
- Philip Hughes to discuss the possibility of using the Tennis Club water supply with the Chair of the Tennis Club.
- As per the previous discussion, we will advertise the use of space for children to plant pumpkins and possibly sunflowers. Fred Bowron will action this and Jude Le Roi will research the optimal time for planting.
- We will plant a few fruit trees to make best use of the available space.
- A new risk assessment has been completed by the Wellfield Trustees in consultation with the Chair of the Community Garden Group. This was discussed at the March meeting and the group felt that no further additions or amendments were required.
- As a result of the risk assessment, the use of the defibrillator was discussed. It was agreed that as Chair, Philip Hughes will discuss with the Chair of the Tennis Club to see if there is some training that the Community Garden Group can undertake to familiarize themselves with the use of the defibrillator.

AL to circulate the March 2026 Quarterly Report to Wellfield Trustees and HCPC Councillors.

AOB

1. The Landlord of the Spotted Dog has raised concerns about the tennis club using the Spotted Dog car park. He has been informed that this is an issue to be raised with the Wellfield Trustees and the Chair of the Tennis Club.
2. Concerns were raised about the state of the gutters and street signs in the village, with particular concerns about trees covering the 30mph sign coming into village from the Piercebridge direction. AL to contact DBC
3. Permanent Christmas Tree survey. AL to set up on HCPC website.
4. Discussion of speeding in the village, with particular concerns raised about lorries from Animal Feeds. AL to email Animal Feeds.
5. Litter picking. This will take place on the 1st Saturday of every month at 10.30am. Meeting point: Bins on The Green near the Church. RK to put a poster on the notice board and AL to promote through social media.
6. AL informed the meeting that the work on Piercebridge Church had now been completed and it is available for bookings for events.

Date and time of next meeting.

Wednesday 15th April 2026 at 18.30 hours in St. Edwin's Church Hall, High Coniscliffe

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ian Calvesbert'.

Signed as accurate record:

Ian Calvesbert (Chair)

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