

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025 (6:00 –**  
**8:00pm)**



**COUNCILLORS PRESENT**

Derek Kennedy (Chair), Stephen Ball, Penny Grennan, John Ord, Fay Hartland, Nigel Porter, Roger Higgins, Mike Domingue, David Wright, Dom McDermott, Neil Park, Suzanne Fairless-Aitken

**ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE**

Andrew Gooding – Town Clerk  
Hexham TV- Peter Woods  
One member of the public

**TC25-146. WELCOME BY THE CHAIR**

The Mayor, Cllr Kennedy, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**TC25-147. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A question was asked if Northumberland County Council would be making a presentation to the meeting about the Old Fire Station and Sir Antony Gornley. It was confirmed that Cllr Sanderson leader of Northumberland County Council had been invited to the meeting but that unfortunately he wasn't able to attend.

**TC25-148. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Tom Sharlot

**TC25-149. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures of interests.

**TC25-150. DISPENSATIONS**

There were no requests for dispensations.

**TC25-151. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

It was **AGREED** To **RECEIVE** and **SIGN** as a true record, the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 10 November 2025.

**TC25-152. TO DISCUSS THE CALL IN OF THE OLD FIRE STATION DECISION AT NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL**

To note the leader of Northumberland County Council had been invited to the discussion, but was unable to attend.

Cllr Kennedy explained the call in procedure at Northumberland County Council and went through the timeline of actions relating to the Old Fire Station issue over the last year.

The call in procedure and the NCC petition were used to highlight perceived flaws in the actions of NCC's executive committee. The NCC scrutiny committee requested that the matter be brought to NCC Full Council.

There will be an item on the NCC Full Council agenda on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at which, it is expected to make recommendations to the NCC executive committee.

Cllr Hartland presented a comparison of the various reports and statements issued by NCC which highlighted a number of contradictions.

It was felt that the situation needed to be depoliticised and that a solution could be sought with the land available that met the needs of NCC operations and the Foundation Foundation.

It was **AGREED** to task Cllr Kennedy with seeking the information required to explore what was possible in order to propose a realistic solution that could accommodate all parties.

#### **TC25-153. TO ADOPT FRIENDS OF THE EARTH GUIDANCE FOR TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS.**

This item was proposed by Cllr Ord who identified that HTC has a history of recognising the climate emergency, with positive actions being taken since 2019. However, in light of the climate situation not improving he suggested more could be done. By using the guidance the following could be realised::

1. HTC as a force for good working with local people and businesses
2. Using HTC powers and voice to protect biodiversity and the natural environment
3. For HTC to lead by example

The motion was **SUPPORTED** by a majority vote.

#### **TC25-154. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON HEXHAM'S POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT SITES**

- a) **Hexham Middle School (NCC)**  
A number of volume house builders attended the open day for prospective developers.
- b) **Old Bus Station (Dysart/NCC)**  
No update.
- c) **Toilets (NCC)**  
No update.
- d) **West Road (NCC)**  
No update.

- e) **Police Houses (PCC)**  
Works have commenced.
- f) **Old Workhouse (79thGroup)**  
Interested parties are looking for a meeting to progress development.
- g) **Shambles (NCC)**  
Almost complete with car park and some snagging to finish.
- h) **Cycle path (NCC)**  
Concern had been raised over the closure of the road at Peth Head.
- i) **Railway Buildings and Water Tower**  
Action to escalate enforcement.
- j) **West End Methodists**  
No update.
- k) **Former Beales Site**  
No update
- l) **Former Prospect House**  
Properties now on the market.
- m) **Abbey Cottage**  
No update.
- n) **Old Fire Station**  
Covered elsewhere on the agenda.

#### **TC25-155. FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

13/12/25	Christmas Markets
15/12/25	Village Green Meeting

#### **TC25-156. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Gaia ended 16/11/25 a fantastic use of the Abbey that attracted visitors from far and wide.

Well attended small business meeting with NCC

Forum launch of the impressive and high quality Hexham independents advert which featured in the National media and gained 1/4m views online.

Big thanks to Egger for their support with the Christmas tree.

Opened the new Specsavers store.

Agreed letter of support for the community archaeology project.

**TC25-157. TO AGREE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Accounts for payment were **AGREED**

**TC25-158. TO NOTE APPROVED COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The following were **AGREED**:

Finance & General Purposes            22/10/2025

**TC25-159. TO NOTE CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.**

- a. NALC e-news and events and NALC Chief Executive's bulletins
- b. CAN e-news
- c. Northumberland CVA Voice ebulletins
- d. Rural Bulletin
- e. Chrysalis Update
- f. Cycle Track Stopping Up notification
- g. Request for letter of support for the community archaeology project.