

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 9TH FEBRUARY 2026
(6:00 – 8:00pm)



COUNCILLORS PRESENT

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

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE

Andrew Gooding – Town Clerk

Hexham TV- Peter Woods

Stephen Wardle, David Hunt, Rob Brazier – Northumberland County Council

Kathryn Agar – Northumberland Library Service

TC26-016. WELCOME BY THE CHAIR

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

TC26-017. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public attended

TC26-018. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs Fay Hartland and Neil Park

TC26-019. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interests.

TC26-020. DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations.

TC26-021. 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 12 January 2026.

TC26-022. PRESENTATION BY NCC OFFICERS ON THE PROVISION OF THE STREETSWEeper PROVISION

Officers from Northumberland County Council Neighbourhood Services outlined the work undertaken by the streetsweeper initiative. The scheme is a collaboration between NCC and HCT not a formal contract. The aim is to improve visual amenity and cleanliness within the town through the deployment of a dedicated streetsweeper.

The scheme provides employment locally and aims to provide a quick resolution to any issues arising.

The presentation is available [here](#)

Questions were raised around:

1. Dog fouling – it was suggested that dog fouling should be reported via fixmystreet so that any issues can be recorded and identified
2. Additional waste following events – the team provide additional bins and enhanced cleansing following town events
3. Use of glyphosphate – this is a policy decision and needs to be raised with NCC centrally.
4. The nature of other NCC partnerships around the County – These can be any enhancement of the Neighbourhood Services Team, including Grasscutting and weed control.

It was **AGREED** that the Planning and Infrastructure Committee would determine the monitoring information required concerning the operation of the streetsweeper.

TC26-023. PRESENTATION ON THE STORIES FROM OUR PATCH PROJECT

Kathryn Agar from Northumberland Library Service outlined a projection undertaken in conjunction with Grow Hexham which is part of Europe Challenge, an annual programme that brings together teams from libraries and communities across Europe to address today's most pressing social, digital, and climate challenges by developing, sharing and implementing creative solutions with support from the European Cultural Foundation and its partners.

The key to this particular project is encouraging people to share their stories about food and to give people the skills to grow, prepare and cook their own food.

The presentation is available [here](#)

Questions were raised around:

1. How success is measured – numbers are not necessarily a reflection on success, it is more about how people attain sustained benefit from the project and if activity can be continued once the project ends.

TC26-024. TO SEEK SUPPORT FOR 'LOVE OUR TYNE' AS IT EXPLORES WITH OTHER COUNCILS, COMMUNITIES AND RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF "RIGHTS OF RIVERS" THROUGHOUT THE RIVER TYNE CATCHMENT.

This item was deferred

TC26-025. CONFIRMATION OF THE GRANT APPLICATIONS SUPPORTED BY HEXHAM TOWN COUNCIL FOR 2026/7

Confirmed grants to be awarded by Hexham Town Council in 2026/27 are:

Hexham Bridge Club	600
Sport Tynedale	500

Core Music	7000
Hexham Town Twinning Association	1000
Hextol Foundation	6000
Tanga	3000
West Northumberland Foodbank	5000
Hexham & Tynedale Community Centre	12000
Hexham Youth Initiative	35000
Total	70100

Questions were raised around:

1. The decision not to award a grant to Hexham Community Partnership for 2026/27 – Cllr Kennedy outlined the process taken and the context in which the decision was made. The Council earlier released a statement (below) outlining the rationale for the decision.
2. Moving forward with Hexham Community Partnership – It was **AGREED** that the Partnership need to determine their own future and once their future plans are communicated then Hexham Town Council can determine how any gaps in provision can best be addressed.

Hexham Town Council have had to make some very challenging decisions. The relevant committees have discussed concerns about HTC’s funding of and relationship with HCP – these are primarily around the continuance of HTC being the sole funder and limited confidence that this situation will change. It has therefore been resolved that from April 2026 the council will no longer be funding the community partnership. The Town Council has not taken this decision lightly and appreciates the potential implications of the decision. Both organisations have the wellbeing of the Hexham community at heart and the council is willing to play an active role in any transition arrangements that may be needed.

TC26-026. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON HEXHAM’S POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT SITES

No pressing updates were received.

Prospect House and Firestation to be removed from the list.

TC26-027. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

27/01/26	Tynedale Community Partnership
05/03/26	Town & Parish Conference

TC26-028. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

To note the public display regarding the new cycle path and an update from the police.

In addition Cllrs Kennedy and Fairless-Aitken have had embryonic discussions regarding a pump track facility.

TC26-029. TO AGREE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Accounts for payment were **AGREED**

TC26-030. TO NOTE APPROVED COMMITTEE MINUTES

The following were **AGREED**:

Planning & Infrastructure	9/12/25 & 6/1/26
Community Engagement	13/11/25

TC26-031. 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

TC26-032. TO DETERMINE APPOINTMENT OF HEXHAM STEWARD AND BAILIFF

The following nominations were **AGREED**:

Thelma Brown for longstanding contribution to Guiding Movement.
Sam Gilchrist for impact at West Northumberland Foodbank