

Chair of the
Council:
Graeme
Blenkiron



www.framwellgatemoorparishcouncil.co.uk

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

1	Attendance: Councillors Chair G Blenkiron, Vice Chair A. Hopgood, R Dodds, R Perry, E Clarkson, E Pears, V.Amyard, D. Wheeler Clerk C Eddon Apologies G Tidbury, M. Wilkes, M. Charlton
2	Declarations of interest and dispensation requests - Councillor Pears declared an interest as a Board of Trustees member for Durham City Youth Project - Councillor Perry declared an interest as a trustee for Framwellgate Youth and Community Centre
3	Public participation (please notify the Chairman or Clerk in advance) • Brasside Speeding: A resident raised concerns about speeding traffic, particularly from prison staff. Speed cameras are not considered a viable solution due to strict placement rules and enforcement difficulties. • Grange Fest Parking: A resident reported hazardous parking during the annual Grange Fest. The Vice Chair will ask the event organiser to encourage walking and will notify the police of the potential issue.
4	Review minutes from 1st April 2026 and actions agreed. The draft minutes of the April 2026 meeting were accepted as a true record. No matters arising were noted for reflection.
5	Correspondence • 5a/060526 - Team Solan: A request for support is pending further information. The charity failed to provide requested local impact data after initial contact and follow-up requests. The council decided to park the request until the information is provided. • 5b/060526 – Durham Aged Mineworks Homes Association: A request for funding support was received. The organisation confirmed the presence of residents within the parish area. The council decided to park the request as the organisation failed to provide further requested details, such as the number of residents and costs, after follow-up. • 5c/060526 – Scouts: A request to use North Terrace for a fireworks display on November 5th to fund a 2027 trip to Switzerland was denied. Rationale: The proposed site (North Terrace) is considered inappropriate due to its proximity to residential areas (Camsil Court), creating safety risks (fallout zones, noise, traffic) and potential for disruption. The land's covenant for under-14s was also noted as a potential issue.

Signed:

Dated:

3 JUNE-26.

	• 5d/060526 – Beacon Comms: A pre-consultation letter was received regarding proposed upgrades to an existing telecommunication site at Elders Transport, Low Cost Park, Durham (behind The Food Warehouse). The Parish Council decided to submit no comment on this upgrade, as it pertains to an existing mast not near residential areas.
6	Action Log • 6a/060526 - Change in the tennis court gate code. Council informed of the new code. • 6b/060526 - St Cuthbert's Hospice Donation: Payment has been made and acknowledged. • 6c/060526 - Groundsman's Tasks: Rower ends for gate fixing have arrived; fixing of gates and rower ends is ongoing. • 6d/060526 - Garden Lighting Time: Chair to clarify and adjust if necessary but currently appears to be working appropriately as a dusk till dawn switch. Action to be closed for now • 6e/060526 - Post Inky & Coal Welcome: Pending opening of business and Clerk access to Facebook. • 6f/060526 - Stephen Harden Gilbert (Tennis Coach): Current agreement ends in June. Coach requested to continue at £12 for two hours per week. • 6g/060526 - DCC Building Compliance SLA: Renewed. • 6h/060526 – Bowling Green Wheelchair Access Ramp: Materials (£262.62) have arrived. Project awaiting H&S approval from New College Durham. • 6i/060526 – Bowlers Flyers: Flyers to be ordered now that dates and times for Open Week are confirmed. • 6j/060526 – Website Booking Options: £5 half-day booking option and membership benefits are being discussed with Pete for website update, aiming for completion by Open Week. • 6k/060526 – Mesh Banner: To be ordered May with confirmed Open Week dates. • 6l/060526 – Bowlers Email: Clerk has chatted with bowlers. Four paying members, potential for a fifth. Happy with £5 a day offering • 6m/060526 – Hanging Baskets and Plant Pots: Brackets for hanging baskets ordered. Plants to be purchased the week prior to ensure freshness. • 6n/060526 – Research Grants for MUGA Resurfacing: DCC provided leads for Co-op and Asda grants, but these are for CICs and charities only, which the council does not qualify for. • 6o/060526 - Abbey Road surfacing: DCC cannot do the work directly and is obtaining a quote from Clean and Green.
7	Financial Report Clerk presented Invoices and receipts for previous month, reconciliation and current budget which were agreed by G Blenkiron.

Signed:

G Blenkiron

Dated:

3 JUNE 26

Clerk Update on the following.

- **8a/060526 – Bowling Green update:**

- Membership: Four paying members, with a fifth expected soon.
- Open Week: Moved to the first week of June (Tuesday 2nd, Thursday 4th, Saturday 6th, Sunday 7th) to ensure the green is in optimal condition. Sessions will include mornings, evenings, and weekends to cater to various demographics. Promotional flyers and a banner will be produced and distributed.
- Pay-to-Play: Bowlers are supportive of a proposed £5 pay-to-play arrangement. Clerk is working with NetPower to facilitate online payments/membership.
- Future Use Proposal: The Clerk presented a proposal to re-purpose the bowling green into a "Community Green Event Space" for multi-use (e.g., parties, fitness classes, croquet) given the low bowling membership numbers and the high cost/difficulty of converting it to a community garden. The bowlers are amenable to sharing the space.
- Lawnmowers: Serviced for the year at a cost of £290.

- **8b/060526 – Pavillion Maintenance:**

- Outdoor toilet water boiler repaired.
- Security lights (overlooking office and rear of building) replaced.
- Outdoor toilet flush repaired.
- "No Smoking" and CCTV signs replaced.

- **8c/060526 – CDALC annual subscription:**

- **Decision:** The council approved the renewal of the CDALC (Durham County Association of Local Councils) and NALC (National Association of Local Councils) membership for £1,044.25 (CDALC: £671.62, NALC: £372.64).

- **8d/060526 – LTA signage:** New signage requested from LTA to replace old signs and to be placed at the front gate for increased visibility and bookings.

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9a/060526 – Durham City Youth donation enquiry (E. Pears)

- **Context:** Councillor Perry (as a trustee) inquired when the Durham City Youth Project could reapply for a donation, noting that their previous donation budget was used last year.
- **Discussion:** The council confirmed that a new donations budget is now available and the project is welcome to apply.

9b/060526 – Framwellgate Moor Youth & Community Centre lease (R. Perry)

- **Context:** Councillor Perry reported on informal discussions by the Framwellgate Moor Youth & Community Centre, which currently holds a lease from the County Council, about potentially taking on the freehold of the building to secure longer-term funding for grants. They inquired about the responsibilities involved.
- **Decision:** The Parish Council will not take on the freehold of the Framwellgate Moor Youth & Community Centre.
- **Rationale:** The Parish Council lacks the capacity, resources, and desire to manage the responsibilities (insurance, repairs, maintenance, utilities, compliance) of owning and maintaining an old building of that size. This decision does not impact the council's support for the centre as a community asset.

9c/060526 – Requested update on the unsafe cycling lanes (G. Tidbury)

- **Context:** Councillor Tidbury (Gary) requested an update on damaged bollards and unsafe conditions in local cycle lanes. DCC had previously acknowledged the issue and advised that remedial works were identified.
 - **Update:** As of April 29th, DCC is awaiting a site visit with contractors to agree on the scope of works and confirm timescales for repairs.
 - **Further Context:** This is separate from wider proposals for a North Durham active travel corridor (Abbey Road to Framwellgate Moor), which is subject to public consultation during the summer. DCC may use the pavilion for survey work.
 - **Discussion:** The council expressed frustration at the delay but noted that temporary remedial action for safety was initially promised and still forthcoming.

10 County Councillors Report

Updates were received on the following:

10a/060526 - The change in County Council administration, prioritising heavy industry and mining.

10b/060526 - Support for local groups (Scouts Youth Provision Allotment Project, Durham County Clothing Bank, Pride, Durham Dash, St Aidan Church Hall, Rifles event).

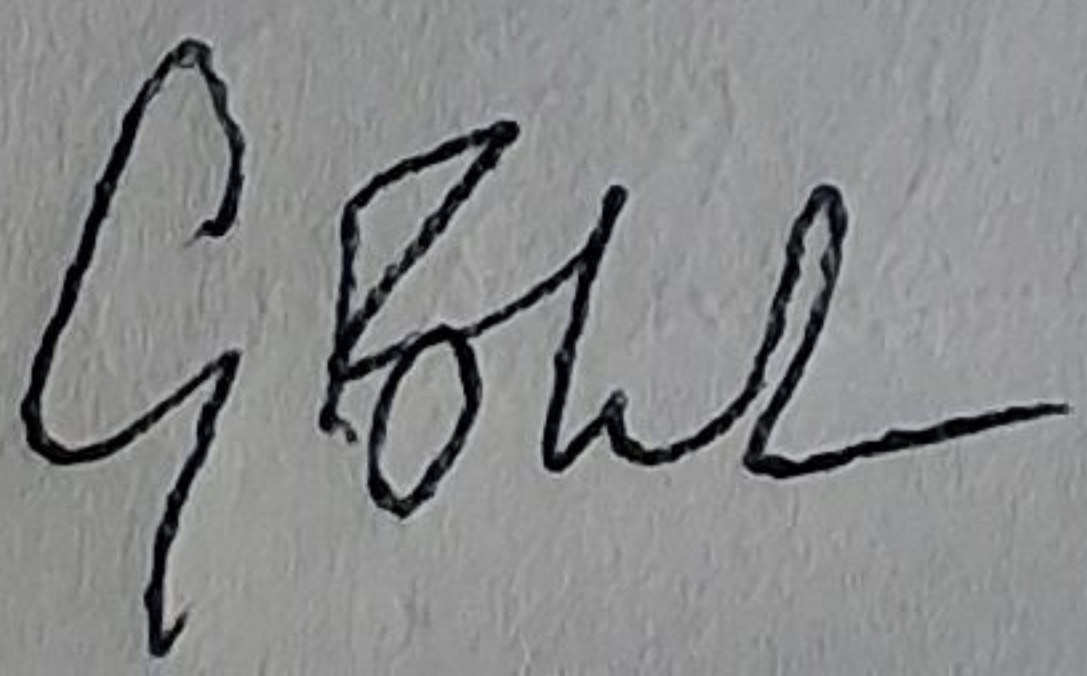
10c/060526 - Resurfacing of the Brasside footpath.

10d/060526 - Proposed monthly community litter picks.

10ef/060526 - The North Durham Active Travel Corridor project and the challenges with roundabout signalisation affecting its scope.

The meeting ended at 8:07pm on the 6th May 2026

Signed:



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