

Chair of the  
Council:  
Graeme  
Blenkiron



www.framwellgatemoorparishcouncil.co.uk

The Pavilion Building, Front Street  
Framwellgate Moor  
Durham  
DH1 5BL  
clerk@framwellgatemoorparish.gov.uk

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Framwellgate Moor Parish Council held on Wednesday 4th February 2026 at 6:00 pm at The Pavilion Building, Front Street, Framwellgate Moor, Durham, DH1 5BL.**

1	<p><b>Attendance:</b></p> <p><b>Councillors</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b> G Blenkiron, <b>Vice Chair</b> A Hopgood, R Dodds, M Charlton, D Wheeler, R Perry, E Clarkson, E Pears, G Tidbury, V Aymard, M Wilkes</p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p>C Eddon</p> <p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>N/A</p>
2	<p><b>Declarations of interest and dispensation requests</b></p> <p>None</p>
3	<p><b>Public participation (please notify the Chairman or Clerk in advance)</b></p> <p>No public participation</p>
4	<p><b>Review minutes from 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 and actions agreed.</b></p> <p>The draft minutes of the December 2025 meeting were accepted as a true record. No matters arising were noted for reflection.</p>
5	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p><b>Durham Hospitals Radio Funding Request</b> - The council received a request from Durham Hospitals Radio, a registered charity, for further support, following a £50 donation in October 2022. Supporting information had been circulated to councillors.</p> <p>Resolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To approve a donation of £100 from the current year's voluntary donations budget.</li></ul> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Craig Eddon: Arrange for the £100 donation to Durham Hospitals Radio</li></ul>
6	<p><b>Action Log</b></p> <p><b>6a - Monitor the effect of car parking charges on Durham Chambers</b> - No feedback or comments from residents were received regarding car parking charges.</p> <p><b>6b - Advise the tennis coach of the council decision to allow six months at £8.48 for the first hour and an additional hour free -</b></p> <p>The clerk had contacted Stephen (the tennis coach), who requested a third hour for under 12s to under 16s, from 7 pm to 8 pm on Mondays, to start in April. He proposed a flat fee of £5 per hour for all three hours. Discussion ensued regarding the current fee structure (£8.48 for the first hour,</p>

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second free) and the value proposition.

Resolution:

- To approve the tennis coach's request for an additional third hour.
- To set a revised fee of £6 per hour for all three sessions, totalling £18 per week.
- To review this new fee structure in May for a June start.
- To approve two one-off free taster sessions for the new age group on March 23rd and March 30th to gauge interest.

Actions:

- Craig Eddon:
  - Inform the tennis coach of the new £6/hour fee for three sessions and the May review date.
  - Advertise the coach's free taster sessions on the council's social media.
  - Change the tennis court gate code due to a security breach (children knowing the code).
  - Change the codes on the keypads on the side of the building.

**6c - Circulate notes from planning meeting**

Vice Chair Amanda Hopgood acknowledged that she had forgotten to type up and circulate the notes from the previous planning meeting.

Action:

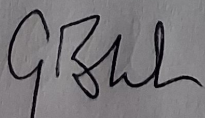
- Amanda Hopgood: Type up and circulate notes from the previous planning meeting.

**7**

**Financial Report**

Clerk presented Invoices and receipts for previous month, reconciliation and current budget which were agreed by G Blenkiron and A Hopgood.

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Clerk Update on the following.

**8a - Report on Parish Council Internal Controls**

The Clerk presented a report on parish council internal controls, a required check for the AGAR governance statement to ensure financial and governance systems are working properly.

Resolution:

- To approve the internal controls report.
- To appoint Mr. Gordon Fletcher as the parish council's internal auditor for 2025/26.

**8b - Assertion 10**

Assertion 10 is a new and more rigorous requirement for the financial year's AGAR, demanding councils confirm compliance with the UK GDPR Protection Act. Breakthrough Communications offers a council-specific GDPR compliance toolkit (£695 + VAT, total £834 for 12 months access), which includes training videos, templates, and health checks, and is recommended by the clerk of the City of Durham Parish Council.

Resolution:

- To request the Clerk to contact CDALC to seek their recommendations on GDPR compliance solutions and compare pricing, before making a final decision on the Breakthrough Communications toolkit.

Action:

- Craig Eddon: Contact CDALC for GDPR toolkit recommendations and report back to the council.

**8c - Abbey Road Fence**

Construction of the Abbey Road fence is scheduled to begin this Friday, following previous weather-related delays.

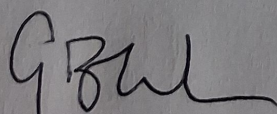
**8d - Parish Pension Declaration**

The annual parish pension declaration for the Clerk and Groundsman has been completed for the financial year.

**8e - Planning Applications**

Any received planning applications have been circulated to councillors. No applications were received in the last two weeks. The Clerk will continue to circulate applications via email.

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A resident reported dangerous parking on a footpath, which forced pedestrians into the main road. The issue was raised at a PACT (Police and Communities Together) meeting.

Resolutions:

- The police have been informed and will address the issue with the vehicle owner.

Action:

- Graeme Blenkiron: To inform member of the parish that raised the issue that the police are aware and actioning.

## 9b - Unsafe Cycling Lanes

Photographs were provided showing unsafe cycling bollards, which are bent, pitted with litter, and pose a danger to cyclists, particularly on Rotary Way where some are missing. Concerns were raised about the impact on emergency services access.

Resolution:

- To write to the Director of Neighbourhoods and Environment at Durham County Council (DCC) regarding the unsafe cycle lane bollards.

Action:

- Craig Eddon: Write to DCC Director Mark Jackson, attaching photographs and requesting immediate remedial action (straightening/replacing bollards) and an update on the long-promised new cycleway plans for the area, specifically from Pity Me to Framwellgate Moor on Rotary Way.

## 10 County Councillors Report

### 10a – Hallam Land Development

Councillor Elizabeth Pears reported on meetings with Hallam Land, a developer planning to build a large-scale housing development on Greenbelt land within the parish (North Mile, centre area). DCC currently has a 4.4-year housing supply, below the required 5 years, which may make it harder to reject such applications. Concerns were raised regarding potential impacts on Rotary Way safety, infrastructure (traffic, hospital, GPs), and the need for appropriate affordable housing. A public consultation is expected in the coming months.

Action:

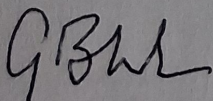
- **Elizabeth Pears:** Monitor the Hallam Land development plans and consultations to ensure the parish's concerns are adequately represented.
- **Amanda Hopgood:** Meet with Whitton Grove residents (once the committee date is known) to discuss their concerns regarding a planning application in that area.

### 10b – Council Tax & Service Cuts

Councillor Elizabeth Pears reported that the County Council tax is increasing by 3.1%. This increase comes alongside significant budget savings measures, including:

- 40% increase in parking permit charges in the Durham Moor area.

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- Reductions in grass cutting and litter pickers.
- A consultation planned for summer to reduce the budget for household waste sites (potential closures or reduced operating days).
- Increased parking charges in Durham City. These savings are expected to impact frontline services.

### **10c – New Food Waste Bins**

Councillor Amanda Hopgood provided an update on the new food waste bin rollout.

- The bins are government-funded, but collection will cost DCC an additional £1 million per year.
- Deliveries for this area are expected in July, with collections starting in August.
- Residents will receive two caddies: a small kitchen caddy and a larger, lockable outdoor bin for weekly collection.
- Glass will now go into blue bins from April.
- The scheme allows for collection of batteries and vapes from the doorstep.
- Initially, biodegradable bags will be provided, but ongoing supply is uncertain after the first roll.
- Concerns were raised by residents about rats and proper use/enforcement, particularly in areas with existing bin issues.

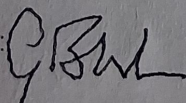
### **10d – Brasside Parking and Speed Bumps**

Councillor Amanda Hopgood reported on measures taken at Brasside:

- Double yellow lines have been extended towards the Abbey to address parking issues near bungalows.
- Aggressive speed humps have been installed near the Abbey and bowling club to deter boy racers, following resident complaints.

**The meeting ended at 7:08pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

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