



SACRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 7th January 2026 at 6.30 pm In The Fulforth Centre

Present: Cllr H. Dixon (Chair), Cllr D Robson, Cllr M Morrell, Cllr E Hopkins, Cllr A Page, Cllr K Wilson, Cllr E Waldock, Cllr R Sharp and Mrs C Dixon (Clerk)

Also, present was County Cllr T Robson

Apologies: Cllr D Cumiskey, Cllr G Ludlow, Cllr R Mickle, Cllr A Wray, and County Cllr J Pickard

Item No:

1. Introductions and Apologies for Absence

The Chair opened the meeting at 6.30 pm and welcomed everyone.

RESOLVED: To **NOTE** the apologies received.

2. Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED: No declarations were received.

3. Resignation of Cllr A-M Johnson

RESOLVED: To **RECEIVE** the resignation and to declare the vacancy.

4. Public Participation - (Questions & Comments from the public in attendance – max 5 mins per item/individual)

There was 1 member of the public in attendance.

A member of the public informed members that she would like to set up a bakery in the village, and asked members for their comments. Members advised that they thought this was a good idea and gave suggestions as to where she could look for potential premises. The member of the public then left the meeting.

5. Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED: The minutes from the Meeting held on 3rd December 2025 were accepted and signed as a true record.

6. Police Matters

County Cllr Robson provided an update regarding speeding and the drone that had been purchased.

RESOLVED: To **NOTE** the report.

7. Planning Applications

RESOLVED: To **NOTE** there were no applications received.

8. Growing Sacriston Together in Bloom

The Durham County Council grounds maintenance contract was discussed.

RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** the one-year contract with Durham County Council.

9. Parish Assets

a. Bus Shelters

RESOLVED: Nothing to report.

b. Village Clock

RESOLVED: To **NOTE** that the service cost has increased from £234 to £240.

c. Parish Building

RESOLVED: Nothing to report.

d. War Memorial

RESOLVED: Nothing to report.

e. Pit Wheel

RESOLVED: Nothing to report.

10. County Councillor Report

Cllr T Robson;

- It was advised that Sacriston's banner, which was in County Hall in committee room 2, has now been taken down, cleaned, and stored, and will be placed back up in the building.
- Actions have been raised regarding parking at The Fulforth Centre and Plawsworth Road/John Street.
- Action raised for a salt bin at Ashford Drive.
- The fly-tipped area has been cleaned by the County Cllrs and the neighbourhood warden, and inspections will be carried out.
- The fly-tipped sofa has been removed.

RESOLVED: To **RECEIVE** the verbal report.

11. Reports from Group Representatives

a. Fulforth Centre

RESOLVED: no meeting held in January.

b. HR and Finance Panel

The budget and precept were discussed.

RESOLVED: To **RECEIVE** the minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2025. To **NOTE** the information provided about the budget and precept.

c. Sacriston Allotment Association

The AGM was discussed. Updates were provided regarding water usage and a rent increase for 2027-2028.

RESOLVED: To **RECEIVE** the minutes from the Allotment Meeting held on 10th November 2025. To **APPROVE** the AGM to be held on 15th February at 3pm in The Fulforth Centre.

12. Events

a. Celebration Event

RESOLVED: To **NOTE** this has now been cancelled.

b. Royal Garden Party nominations

c. RESOLVED: To **NOTE** there were no nominations.

13. Code of Conduct

RESOLVED: To **NOTE** the information and that the council will not be taking this forward.

14. Finance Report

The Clerk updated members regarding the current bank account balance of £61,757,00, and informed them that a VAT reclaim had been received of £2,880.92.

a. To review and approve payment of invoices received.

RESOLVED: to **APPROVE** payment of the invoices.

15. Budget 2026 -2027

The budget was discussed and minor amendments made.

RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** the budget for 2026-2027

16. Precept 2026/2027

a. A discussion was held regarding the precept request, and Members agreed with the information provided at the Finance Meeting.

RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** the precept request of £73,530.42, resulting in a band charge of £53.06, giving an overall increase of 15.57%. Members

APPROVED that information should be given to residents about the increase.

b. RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** the clerk and the Chair to sign the precept request.

17. Festive Lights

Discussion took place regarding the end of the current contract.

RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** the clerk to obtain three quotations for another fixed term contract. To **NOTE** that the stress testing will also require carrying out.

18. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 4th February 2026, at 6.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 19.10pm.

Agreed and signed by Chair of Sacriston Parish Council

Date