Horden Parish Council

Horden Social Welfare Centre
Seventh Street
Horden, County Durham
SR8 4LX
Tel: 0191 518 0823

25 September 2026

Dear Member

You are summoned to attend the Horden Parish Council Meeting to be held in Horden Social Welfare Centre, Seventh Street, Horden on Thursday 1st October 2026 at 6pm.

HORDEN PARISH COUNCIL ORDER OF BUSINESS
Meeting to be held 1 October 2026

1. **Apologies for Absence** – to consider for approval.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – to receive declarations of interest from Members on items of the agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Council's Code of Conduct.
3. **Minutes of the Horden Parish Council Meeting held 3 September 2026 (enclosed) –** to consider for approval.
4. **Minutes of the Horden Parish Council Meeting held 17 September 2026 (enclosed) –** to consider for approval.
5. **Public Participation –** to receive any representations or questions from the public in accordance with standing orders 3 e-g. ***Members of the Public are invited to address the Parish Council on matters relating to the agenda for up to 3 minutes per person during a period not exceeding 20 minutes.***
6. **Register of Delegated Decisions –** to note there are no additional decisions to approve.
7. **Damage and Incident Report (enclosed)** – to note no report to consider.
8. **Cemetery Burial and Income Report 24/08/26 –20/09/26 (enclosed) –** to receive the information.
9. **Cash Withdrawals and Debit Card Transactions (enclosed)** – to approve report.
10. **Bank Transfer(s)** – to approve any transfer(s).
11. **Invoices for endorsement for payment (enclosed)** – to approve for payment.
12. **Audit 2024/25 –** to consider the report of the external auditor on the conclusion of audit.
13. **Members/Officers Allowances** – to consider any claims for approval.
14. **2026/7 NJC Pay Award** – to approve the implementation of the NJC pay award & back date to 1st April 2026.
15. **Remembrance Sunday Wreath Laying -** to consider order of Wreath laying.
16. **Notice Board Request from Cllr R Bagnall** – to consider request.
17. **BMX/Pump Track Request from Cllr C Robson** - to consider request.
18. **Horden Comrades Defib Request** – to consider the request.
19. **Durham County Council Consultation** – to consider a response.
20. **Durham County Councillor Update** – to receive the information.

C Jackson

Colin Jackson
Clerk to the Council
25 September 2026

To: All Members of Horden Parish Council/cc Public Notice

HORDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting held 3 September 2026

Present: Councillor W Morrow (Chairman)
Councillors T Baldesera, C Cain, E Laing, C Robson, T Usher, J Ward, G Wetherell, L Williams, F Winrow, F Leadbitter, Councillor D Tait, C Armstrong and R Bagnall.

Staff: Mr C Jackson (Clerk to the Council) and Miss B Howarth (Assistant Clerk)

HPC 26/27/079 **Apologies for Absence**
RESOLVED: That apologies be **APPROVED** for Councillor D Bellingham.

HPC 26/27/080 **Declarations of Interest**
RESOLVED: No declarations were made.

HPC 26/27/081 **Minutes of the Horden Parish Council Meeting held 2nd July 2026**
RESOLVED: The minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

HPC 26/27/082 **Minutes of the Horden Parish Council Meeting held 13th August 2026**
RESOLVED: The minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

HPC 25/26/083 **Public Participation**
One person of the public was present but did not speak.

HPC 26/27/084 **Pride in Place Peterlee East**
Lynsey Garraghan from Durham County Council provided a presentation regarding the pride in place initiative. **RESOLVED:** Council **RECEIVE** the information.

Meeting adjourned at 6:22pm.
Meeting Reconvened at 6:27pm.

HPC 26/27/085 **Register of Delegated Decisions**
RESOLVED: Council **NOTE** there are no additional decisions to approve.

HPC 26/27/086 **Damage and Incident Report**
RESOLVED: Council **NOTE** the report.

HPC 26/27/087 **Cemetery Burial and Income Report 22 June to 23 August 2026**
RESOLVED: Council **NOTE** the report.

HPC 26/27/088 **County Councillor Update**
RESOLVED: Council **NOTE** the report.

HPC 26/27/089 **Parish Council Financial:**
a) Bank Balances (Balance Sheet).
RESOLVED: Council **APPROVE** the Bank Balances to 30/06/2026 of £1,329,577.29.

HPC 26/27/090 **b) Finance Report to 30/06/2024**
RESOLVED: Council A**PPROVE** the Income, Expenditure and Variances Report.

HPC 26/27/091 **c) Cash Withdrawals and Debit Card Transactions to July 2026**
RESOLVED: Council **APPROVE** the cash withdrawals and debit card transactions amount of £1,438.

HPC 26/27/092 **d) Petty Cash**
RESOLVED: Council **APPROVE** the report.

HPC 26/27/093 **e) Bank Transfer(s)**
RESOLVED: The Clerk advised that a transfer of £50,000 from CCLA to the current account was made in August and an additional £50,000 will be required this month. **RESOLVED:** The Council **ENDORSE** the transfer of funds.

HPC 26/27/094 **Invoices for endorsement for Payment**
RESOLVED: Council **ENDORSE** payment of the attached schedule of invoices for July plus the additional schedule totalling £61,688.79. Councillors W Morrow and F Leadbitter authorised the payments.
Council **ENDORSE** payment of the attached schedule of invoices for August plus the additional schedule totalling £49,916.31. Councillors W Morrow and F Leadbitter to authorise.

HPC 26/27/095 **Mileage Rates**
RESOLVED: Council **APPROVE** the millage allowance of 55p per mile.

HPC 26/27/096 **Members/Officers Allowances**
No Members/Officers Allowances to report.

HPC 26/27/097 **Remembrance Sunday Wreath**
RESOLVED: Council **APPROVE** purchasing two Type B wreaths and two spares.

HPC 26/27/098 **Boiler Update**
RESOLVED: Council **NOTE** the report and **ADVISE** the Clerk to arrange a meeting to consider tenders.

HPC 26/27/099 **Andy Mans Club**
RESOLVED: Council **RECEIVE** the information.

HPC 26/27/100 **Easington U15's Request**
RESOLVED: Council **AGREE** that the team will receive a refund for the field hire, less the cost of the one hour training session already taken.

HPC 26/27/101 **Horden Residents Charter Consultation**
RESOLVED: Council **AGREE** no response required.

Meeting concluded at 6:55pm.

Horden Parish Council Invoices for Payment July 2026

SUPPLIER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	Pay Ref:
Amazon	01.07.26	Toilet Rolls - SWC	£26.48	BACS
Amazon	02.07.26	Blue Roll - SWC	£16.49	BACS
Amazon	07.07.26	Hand Towels - SWC	£33.70	BACS
Amazon	23.07.26	Cleaning Materials & Paper Cups - SWC	£135.21	BACS
Corona Energy	17.07.26	Sunderland Road Pavilion Electricity 01/06/2026 - 30/06/2026	£141.83	D/D
Culligan (UK) Limited	15.07.26	Water Cooler Rental & Service - July 2026	£28.62	D/D
Durham County Council	17.07.26	Emergency Attendance 04/06/2026 Sump Pump Leaking	£63.06	BACS
Durham County Council	28.07.26	Grass Cutting Cotsford Park 2026/2027	£321.54	BACS
East Durham College	06.07.26	Employer Contribvution - LB	£175.00	BACS
JR Production	06.07.26	Mascot Hire Teddy Bears Picnic, Balloon Twisting, Magic Show 19/08	£365.00	BACS

Microshade Business Consultants Ltd	01.07.26	Hosted Application Service - Rialtas - July 2026	£215.76	BACS
Octopus Energy	14.07.26	Welfare House Gas & Electricity 15/06/2026 - 13/07/2026	£25.72	D/D
Octopus Energy	15.07.26	Cemetery Lodge Gas & Electricity 15/06/2026 - 14/07/2026	£24.99	D/D
Regal Print Limited	22.07.26	Purchase Order Books x 5	£125.40	BACS
L J Robertson - Popple's Tales	07.07.26	2 x Storytelling sessions - Teddy Bears Picnic	£150.00	BACS
Scottish Power	01.07.26	SWC Electricity 09/06/2026 - 01/07/2026	£383.66	D/D
Scottish Power	01.07.26	SWC Gas 11/06/2026 - 01/07/2026	£54.40	D/D
Scottish Power	01.07.26	Cemetery Electricity 05/06/2026 - 01/07/2026	£39.50	D/D
Scottish Power	01.07.26	Memorial Park Electricity 05/06/2026 - 01/07/2026	£38.69	D/D
Scottish Power	16.07.26	Cemetery Electricity 05/06/2026 - 01/07/2026 - recalculated	£0.10	D/D
Scottish Power	16.07.26	Memorial Park Electricity 05/06/2026 - 01/07/2026 - recalculated	£0.10	D/D
Scottish Power	23.07.26	SWC Electricity 09/06/2026 - 01/07/2026 - recalculated	£0.59	D/D
Screwfix	16.07.26	Strimmer Line - Cemetery	£35.99	BACS
Select Telecom Limited	30.06.26 RCVD 10.07.26	Admin Phone Lines/Calls/Internet - July 2026	£275.76	D/D
Shoreline Fire Compliance Limited	07.07.26	Replace 1 x Florescent & 1 x LED Bulkheads - Sunderland Road	£54.00	BACS
Smith Of Derby	01.07.26	Service Memorial Clock & Replacement Battery	£487.20	BACS
Vodafone	20.07.26	Mobile Phones	£49.00	D/D
Wex	28.06.26	Vehicle Trackers	£14.40	D/D
Wex	20.07.26	Equipment Fuel - Cemetery	£123.64	D/D
Wex	27.07.26	Vehicle Fuel - Iveco Pickup	£49.45	D/D
Wex	26.07.26	Vehicle Trackers	£14.40	D/D
Zurich Municipal	19.05.26	Annual Insurance	£16,063.88	313566
OTHER PAYMENTS				
Co-op Bank	02.07.26	Wages Week 13	£5,583.18	BACS
Co-op Bank	09.07.26	Wages Week 14	£5,582.96	BACS
Co-op Bank	16.07.26	Wages Week 15	£5,582.78	BACS
Co-op Bank	23.07.26	Wages Week 16	£6,307.32	BACS
Co-op Bank	30.07.26	Wages Week 17	£5,582.58	BACS
Durham County Council	27.07.26	Superannuation Weeks 14 - 17	£6,004.05	BACS
HMRC	27.07.26	PAYE Weeks 14 - 17	£7,082.76	BACS
Wave	13.07.26	SWC Water 13/04/2026 - 12/07/2026 (£120.00 pcm)	£429.60	D/D
		Horden Parish Council JULY 2026 TOTAL	**£61,688.79**	

Horden Parish Council Invoices for Payment August 2026

SUPPLIER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	Pay Ref:
Amazon	16.08.26	Cleaning Materials - SWC	£89.68	BACS
Amazon	21.08.26	Toilet Seat - SWC	£28.99	BACS
Amazon	24.08.26	Blue Roll - SWC	£13.99	BACS

Amazon	26.08.26	Portable Jump Starter	£34.95	BACS
Apogee Corporation Limited	07.07.26	Photocopier Rental 07/07/2026 - 06/10/2026	£254.04	D/D
Co-operative Bank	03.08.26	BACS/FD Online Fees - July 2026	£79.26	D/D
Co-operative Bank	01.09.26	BACS/FD Online Fees - August 2026	£67.92	D/D
County Durham and Cleveland County Training Partnership	05.08.26	Management of Memorials Inspections Workshop - CL KB & BH	£450.00	BACS
Culligan (UK) Limited	15.08.26	Water Cooler Rental & Service - August 2026	£28.80	D/D
Durham County Council	09.07.26 RCVD 13.08.26	Service John Deere Tractor & Kubota Ride on Mower	£789.82	BACS
Flotek Group (was Microshade Business Consultants Ltd)	01.08.26	Hosted Application Service - Rialtas - August 2026	£215.76	BACS
ITC Service Limited	31.07.26	Unifi Security & Office 365 Officers & Domain/Hosting/Estate Management & 365 Backup - August 2026	£489.40	D/D
ITC Service Limited	01.09.26	Unifi Security & Office 365 Officers & Domain/Hosting/Estate Management & 365 Backup - September 2026	£489.40	D/D
JH Partners Consulting Engineers Limited	31.07.26	Survey, Specification & Tender Package - SWC Boilers	£3,960.00	BACS
JH Partners Consulting Engineers Limited	27.08.26	Detailed Mechanical Design, Specification & Tender Package - SWC Boilers	£720.00	BACS
Magnum Cleaning Services (Adam Bell)	26.08.26	Window Cleaning - SWC	£45.00	BACS
Maxwells DIY	01.08.26	Paint, Filler, Caulk, Varnish and Brushes - SWC	£91.00	BACS
Moorepay Limited	31.07.26	Weekly Payroll Fees 06/07/20256 - 19/07/2026	£65.50	D/D
Moorepay Limited	28.08.26	Weekly Payroll Fees 27/07/20256 - 23/08/2026	£52.40	D/D
Octopus Energy	05.08.26	Cemetery Lodge Gas & Electricity 15/07/2026 - 04/08/2026	£20.71	D/D
Octopus Energy	05.08.26	Welfare House Gas & Electricity 14/07/2026 - 04/08/2026	£21.46	D/D
Origin Amenity Solutions	13.08.26	Grass Seed	£120.00	BACS
Geo Robinson & Son	31.07.26 RCVD 09.08.26	Key Cut, Paint, Wheelbarrow	£144.65	BACS
Salus NE Limited	03.08.26	Event Medical Cover - Teddy Bear's Picnic	£158.40	BACS
Scottish Power	02.08.26	Sunderland Road Pavilion Electricity 01/07/2026 - 31/07/2026	£94.12	D/D
Scottish Power	03.08.26	SWC Electricity 02/07/2026 - 03/08/2026	£456.06	D/D
Scottish Power	03.08.26	Cemetery Electricity 02/07/2026 - 03/08/2026	£42.75	D/D
Scottish Power	03.08.26	Memorial Park Electricity 02/07/2026 - 03/08/2026	£37.68	D/D
Scottish Power	05.08.26	SWC Gas 02/07/2026 - 05/08/2026	£11.41	D/D
Select Telecom Limited	31.07.26 RCVD 12.08.26	Admin Phone Lines/Calls/Internet - August 2026	£124.52	D/D
Sam Shippen	05.08.26	Consultant Work 3/6, 2/7 & 6/7	£538.35	BACS
Thinford Nurseries Limited	31.08.26	Summer Bedding	£1,333.20	BACS

TJ's Heating & Home Improvements	01.08.26	Supply & Fit Door Closer - SWC Kitchen	£185.00	BACS
TJ's Heating & Home Improvements	15.08.26	Cistermiser - SWC Men's Toilets	£390.00	BACS
Treasured Memories Limited	07.08.26	Memorial Plaque - ES	£208.50	BACS
Vodafone	20.08.26	Mobile Phones	£49.75	D/D
Wex	30.08.26	Vehicle Trackers	£14.40	D/D
Wex	31.08.26	Equipment Fuel - Cemetery	£136.90	D/D
OTHER PAYMENTS				
Co-op Bank	06.08.26	Wages Week 18	£5,582.98	BACS
Co-op Bank	13.08.26	Wages Week 19	£5,582.98	BACS
Co-op Bank	20.08.26	Wages Week 20	£5,582.98	BACS
Co-op Bank	27.08.26	Wages Week 21	£5,582.96	BACS
Durham County Council	01.09.26	Superannuation Weeks 18 - 22	£7,218.19	BACS
HMRC	01.09.26	PAYE Weeks 18 - 22	£8,312.45	BACS
		Horden Parish Council AUGUST 2026 TOTAL	**£49,916.31**	

AGENDA ITEM 4

HORDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting held 17 September 2026

Present: Councillor W Morrow (Chairman)
Councillors T Baldasera, D Bellingham, F Leadbitter, C Robson, D Tait, T Usher and J Ward.

Staff: Mr C Jackson (Clerk to the Council)

HPC 26/27/102 **Apologies for Absence**
RESOLVED: That apologies be **ACCEPTED** for Councillor R Bagnall, C Cain, E Laing, G Wetherell and L Williams.

HPC 26/27/103 **Declarations of Interest**
No declarations of interest were made.

HPC 26/27/104 **Public Participation**
No members of the Public were present.

HPC 26/27/105 **Boiler Update**
RESOLVED: Council **APPROVE** the appointment of supplier D: DCI Gas Installations Ltd.

Meeting concluded at 6:06pm.

Thorpe Road Cemetery Report 24.08.26 to 20.09.2026

INTERMENT (inc. Ashes)			
PLOT	**DETAIL**	**RESIDENT**	**FEE**
GARDEN D 35	ASHES	YES	£235.00
T30	FULL BURIAL	YES	£710.00
GARDEN D 81	ASHES	YES	£235.00
		TOTAL	**£1,180.00**

PURCHASE OF PLOT - EXCLUSIVE RIGHT			
PLOT	**DETAIL**		**FEE**
T30	NEW PURCHASE	YES	£590.00
GARDEN D 81	NEW PURCHASE	YES	£235.00
		TOTAL	**£825.00**

SUPPLY OF IMMOVABLE MEMORIAL			
PLOT	**DETAIL**	**RESIDENT**	**FEE**
		TOTAL	**£0.00**

SUPPLY OF MEMORIAL PLAQUE/BENCH			**FEE**
WILLIAMS	PLAQUE	NO	£350.00
JOYCE	BENCH & PLAQUE	YES	£820.00
		TOTAL	**£1,170.00**

MISCELLANEOUS			**FEE**
		TOTAL	**£0.00**
		TOTAL INCOME	**£3,175.00**

Cash Withdrawals & Debit Card Transactions:

07/09/2026 - Cash Withdrawal – Petty Cash – CJ - £30.00
15/09/2026 – DVLA – Vehicle Tax Iveco Pick Up – CJ – £360.00

TOTAL £390.00

Horden Parish Council Invoices for Payment September 2026

SUPPLIER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	Pay Ref:
Almond Windows Limited	10.09.26	Supply & Fit Door Lock and Adjust Door - Cemetery Toilet	£70.00	BACS
Amazon	18.09.26	Toilet Rolls, Paper cups, Paper Towels, Floor Cleaner & Plasters - SWC	£133.58	BACS
Banner Group Limited	23.09.26	Blue Roll & Toilet Roll	£59.56	BACS
Owen Bennett Building Services	03.09.26	Supply and Replace Extractor Fan and Socket - Sunderland Road Bungalow	£200.00	BACS
Culligan (UK) Limited	15.09.26	Water Cooler Rental & Service - September 2026	£31.32	D/D
DJ Plumbing & Heating	22.07.26	Bathroom Repairs - Sunderland Road	£638.09	BACS
East Durham College	14.09.26	Period 12 Charge - LB	£22.00	BACS
Flotek Group (was Microshade Business Consultants Ltd)	01.09.26 RCVD 16.09.26	Hosted Application Service - Rialtas - September 2026	£215.76	BACS
Pat Lavery Tyre & Exhaust Centre Limited	06.08.26	Puncture Repair Ride On - Cemetery	£20.00	BACS
Octopus Energy	03.09.26	Cemetery Lodge Gas & Electricity 05/08/2026 - 02/09/2026	£25.21	D/D
Octopus Energy	03.09.26	Welfare House Gas & Electricity 05/08/2026 - 02/09/2026	£26.22	D/D
Scottish Power	03.09.26	SWC Electricity 04/08/2026 - 03/09/2026	£433.67	D/D
Scottish Power	30.08.26	Sunderland Road Pavilion Electricity 01/08/2026 - 30/08/2026	£96.72	D/D
Scottish Power	03.09.26	Memorial Park Electricity 04/08/2026 - 03/09/2026	£30.91	D/D
Scottish Power	03.09.26	Cemetery Electricity 04/08/2026 - 03/09/2026	£46.42	D/D
Scottish Power	09.09.26	SWC Gas 06/08/2026 - 09/09/2026	£201.84	D/D
Screwfix	04.09.26	Rigger Boots - CL	£34.97	BACS
Screwfix	11.09.26	2 x 2 Stroke Engine Oil & Strimmer Line	£73.97	BACS
Select Telecom Limited	31.08.26 RCVD 11.09.26	Admin Phone Lines/Calls/Internet - September 2026	£115.97	D/D
Treasured Memories Limited	11.09.26	Memorial Plaque - M & A W	£208.50	BACS
Stephen Twitty - Twittys Locksmiths	09.09.26	Supply 2 Keyed Alike Shutter Bolts	£25.00	BACS
Vodafone	20.09.26	Mobile Phones	£52.75	D/D
Wex	07.09.26	Equipment Fuel - Cemetery	£49.49	D/D
Wex	14.09.26	Equipment Fuel - Cemetery	£107.48	D/D
Wex	21.09.26	Equipment Fuel - Cemetery	£75.39	D/D
OTHER PAYMENTS				
Co-op Bank	03.09.26	Wages Week 22	£5,582.98	BACS
Co-op Bank	10.09.26	Wages Week 23	£5,603.89	BACS
Co-op Bank	17.09.26	Wages Week 24	£5,536.33	BACS
Co-op Bank	24.09.26	Wages Week 25	£5,542.56	BACS
Wave	11.09.26	Cemetery Water 11/06/2026 - 10/09/2026 (£77.00 pcm)	£218.32	D/D
		Horden Parish Council SEPTEMBER 2026 TOTAL	**£25,478.90**	

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26 Form 3

To be completed by Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities*:

- **where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure exceeded £25,000 but did not exceed £15 million; or**
- **where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less but that:**
  - **are unable to certify themselves as exempt (fee payable); or**
  - **have requested a limited assurance review (fee payable)**

Guidance notes on completing Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/26

1. Every smaller authority in England that either received gross income or incurred gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 **must** complete Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return at the end of each financial year in accordance with *Proper Practices*.

2. **The Annual Governance and Accountability Return is made up of three parts, pages 3 to 6:**
   - The **Annual Internal Audit Report must** be completed by the authority's internal auditor.
   - **Sections 1 and 2 must** be completed and approved by the authority.
   - **Section 3** is completed by the external auditor and will be returned to the authority.
3. The authority **must** approve Section 1, Annual Governance Statement, before approving Section 2, Accounting Statements, and both **must** be approved and published on the authority website/webpage **before 1 July 2026.**
4. An authority with either gross income or gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 or an authority with neither income nor expenditure exceeding £25,000, but which is unable to certify itself as exempt, or is requesting a limited assurance review, **must** return to the external auditor by email or post (not both) **no later than 30 June 2026** Reminder letters will incur a charge of £40 +VAT:
   - the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Sections 1 and 2, together with
   - a bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2026
   - an explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements
   - notification of the commencement date of the period for the exercise of public rights
   - Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/26

Unless requested, do not send any additional documents to your external auditor. Your external auditor will ask for any additional documents needed.

Once the external auditor has completed the limited assurance review and is able to give an opinion, the Annual Governance and Accountability Return **Section 1, Section 2 and Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate** will be returned to the authority by email or post.

Publication Requirements

Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, authorities **must** publish the following information on the authority website/webpage:

Before 1 July 2026 authorities **must** publish:

- Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and a declaration that the accounting statements are as yet unaudited;
- **Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2025/26** approved and signed, page 4
- **Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2025/26** approved and signed, page 5

Not later than 30 September 2026 authorities **must** publish:

- Notice of conclusion of audit
- **Section 3 - External Auditor Report and Certificate**
- **Sections 1 and 2 of AGAR** including any amendments as a result of the limited assurance review. It is recommended as best practice, to avoid any potential confusion by local electors and interested parties, that you also publish the Annual Internal Audit Report, page 3.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return constitutes the annual return referred to in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Throughout, the words 'external auditor' have the same meaning as the words 'local auditor' in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

**for a complete list of bodies that may be smaller authorities refer to schedule 2 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.*

Guidance notes on completing Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2025/26

- The authority **must** comply with *Proper Practices* in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this AGAR. *Proper Practices* are found in the *Practitioners' Guide** which is updated from time to time and contains everything needed to prepare successfully for the financial year-end and the subsequent work by the external auditor.
- Make sure that the AGAR is complete (no highlighted boxes left empty) and is properly signed and dated. Any amendments **must** be approved by the authority and properly initialled.
- The authority **should** receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report before approving the Annual Governance Statement and the accounts.
- Use the checklist provided below to review the AGAR for completeness before returning it to the external auditor by email or post (not both) no later than 30 June 2026
- The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) **must** be approved before the Accounting Statements (Section 2) and evidenced by the agenda or minute references, even where approved on the same day.
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) **must** certify the accounts (Section 2) before they are presented to the authority for approval. The authority **must** in this order; consider, approve and sign the accounts.
- The RFO is required to commence the public rights period which **must** be a single period of 30 working days for inspection (this excludes weekends and public holidays) which **must** include the first 10 working days of July.
- **You must inform your external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer or Chair, and provide relevant authority owned generic email addresses and telephone numbers.**
- Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation to be sent to your external auditor with the AGAR covers all the bank accounts. If the authority holds any short-term investments, note their value on the bank reconciliation. The external auditor **must** be able to agree the bank reconciliation to Box 8 on the accounting statements **(Section 2, page 5)**. An explanation **must** be provided of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8. More help on bank reconciliation is available in the *Practitioners' Guide**.
- Explain fully significant variances in the accounting statements on **page 5**. Do not just send a copy of the detailed accounting records instead of this explanation. The external auditor wants to know that you understand the reasons for all variances. Include complete numerical and narrative analysis to support the full variance.
- Additional costs may be incurred if additional audit work is required.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and that the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2025) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2026).
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), on behalf of the authority, **must** set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights which **must** be a single period of 30 working days for inspection (this excludes weekends and public holidays) which **must** include the first 10 working days of July.
- The authority **must** publish on the authority website/webpage the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, including the period for the exercise of public rights and the name and address of the external auditor **before 1 July 2026**

Completion checklist – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements		Yes	No
All sections	Have all highlighted boxes have been completed?	✓	
	Has all additional information requested, including **the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights**, been provided for the external auditor?	✓	
Internal Audit Report	Have all highlighted boxes been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided?	✓	
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', has an explanation been published?	✓	
Section 2	Has the Responsible Financial Officer signed the accounting statements before presentation to the authority for approval?	✓	
	Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chair of the approval meeting?	✓	
	Has an explanation of significant variations been published where required?	✓	
	Has the bank reconciliation as at **31 March 2026** been reconciled to Box 8?	✓	
	Has an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 been provided?	✓	
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority as a body corporate is a sole managing trustee? **NB:** do not send trust accounting statements unless requested.	✓	

****Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices,* can be downloaded from www.nalc.gov.uk or from www.ada.org.uk**

Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/26

Horden Parish Council

https://horden-pc.gov.uk/

During the financial year ended 31 March 2026, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2025/26 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	✓		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	✓		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
F. Cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	✓		
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	✓		
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2024/25, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. *(If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2024/25 AGAR tick "not covered")*			✓
L. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.	✓		
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations *(during the 2025/26 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2024-25 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).*	✓		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2024/25 AGAR *(see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).*	✓		
O. The authority has complied with laws, regulations & proper practices relating to digital and data compliance.		✓	
	Yes	**No**	**Not applicable**
P. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	✓		

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken: 29/09/2025 13/01/2026 19/03/2026

Name of person who carried out the internal audit: Stephen Ragg

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit: SRagg

Date: 24/04/2026

*If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned; or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report **must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

We acknowledge as the members of:

Horden Parish Council

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026, that:

	Agreed Yes	No*		*'Yes' means that this authority:*
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓			*prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.*
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓			*made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.*
3. We have assured ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	✓			*has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.*
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	✓			*during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.*
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓			*considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.*
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓			*arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.*
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓			*responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.*
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	✓			*disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.*
	Yes	No	N/A	
9. **(For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.**	✓			*has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.*
10. We have put in place arrangements for the effective IT and data management in accordance with proper practices during the year under review.		✓		*has made suitable arrangements for its IT and data management and has complied with proper practices in doing so.*

***Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.**

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

04/06/2026

and recorded as minute reference:

HPC/26/27/048

Signed by the Chair and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chair [signature]

Clerk C. Jackson

https://horden-pc.gov.uk/

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/26 for

Horden Parish Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2026 £	*Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures **must** agree to underlying financial records.*
1. Balances brought forward	829,914	1,114,422	*Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value **must** agree to Box 7 of previous year.*
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	645,883	678,166	*Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.*
3. (+) Total other receipts	269,042	261,810	*Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.*
4. (-) Staff costs	403,139	479,485	*Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.*
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	26,072	26,072	*Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).*
6. (-) All other payments	201,206	426,595	*Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash-book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).*
7. (=) Balances carried forward	1,114,422	1,122,246	*Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. **must** equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).*
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	1,131,889	1,141,361	*The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – **To agree with bank reconciliation.***
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	830,193	791,406	*The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.*
10. Total borrowings	395,015	380,135	*The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).*

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	
11 Do the figures in the accounting statements above exclude any trust transactions?	✓		*For guidance refer to the Practitioners' Guide sections 2.31 to 2.33.*

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2026 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval.

C. Jackson

Date 03/06/2026

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

04/06/2026

as recorded in minute reference:

HPC 26/27/049

Signed by Chair of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

Section 3 – External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2025/26

In respect of **Horden Parish Council**

1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit,** it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/ .

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2026 and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

2 External auditor's limited assurance opinion 2025/26

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

In undertaking the review of the 2025/26 Annual and Accountability Return (AGAR) it came to our attention that the Council had not put in place arrangements for the effective information technology and data management in accordance with proper practices during the year under review. The Council has correctly answered "No" to the relevant assertion in the 2025/26 Annual Governance Statement. In future, the Council should ensure it complies with proper practices in this area and should tick 'No' to assertion 10 if this is not achieved in 2026/27.

3 External auditor certificate 2025/26

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2026

*We do not certify completion because:

Not applicable

External Auditor Name

Forvis Mazars LLP, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 1DF

External Auditor Signature *Forvis Mazars LLP* Date **21 September 2026**

National Joint Council for local government services

Employers' Secretary
Naomi Cooke

Address for correspondence
Local Government Association
18 Smith Square
London SW1P 3HZ
Tel: 020 7664 3000
info@local.gov.uk

Trade Union Secretaries
Will Dalton, GMB

Mike Short, UNISON

Address for correspondence
UNISON Centre
130 Euston Road
London NW1 2AY
Tel: 0845 3550845
l.government@unison.co.uk

To: **Chief Executives in England, Wales and N Ireland**
(to be shared with Finance Director and HR Director)
Regional Employer Organisations
Members of the National Joint Council

24 August 2026

Dear Chief Executive,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES PAY AGREEMENT 2026

Employers are encouraged to implement this pay award as swiftly as possible.

Agreement has been reached on rates of pay applicable from **1 April 2026** (covering the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027). The new pay rates, each increased by 3.30 per cent per annum, are attached at **Annex 1**.

All locally determined pay points above the maximum of the pay spine but graded below deputy chief officer, should also be increased by 3.30 per cent, in accordance with Green Book Part 2 Para 5.4[1].

The new rates for allowances, uprated by 3.30 per cent, are set out at **Annex 2**.

Backpay for employees who have left employment since 1 April 2026

If requested by an ex-employee to do so, we recommend that employers should pay any monies due to that employee from 1 April 2026 to the employee's last day of employment.

When salary arrears are paid to ex-employees who were in the LGPS, the employer must inform its local LGPS fund. Employers will need to amend the CARE and final pay figures (if the ex-employee has pre-April 2014 LGPS membership and / or underpin protection) accordingly.

See the employer resources section of www.lgpsregs.org for more information including FAQs on backdated pay awards.

Yours faithfully,

Naomi Cooke

Naomi Cooke **Will Dalton** **Mike Short**

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[1] The Green Book Part 2 Para 5.4 provides that posts paid above the maximum of the pay spine but graded below deputy chief officer are within scope of the NJC. The pay levels for such posts are determined locally but once fixed are increased in line with agreements reached by the NJC.

ANNEX 1

SCP	01-Apr-25		01-Apr-26	
	per annum	per hour	per annum	per hour
1	*Deleted 01-Apr-23*			
2	£24,413	£12.65	*Deleted 01-Apr-26*	
3	£24,796	£12.85	£25,614	£13.28
4	£25,185	£13.05	£26,016	£13.48
5	£25,583	£13.26	£26,427	£13.70
6	£25,989	£13.47	£26,847	£13.92
7	£26,403	£13.69	£27,274	£14.14
8	£26,824	£13.90	£27,709	£14.36
9	£27,254	£14.13	£28,153	£14.59
10	£27,694	£14.35	£28,608	£14.83
11	£28,142	£14.59	£29,071	£15.07
12	£28,598	£14.82	£29,542	£15.31
13	£29,064	£15.06	£30,023	£15.56
14	£29,540	£15.31	£30,515	£15.82
15	£30,024	£15.56	£31,015	£16.08
16	£30,518	£15.82	£31,525	£16.34
17	£31,022	£16.08	£32,046	£16.61
18	£31,537	£16.35	£32,578	£16.89
19	£32,061	£16.62	£33,119	£17.17
20	£32,597	£16.90	£33,673	£17.45
21	£33,143	£17.18	£34,237	£17.75
22	£33,699	£17.47	£34,811	£18.04
23	£34,434	£17.85	£35,570	£18.44
24	£35,412	£18.35	£36,581	£18.96
25	£36,363	£18.85	£37,563	£19.47
26	£37,280	£19.32	£38,510	£19.96
27	£38,220	£19.81	£39,481	£20.46
28	£39,152	£20.29	£40,444	£20.96
29	£39,862	£20.66	£41,177	£21.34
30	£40,777	£21.14	£42,123	£21.83
31	£41,771	£21.65	£43,149	£22.37
32	£42,839	£22.20	£44,253	£22.94
33	£44,075	£22.85	£45,529	£23.60
34	£45,091	£23.37	£46,579	£24.14
35	£46,142	£23.92	£47,665	£24.71
36	£47,181	£24.46	£48,738	£25.26
37	£48,226	£25.00	£49,817	£25.82
38	£49,282	£25.54	£50,908	£26.39
39	£50,269	£26.06	£51,928	£26.92
40	£51,356	£26.62	£53,051	£27.50
41	£52,413	£27.17	£54,143	£28.06
42	£53,460	£27.71	£55,224	£28.62
43	£54,495	£28.25	£56,293	£29.18

NB: hourly rate calculated by dividing annual salary by 52.143 weeks (which is 365 days divided by 7) and then divided by 37 hours (the standard working week)

Part 3 Paragraph 2.6(e) Sleeping-in Duty Payment:

1 April 2026
£44.54

RATES OF PROTECTED ALLOWANCES AT 1 APRIL 2026
(FORMER APT&C AGREEMENT (PURPLE BOOK))

Paragraph 28(3) Nursery Staffs in Educational Establishments - Special Educational Needs Allowance

1 April 2026
£1,590

Paragraph 28(14) Laboratory / Workshop Technicians

City and Guilds Science Laboratory Technician's Certificate Allowance:

1 April 2026
£259

City and Guilds Laboratory Technician's Advanced Certificate Allowance:

1 April 2026
£187

Paragraph 32 London Weighting and Fringe Area Allowances £ Per Annum

Inner Fringe Area:

1 April 2026
£1,079

Outer Fringe Area:

1 April 2026
£753

Paragraph 36 Standby Duty Allowance - Social Workers (1)(a)(i) Allowance - Per Session

1 April 2026
£35.86

FORMER MANUAL WORKER AGREEMENT (WHITE BOOK)

Section 1 Paragraph 3 London and Fringe Area Allowances £ Per Annum

Inner Fringe Area:

1 April 2026
£1,079

Outer Fringe Area:

1 April 2026
£753

HORDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Remembrance Sunday Procedure
Sunday 8th November 2026

Parade Formation

Parade will form up at **10:35am** outside Horden Social Welfare Centre as directed by the Parade Marshall in the following order:

1. Deputy Lieutenant on site
2. Standard Bearers and Bugler
3. Horden Parish Council
4. Any Serving Military Forces Representatives
5. East Durham Veterans
6. Durham Light Infantry and LI Rifles Association.
7. The Light Dragoons
8. Any Other Representatives of Forces Associations
9. Horden Army Cadet Force
10. Salvation Army
11. Durham Constabulary
12. Durham County Council
13. RCCG House Of Abundance
14. Horden Community Welfare Football Club
15. Horden Cricket Club
16. Peterlee and Horden Rugby Club
17. Cotsford Primary School
18. Yohden Primary School
19. Our Lady Star Of The Sea Primary
20. Horden Comrades
21. Horden Victory Club
22. Horden Labour Party
23. Horden Together
24. Horden Banner Committee
25. Durham Deafened Support
26. Horden Community Events Association
27. Ensemble ‘84
28. Members of the Public

Parade will leave Social Welfare Centre at **10.45am**, turn right to Seventh Street, right to South Terrace, left to Sunderland Road and proceed to Memorial Park.

Parade Marshal brings parade to a halt and fall outside traffic lights/Main gate of Memorial Park (at the junction of Yoden Way).

Cenotaph Service / Act of Remembrance

- Parade Marshall shall bring the parade to attention and then stand at ease. **10.58am**

- Then Fr Kyle McNeil – short prayer

  "Let us remember before God,
  and to commend to his sure keeping
  those who have died for their country in war;
  those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure,
  and all who have lived and died
  in the service of mankind"

  then follows the extract from the Lawrence Binyon poem "The Fallen";

  "They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old;
  Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
  At the going down of the sun and in the morning
  We will remember them."

  And all repeat;

  "We will remember them".

- The Parade Marshall then brings the parade to attention.

- The **Last Post** is sounded. **BUGLER**

- Here follows **The Two Minutes Silence**.

- **The Reveille** is sounded. **BUGLER**

- Father McNeil will then recite the 'Kohima Epitaph';

"When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today".

- The Parade Marshall stands the parade at ease.

Laying of wreaths:

1. Deputy Lieutenant
2. Horden Parish Council
3. Any Serving Military Forces Representatives
4. East Durham Veterans
5. Durham Light Infantry and LI Rifles Association.
6. The Light Dragoons
7. Any Other Representatives of Forces Associations
8. Horden Army Cadet Force
9. Salvation Army
10. Durham Constabulary
11. Durham County Council
12. RCCG House Of Abundance
13. Horden Community Welfare Football Club
14. Horden Cricket Club
15. Peterlee and Horden Rugby Club
15. Cotsford Primary School
16. Yohden Primary School
17. Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary
18. Horden Comrades Club
19. Horden Victory Club
20. Horden Labour Party
21. Horden Together
22. Horden Banner Committee
23. Durham Deafened Support
24. Horden Community Events Association
25. Ensemble '84
26. Members of the Public

- The Parade Marshall brings the parade to attention.
- National Anthem
- Parade reforms on Blackhills Terrace.
- Parade proceeds down Blackhills Terrace to St. Mary's Church
- Parade ends.
- Church Service.

From:
Sent: 23 September 2026 11:03
To: Clerk - Horden Parish Council <clerk@horden-pc.gov.uk>
Subject: Agenda item

Dear Colin,

Could I please request that the following item is added to the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting:

Proposal for a new community information board outside Horden Memorial Park.

I would like the Council to consider installing a new information board in a prominent and accessible position outside the Memorial Park.

The purpose of the board would be to provide a central and highly visible place for information about what is happening in and around the village, including community events, local groups, activities, public notices and other information that may be useful to residents.

I think this would be particularly beneficial for residents who may not use social media or online community pages and would help make local information more accessible to everyone.

Could this please be included on the next available agenda for discussion?

Many thanks,

Rodie Bagnall

Parish Councillor

Please find below an email from a resident that was asked to be passed on

To whom it may concern ,

I would like to ask if the following item could please be added to the agenda for a future Parish Council meeting:

Proposal to explore the possibility of a BMX/Pump Track for Horden

I am a resident of Horden and would like the Parish Council to consider whether a BMX or pump track could be developed within the village for local children and young people.

There are similar facilities in neighbouring areas, including the pump track at Thornley, and I feel something like this could be a really positive addition for Horden.

At present, young people do use areas such as the former pit site for bikes and similar activities, and having a purpose-built facility could provide them with somewhere more suitable to meet, exercise and enjoy cycling and BMX activities.

I appreciate that a project like this would need to be looked at properly in terms of possible locations, land ownership, funding, maintenance, safety and consultation with local residents and young people. At this stage, I am simply asking whether the Parish Council would be willing to discuss the idea and explore whether it could be feasible.

I would be grateful if this could be placed on an upcoming agenda for consideration.

Many thanks,

Horden Resident

-----Original Message-----

From: Guy Barron < >

Sent: 25 August 2026 09:02

To: Admin - Horden Parish Council <admin@horden-pc.gov.uk>;

Subject: Horden Comrades FC - Defib Project

Hi,

My name is Guy, I am the Chairman at Horden Comrades FC.

I'm not sure if your aware but recently a member of our group suffered a cardiac arrest whilst in a local gym, Dan died for around 5 minutes and it if wasn't for the quick reactions of a couple of brilliant members of the public he would not be with us today. There gym in question did not have a defibrillator on-site and the closest one wasn't within a suitable range.

We have recently been in contact with a charity called 'Missed A Beat', they provide defibrillator's for sports facility's/teams, community groups and community spaces. They are happy to work with us and provide us with a fully stocked and functional defibrillator and a full heavy bleed kit to go with it, hopefully neither of these ever have to be used but with recent events it shows that it could happen at anytime!

I have reached out to all senior teams who play at Horden Crossroads (Sunderland Road) and all are in massive agreement that this would be great for everyone who uses Sunderland Road, wether it be to play football, family activities or even just taking the dog with a walk.

With your permission we are wanting to get this fitted on the left side of the changing rooms (facing carpark and bungalow) this would increase maximum viability for anyone entering the fields and will also be lit up at night for people passing on the road.

Is this something that we could work together to get arranged? Or could you please point me in the right direction of who to speak with so hopefully get this project rolling.

Thank you for your time,

Guy Barron

Horden Comrades FC

Contact: Paul Darby
Direct Tel: 03000 261 930
email: Paul.darby@durham.gov.uk

Durham County Council

21 September 2026

Dear Colleague

Consultation on further proposals to balance the council budget

On 16 September 2026, the council published a comprehensive update to its Cabinet of its Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for the period between 2027/28 and 2030/31. A link to the report is enclosed here: Agenda for Cabinet on Wednesday 16 September 2026, 10.00 am - Durham County Council

Cabinet has therefore approved a public consultation on proposals to help address these financial challenges, including options for council tax increases and savings proposals totalling £21.519 million.

As a key partner organisation, we are particularly interested in understanding:

- Any impacts the proposals may have on your organisation, service users or communities.
- Opportunities for joint working that could help mitigate impacts.
- Alternative approaches that could help address the financial challenge.
- Any equality or community impacts you believe we should consider.

The council has for many years operated in a period of significant financial uncertainty and chronic funding shortfalls. The report includes several updated assumptions around our rising cost pressures due to higher levels of inflation, continually rising demand for many statutory services and new government initiatives – in areas such as social care, special educational needs, home to school transport, waste management and environmental services. Like many other employers, our cost base is also heavily driven by increases to the National Living Wage.

Last winter, the Government announced funding allocations for the three-year period from 2026/27 to 2028/29. While the introduction of a new funding formula has provided some medium-term certainty by providing indicative funding allocations for the next two financial years, funding has not kept pace with rising costs and increasing demand for statutory services. The Government has also made clear its expectation that councils will increase council tax by the maximum permitted amount over the next two years to help fund these pressures locally – which in our case would be an annual increase of 4.99% per annum.

If the council does not apply increases in line with the Government's expectations, then it faces a real-terms cut in funding over the next two years, and even with a 4.99% increase applied, this is insufficient to meet the unavoidable cost increases the council faces. Our residents are therefore having to bear the brunt of difficult decisions around how we set our budgets and how much we must raise from council tax and how we make savings and efficiencies within our budget.

For the four years ahead, we face higher levels of inflation and increased service demand for many of our statutory services, particularly Children and Adult Social Care, Special Educational Needs, Environmental Services and Home to School Transport. These issues continue to impact significantly on our financial planning, with the council's spending pressures largely influenced by matters outside its control, relating to national pay bargaining arrangements and national Government policy, particularly in relation to the National Living Wage and on changes to waste management legislation.

The Cabinet report outlines that we face spending pressures of £138.244 million over the next four years relating to inflation and demand pressures. The majority of these pressures relate to essential and statutory services that we are legally bound to deliver and are relied upon by some of our most vulnerable residents. Our central Government grant and local taxation income from increases in the tax base (before any assumed council tax increases) is only projected to grow by £52.027 million over the same period. We are already committed to making savings of £2.555 million, which were approved by full council in February 2026. This leaves us with a four-year budget deficit of £83.662 million before we consider any additional new savings proposals and before any council tax increases are applied (of which £23.278 million relates to next year in 2027/28).

To address this budget gap, the Budget report identifies new savings proposals of £21.519 million. These savings follow nearly sixteen years of continuous delivery of savings and efficiencies totalling £301 million to allow us to maintain a stable financial position in the face of government austerity and insufficient central government funding.

Of the £21.519 million of new savings proposals, £9.171 million are ready to be delivered if agreed. These relate to a variety of savings for back-office efficiencies, income generation and changes to front-line services.

A further £12.348 million of longer-term savings plans are proposed in the September Cabinet report as part of the proposed Changing Together transformation programme. The Changing Together programme aims to transform and redesign how the council operates and delivers services, making better use of data and insight, technology and digital tools (including the use of Artificial Intelligence), improving efficiency and sustainability, and helping ensure services remain accessible and responsive to residents' needs. The overarching vision for Changing Together is "to create a modern, confident and financially sustainable council, powered by digital and shaped by the needs of our communities".

Savings proposals developed as part of Changing Together are at an early stage and need more work over the next 12 to 18 months to set out options for services, the potential impacts of these proposals, service benefits and delivery arrangements. Any detailed proposals would be subject to separate consultation before any final decisions are made. However, as you will see from the report and the consultation, they relate to how we deliver several of our front-line services in relation to areas such as leisure centres, libraries, local area networks, highways, environmental / street scene and waste management services and community protection. We also have a very ambitious programme of transformational change relating to our investment in digital access. This looks to improve how customers access our services and ensure we deliver critical investment in our back-office systems.

Even after considering the delivery of £21.519 million of savings, we will still have a budget shortfall of £62.143 million across the next four years, of which £16.616 million is likely to fall in 2027/28, and £16.471 million relates to the following year in 2028/29. As we approach the end of the decade, we will enter another phase of uncertainty around our long-term funding position.

Cabinet has made it very clear to officers that we must strive to deliver high-quality services, whilst being as efficient as we can, to deliver value for money for our residents and businesses. Without any further council tax increases (or limited increases below the annual 4.99% recommended increase by Government) the council will have to consider more substantial savings over and above the £21.519 million set out in this report.

At this stage, our MTFP planning does not factor in any council tax increases, but the resultant deficit is unsustainable so either council tax increases will have to be applied or additional savings / cuts to services will need to be implemented, as we must set a balanced budget. We have set out in the report and consultation documents the impact of council tax increases at various levels each year. The consultation asks for views on a range of council tax increases, including a 0%, 1%, 2% CPI-based, 3%, 4% and 4.99% rise. Decisions on council tax increases have a material impact on the council's budget shortfall as summarised in the table below:

Options	Description	Deficit for 2027/28 £'000	Deficit for 2028/29 £'000	Deficit for 2029/30 £'000	Deficit for 2030/31 £'000	Total deficit over the 4-year period
Option 1	No council tax increase across the 4-year period.	16,616	16,471	18,208	10,848	62,143
Option 2	A 1% annual increase in council tax	13,466	13,271	14,958	7,476	49,171

Option 3	A 2% annual increase in council tax	10,316	10,071	11,708	4,104	36,199
Option 4	A CPI-based annual increase in council tax	5,591	6,871	9,983	4,104	26,549
Option 5	A 3% annual increase in council tax	7,166	6,871	8,408	732	23,177
Option 6	A 4% annual increase in council tax	4,016	3,671	5,141	2,640 surplus	10,188
Option 7	A 4.99% annual increase in council tax	866	471	1,828	6,012 surplus	2,847 surplus

As part of budget setting for 2026/27 we managed to set a balanced budget, without the need to use reserves and with only a 1.99% increase in council tax being applied, much lower than the majority of other authorities. We may need to consider the use of reserves in 2027/28 to balance the budget, but this approach can only be a temporary measure, with more long-term options needing to be identified to address our budget shortfalls.

Every 1% increase in council tax raises an additional £3.15 million for the council, and this has a significant impact on our funding position. If we do not look at options to raise council tax, up to 4.99% each year over the next four financial years, the scale of savings we need to make over and above the existing proposals of £21.519 million will increase further.

The consultation exercise explains the size of the financial challenge faced by the council. It outlines which areas the £21.519 million of new savings proposals relate to and distinguishes between savings that (subject to consultation outcome and subsequent approval) could be implemented now, and those which would require more detailed planning and further rounds of consultation under the Changing Together consultation. The consultation will also ask for preferences and views on the options for council tax increases. This consultation commences today (Monday 21 September 2026) and will run through to Sunday 15 November 2026.

The results of this consultation will be presented to Cabinet on 20 January 2027 and 10 February 2027, as part of the Cabinet's final budget deliberations. Full council will also receive a detailed budget report to approve the 2027/28 budget on 24 February 2027.

It is very important that we continue to involve key partners and the public in our decision-making process. We would be grateful if you could consider the contents of this letter, take time to read the Cabinet report dated 16 September 2026 and submit any consultation comments by Sunday 15 November 2026 at 11.59 pm.

When commenting on the consultation, please consider:

- If any of the proposals will have a negative impact on your organisation’s priorities and workload.
- If you consider this will be the case, please let us know how these might be minimised.
- If you feel a proposed change should not go ahead, please let us know what alternatives the council could consider meeting its budget reduction target.
- If you consider that the proposals will have a detrimental impact on priority or characteristic groups, please let us know.

In addition to consulting with organisations such as yours, the public are being encouraged to give us their views by:

- Completing our online survey - paper copies are available from any of our libraries.
- Attending an online consultation event, which are scheduled to happen on:
    - 6 October at 2pm
    - 21 October at 6pm
    - 5 November at 11am
    - 12 November at 6pm
- Emailing letstalkcountydurham@durham.gov.uk

Full details of this consultation are available at here at Let’s Talk County Durham

Yours sincerely

P. Darby

Paul Darby

Corporate Director of Resources

Durham County Council

Agenda item 20

Horden Parish Council 15

25 Sep 2026

County Councillor Report

1. Community Progress

The outcome of the proposed cockerel ban was presented to cabinet and it has, in effect, reverted back to allowing show cockerels but all poultry is to be registered under the Animal Plant and Health Agency. This has been carefully considered and all allotment holders should be made aware.
Local Network applications for this initial stage close on 30 Sep 26. There have been 666 requests from across the county, of which 96 have been received and 320 are still in progress.

2. Local Matters

There is ongoing concern relating to 2 issues that have been reported and are being managed by enforcement and council officers. The first is the damage to the bollards at the top of Ellisons Bank (Shotton Rd) and the second is the flytip that has been dumped near to the old Dewhurst site. Both of these issues are under investigation by enforcement officers and this is being monitored constantly with regular updates.
There has been a funding stream made available in order to improve the route between Peterlee and surrounding areas and Horden Railway Stn. This includes cycle routes, dropped kerbs and safe pedestrian walkways. At this time there is expected to be upwards of 5m capital spend to provide these improvements.
At Annex A there is the preferred route of which spaces that encroach on this would be provided with upgrades in line with this scheme. Parish Council Members are requested to come up with any suggestions hat could be looked at in the future.

3. HYCC

The HYCC asset transfer process is now well under way and there remains a great deal of interest in taking on the facility. Engagement with officers has been clear in that this will need to be a flexible facility that will improve our reach into the community providing a sustainable, valuable space.
The Autumn big clean was very well attended; the crossroads sports field and surrounding areas were targeted for this session. Any areas that require more attention should be articulated through Horden Together

4. Master Plan

An oral court hearing to consider the contested elements was heard on 7 September 2026, and it was decided that the group opposed to the development could have permission to go to full hearing. This will prolong the timescale for any delivery although many aspects relating to this development are being progressed behind the scenes.

Although this is not ideal, the current cost to the Council, and therefore the taxpayer, has increased beyond £13,500, with this figure expected to increase significantly as proceedings continue. It is hoped that this hearing will take place in th next few months.

(Electronically Signed)

Cllr Dawn Bellingham
Horden and Dene House

Agenda item 20