

**Chair of the
Council:**
Graeme
Blenkiron



Clerk:
Craig Eddon

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Framwellgate Moor Parish Council held on Wednesday 2nd September 2026 at 6:00 pm at The Pavilion Building, Front Street, Framwellgate Moor, Durham, DH1 5BL.

1	Attendance: Councillors Chair G Blenkiron, R Dodds, E Clarkson, E Pears, V.Amyard, D. Wheeler, G.Tidbury, M. Wilkes, M.Charlton, A. Hopgood, R. Perry Clerk C Eddon Apologies E. Pears
2	Declarations of interest and dispensation requests N/A
3	Public participation 3a/020926 - Framwellgate Moor & Pity Me Local History Society The local history society presented plans to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the former school, now the Community Centre, on 27 February 2027. Plans include a Victorian/Edwardian schoolroom in partnership with Beamish Museum, a local history exhibition, book launch, music, performances and children's activities. The Society requested Parish Council support with publicity and potential sponsorship towards event costs. The Council agreed to support promotion of the event, consider sponsorship, and investigate the possibility of borrowing bunting from DCC.
4	Review minutes from 8th July 2026 and actions agreed. The draft minutes of the July 2026 meeting were accepted as a true record. No matters arising were noted for reflection.
5	Correspondence • 5a/020926 – Abbey Road Play Park Glass: ○ Concern: Correspondence was received from two residents regarding broken glass at Abbey Road Playing Field. ○ Action: The groundsman swept the area, and DCC also attended. The resident thanked the council for its response. ○ Decision: No further action required. • 5b/020926 – Framwellgate Moor Youth & Community Association:

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- **Information:** Invitation received for their Christmas Fair on Saturday, December 12.

Action:

- The Parish Council will advertise the fair on its website and social media.
- The Parish Council Christmas tree light switch-on will be held on Saturday, November 28, 6 PM (with Newton Hall's at 4 PM), to avoid clashing.
- Amanda volunteered to lead the Christmas light switch-on arrangements.
- Colin will be asked to install the tree (supplied by the garden centre) and lights (three sets available) a few days prior.
- More non-alcoholic mulled wine and selection boxes will be secured.
- **Decision:** Noted and actions assigned.

- **5c/020926 – North East Bus Franchising Consultation**

- **Information:** Consultation seeking views on the future of bus services (open until September 28).
- **Discussion:** Members highlighted issues with inconsistent services, route changes, and the need for local control over bus companies that currently operate for profit.
- **Decision:** The Parish Council will formally write to the North East Bus Franchising Consultation to express full support for franchising to ensure a proper, reliable service.

- **5d/020926 – Play and Outdoor Gym Equipment (Front Street Play Park)**

- **Concern:** A resident raised concerns about the condition of the gym equipment and the gate at the Front Street play park.
- **Discussion:** The park is inspected regularly by DCC (SLA) and gym equipment was recently deemed low risk. The gate is on the groundsmen's winter maintenance list for automatic closing spring installation. Equipment functions but may not be aesthetically pleasing. Replacing equipment is costly.
- **Action:**
- The clerk will inform the resident that the park is regularly inspected and maintained, and it is part of the council's five-year plan for review and potential consultation on upgrades.
- The groundsman will add sanding and repainting of rusty areas to his winter maintenance schedule.
- **Decision:** Noted, actions assigned.

- **5e/020926 – DCC's Indoor Built Facility Strategy Survey**

- **Information:** DCC's survey on indoor sport and leisure facilities.
- **Discussion:** The Parish Council does not own any indoor sports facilities. Members confirmed the Abbey Leisure Centre is the only relevant facility in the parish area.
- **Action:** The clerk will respond to the survey on behalf of the Parish Council, stating that it has no indoor facilities and supports the retention of existing facilities like the Abbey Leisure Centre.
- **Decision:** Noted, action assigned.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5f/020926 – CIA Fire & Security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Information: Annual invoice received for the Smart Access Gate Access system for the tennis court (£942.19, including VAT), covering Sep 1, 2026 – Aug 31, 2027. ○ Rationale: The system generates revenue making it profitable. ○ Decision: Payment approved.
 • 5g/020926 – Traffic Regulation Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Information: Received documentation regarding the Framwellgate Moor, Brasside, Pity Me, and Newton Hall Traffic Regulation Order. ○ Decision: Noted.
 • 5g/020926 – Waste & Vermin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Concern: A resident reported rats on Front Street, and another reported rubbish buildup (and concerns about collection) on Newton Drive. ○ Action: The clerk will advise residents to contact DCC's Neighbourhood Wardens or the county council's webpage for vermin control. The Newton Drive property will be reported directly. ○ Decision: Noted, actions assigned. |
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6	Action Log • 6a/020926 - Unsafe Cycle Lanes: No update on the Front Street cycle lanes. • 6b/020926 - Bowling Flyers: Printed (1,000) and distributed. ~ 20 people attended the open week sessions. Sustainability of the Bowling Green will be discussed further at the October meeting. • 6c/020926 - Order Mesh Banner for Bowling Green Open Week: Done. • 6d/020926 - Purchase Hanging Baskets and Plants for Pots: Done (installed outside). • 6e/020926 - Email Local Bowling Clubs: Closed (equipment bought, being used). • 6f/020926 - Mini Roundabout (Salutation, Pity Me): ○ Discussion: Chair and Vice Chair met with Highways. Solutions for pedestrian crossing are complex due to legal requirements for spacing from the roundabout, impact on residential parking/access, and existing traffic flow. A pedestrian fatality has not occurred, which impacts prioritisation for DCC. There are future concerns with increased housing developments. ○ Outcome: DCC is investigating options and has promised not to abandon the issue. • 6g/020926 - 95-Day Notice Account: ○ Clarification: £10,000 minimum balance required. Money can be moved in/out concurrently (takes time to withdraw, instant to deposit). Withdrawals go to the community account. All transactions are via phone. ○ Decision: Transfer £30,000 from the instant-access account to the 95-day notice account. This ensures sufficient funds (approx. £15k for 3 months' running costs + half of resurfacing cost) are available while maximising interest. • 6h/020926 - Section 106 Application for MUGA and Tennis Court: Application submitted. Expect to hear back within 8 weeks. • 6i/020926 - MUGA Resurfacing Quotes: ○ Update: Company can do work in autumn/winter, does not include tree root removal (damages trees), offers a 12-month material failure guarantee, and requires 50% upfront payment. ○ Action: Get quotes for tree/root removal. Check other company re: guarantee on surfaces. The decision on proceeding will be made after the Section 106 grant decision and solution to tree roots. • 6j/020926 - Abbey Road Park Surfacing Quotes: ○ Quotes: DCC quoted £13,000 (no VAT); ESP Play quoted £6,514 (with VAT). ○ Decision: Approve the ESP Play quote in principle, contingent on receiving the Section 106 grant. If the grant is secured, the clerk is authorised to proceed with ordering the surfacing. • 6k/020926 - Email Planning at DCC re: new housing: Done, closed. • 6l/020926 - Email DCC re: temporary cycle lanes: Done, closed. • 6m/020926 - Make Mayor's Appeal donation: Paid, closed • 6n/020926 - North Terrace Cutting: ○ Update: Batsons quoted £1,600 for a dilapidation cut; another company completed it for £500. Batsons now offer two cuts (Sep/Oct) for £184 + VAT. ○ Decision: Approve Batsons for the two remaining cuts. The budget for North Terrace will be reviewed for next year. • 6o/020926 - Removal of weathered poppies from Memorial Garden: Done, closed.
7	Financial Report Clerk presented Invoices and receipts for previous month, reconciliation and current budget which were agreed by G Blenkiron.

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Clerk Update on the following.

- **8a/020926 – Asbestos Management Plan**

- Concern: DCC requested an up-to-date asbestos management plan for the pavilion. The last available plan is June 2018; the original company is no longer operating.
- Action: The clerk will review the 2018 report to confirm if asbestos is present. If none is found, DCC will be notified. If asbestos is present or the report is unclear, an external company will be commissioned for a new survey and plan.
- Decision: Noted, action assigned.

- **8b/080726 – Memorial Garden maintenance:**

- Maintenance standards had slipped.
- **Solution:** A new weekly maintenance regime has been implemented. Mondays are dedicated to the garden, following a detailed schedule. The Clerk will inspect weekly on Wednesdays and provide feedback, if needed.
- **Action:** Poppy wreaths will be removed as the season has ended by the groundsmen.

- **8c/080726 – North Terrace:**

- The North Terrace football pitch is overgrown after its previous maintenance (by Batsons, which stopped in 2024) ceased.
- **Action:** Batsons will provide a quote to add North Terrace to their monthly routine. Council agreed to proceed if the quote is reasonable (estimated £400-£500 for the rest of the season). Batsons may need to perform an initial "degradation cut", which will have an additional charge.

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9	Parish Matters • 9a/020926 – Hedge Maintenance (Hudspeth Crescent, Oxley Terrace) ○ Issue: An overgrown hedge on Hudspeth Crescent, Oxley Terrace, belonging to a resident, is obstructing a public footpath and blocking a streetlight. ○ Background: This has been an ongoing issue, previously handled by DCC, but it is the resident's responsibility. ○ Action: An inspector will assess the hedge and provide the resident with a deadline to cut it. If not done, the resident will be billed for the work. Vice Chair will follow up on this. • 9b/020926 – Footpath Maintenance (Wagon Way, Newton Hall, Carrs Nature Reserve) ○ Issue: A large hole has been reported in the new footpath along the Wagon Way, near the new school. ○ Action: Vice Chair will report the issue to DCC for maintenance. • 9c/020926 – Remembrance Sunday ○ Event: Planning for Remembrance Sunday is underway. ○ Road Closure: The quote for the road closure from Beacon is expected to be the same as last year. ○ Action: The Parish Council agrees to cover the cost of the road closure. DCC Traffic Management needs to be contacted to issue the necessary order. • 9d/020926 – Dogs at North Terrace Playing Field ○ Issue: A complaint was received regarding dogs being walked in the North Terrace fields, despite signs indicating "no dogs" (for children's use only). ○ Action: The Parish Council needs to consider how to enforce the "no dogs" rule. D. Wheeler will examine the signage and attempt to identify consistent times when the dogs are present to gather evidence.
10	County Councillors Report Updates were received on the following: 10a/020926 – Allotments: The planning application for the allotment extension was withdrawn on the advice of planners due to changes in biodiversity net gain laws, saving the project an estimated £60,000. With the law now changed, the application is expected to proceed to planning next month. 10b/020926 – The Light: New Museum has received positive feedback for its family-friendly facilities, impressive displays, and future-proof design. 10c/020926 - Christmas Lights Switch-On: The date for the Christmas Lights Switch-On has been agreed upon.
	The meeting ended at 20:22pm on the 2nd of September 2026

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