

CORNSAY PARISH COUNCIL

At a Meeting of Cornsay Parish Council held on Wednesday, 26th November, 2025, at 7.00pm, in Hamsteels Community Centre, Esh Winning.

Present: Councillor D Robb (in the Chair)
and Councillors L McKendrick, H Pegum and A Scott

63. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Bottoms and R Makepeace.

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensations.

65. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

There were no County Councillors present at the meeting or reports received.

66. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29th October, 2025, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

67. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

68. FINANCIAL REPORT

(a) Agreement was given for the payment of:

- (i) £334.48 in respect of Clerk's wages for the month of November
- (ii) £167.52 to HMRC in respect of PAYE for the months of November and December
- (iii) £334.48 in respect of Clerk's wages for the month of December
- (iv) £504.00 (including VAT of £84.00) to Makepeace Landscapes in respect of additional grounds maintenance work at the community centre

(b) Cheques issued:

(i)	29 th Oct 2025	£	859.20	Makepeace Landscapes	No.1411
(ii)	29 th Oct 2025	£	334.48	Clerk's wages	No.1412
(iii)	29 th Oct 2025	£	93.67	HMRC	No.1413
(iv)	29 th Oct 2025	£	50.00	Wag & Co (s137)	No.1414
(v)	29 th Oct 2025	£	931.90	Names.co.uk	No.1415

69. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Durham County Council/Ethos Environmental Planning – information received regarding an update to the Open Space Needs Assessment.

Resolved: *That the Clerk provide any necessary information on current provision in the Parish.*

(b) Cornsay Colliery Resident – request for advice regarding the placing of memorial plaques on seating within the Millennium Garden.

Resolved: *That the resident be advised to seek further advice from those responsible for the seating.*

70. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

DM/25/02751 – 30A Commercial Street, Cornsay Colliery
Change of use from a dwellinghouse (C3) to a care home (C2) for three children with external alterations

This application had been considered at the last meeting of the Council when it was considered that there was insufficient information available on which to form a view on the application. Additional information had now been provided, the details of which were highlighted.

Resolved: *That the Council has no further comments to make.*

71. PRECEPT & BUDGET SETTING

The Clerk reported on the current situation around information required for setting the Precept, given that only indicative information had been provided at this stage.

It was also reported that Durham County Council was proposing to withdraw the LCTRS grant to parish and town councils with immediate effect, despite a previous agreement covering the period to 2026/2027.

Resolver: *(i) That the January meeting of the Council take place on 21st January, 2026, to allow the precept to be set in advance of the deadline for notification.*

(ii) That the proposed withdrawal of the LCTRS grant be noted.

72. TIME TOGETHER – REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Time Together sessions offered activities for children as well as regular visits from a health visitor and other relevant organisations to support children and families in the local community.

The sessions took place every fortnight at the Community Centre and were well attended and highly beneficial to the local community. The sessions were delivered through the NHS however there was no budget towards the cost of room hire.

The Community Hall Association were offering a reduced rate of hire, given that it was a long term activity and also the benefits that the sessions offered to local residents.

Resolved: *That the Council would contribute 50% of the cost of the room hire to cover sessions for 1 year if the Community Hall Association covered the remaining 50%.*

73. HAMSTEELS COMMUNITY CENTRE – LEASE TO HAMSTEELS COMMUNITY HALL ASSOCIATION

The Community Centre was run on a day-to-day basis by Hamsteels Community Hall Association, with a leasing in place until January 2026.

The lease had been drafted by a local firm of solicitors and offered protection and security to both the Council and Community Hall Association. It also provided the Community Hall Association with more opportunities to seek grant funding.

The Community Hall Association was willing to enter a new lease on the same terms as the existing.

Resolved: *That a Lease be entered into with Hamsteels Community Hall Association on the same terms as the existing, the Lease to be signed at a meeting of the Council in January, 2026.*

**74. HAMSTEELS COMMUNITY CENTRE –
UPDATE REPORT**

A range of events and activities were coming up over the Christmas and New Year period. These included Christmas Dinner, Fool's Gold Acoustic returning with their Christmas Show, this year's panto and Breakfast with Mrs Claus.

Resolved: *That the report be noted*

The Meeting closed at 7.55pm

Signed as a correct record:

Chairperson

Date

Clerk

Date

