

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE PLANNING, CONTRACT AND WORKS COMMITTEE OF
PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 9th JULY 2026 at 7:00PM
at The Spetchells Centre, Meeting Rooms 1 & 2 Front Street, Prudhoe, NE42 5AA**

Present:

Cllr Mike Smith (Chair), Cllr Dot Dickinson, Cllr Jane Johnson, Cllr Holly Waddell, Cllr Ignasious Varghese, Cllr Jonathan Wheeler

Shirley Ann Gaut Hall (Clerk)

PCW2627/046 Welcome by Chair

Meeting opened by Chair Cllr Mike Smith.

PCW2627/047 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Chris Barrett, Cllr Bryan Futers, Cllr Russ Greig, Cllr Val Leslie, Cllr Gerry Price, Cllr Angie Scott, Cllr Glenn Simpson, Cllr Carol Stephenson

Apologies not Received

Cllr Kiran Bell

PCW2627/048 Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest.

PCW2627/049 Dispensations

To receive and approve any dispensations.

PCW2627/049 Public Participation

Please email the Clerk with questions on items on the agenda no later than 5.00pm on Wednesday 8th July 2026.

PCW2627/050 Draft Minutes of the Planning, Contracts and Works Committee held on 11th June 2026.

It was **AGREED** to receive and agree as a true record

PCW2627/051 Planning Matters

a) Planning Applications requiring a response.

It was **AGREED** to receive and agree a response to the following Planning Applications, received since 11th June 2026. To view planning applications, please visit the [planning portal](#) and input the reference numbers listed.

Ref: 26/02108/FUL, 17 Park Lane Prudhoe Northumberland NE42 5LN

Construction of double storey side elevation extension and single storey extension to the front elevation. Remove the existing roof slate and renew with new slate.

It was **AGREED** to support the application.

Ref: 26/02147/FUL 20 Moor Grange Prudhoe Northumberland NE42 5BW

Demolish the existing side elevation garage, construct a new double storey side elevation extension to create a larger kitchen, utility room, and garage on the ground floor and to create habitable space within the first floor. Renew the existing doors and windows. Renew the existing soffit and fascia boards.

It was **AGREED** to support the application.

Ref: 26/02106/FUL 4 Princess Court Prudhoe Northumberland NE42 6PL

80 static self-storage containers as described within use Class B8 (Storage and Distribution.)

It was **AGREED** to submit NO COMMENT

Ref: 26/02048/FUL Blue Bell 17 Mount Pleasant West Mickley Northumberland NE43 7LP

Change of use from public house to dwelling.

It was **AGREED** to submit NO COMMENT.

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The following application was received following circulation of the agenda:-

Ref: 26/02228/FUL Hallyards Farm Stonybank Way West Mickley Stocksfield Northumberland NE43 7LR

Create a sustainable low-impact aquatic habitat that functions as both a natural swimming pool facility and a bio diversity haven with fencing and open fronted changing shelter.

It was AGREED to support the application.

b) Northumberland County Council (NCC) Planning Decisions and Notifications

It was AGREED to receive, if any, the NCC Planning Decisions and any other notifications, received since 11th June 2026.

Ref: 26/01478/FUL 19 Cheyne Road Prudhoe Northumberland NE42 6PF

Proposed demolition of a side porch, front extension, and conversion of a garage.

Northumberland County Council GRANTED permission.

The following decision was received following circulation of the agenda:-

Ref: 26/01654/FUL 16 Otterburn Way Bewick Grange Prudhoe Northumberland NE42 6RD

First storey side extension above garage

Northumberland County Council GRANTED permission.

Ref: 26/01888/VARYCO 44 Front Street Prudhoe Northumberland NE42 5DB

Variation of condition 2 on (approved plans) on approved application 25/04074/FUL - removal of one existing window and replacement with a door. (Retrospective)

Northumberland County Council this application has now been WITHDRAWN at the Applicants request.

PCW2627/052 Clerk's Report

Youth Shelter Update

Due to schedule changes works for the installation of the concrete pad foundations have been scheduled to commence 15 July 2026. The installation of the shelter is subsequently programmed for the week beginning 27 July 2026.

The Clerk will meet the contractor's team on site to oversee the commencement of the works and to ensure all arrangements are in place prior to installation.

Interactive Speed Sign – Castle Road

All necessary documentation has been completed, location identified, await details regarding installation. Confirmed 6th July 2026 that Prudhoe Town Council will assume responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the interactive sign.

Planter Update

Preliminary works have commenced to empty the planters on Front Street. However, this has proven to be a more substantial undertaking than initially anticipated due to the significant volume of gravel contained within the planters. In addition, the majority of the planters are secured in position with bolts, which has increased the complexity of the task.

We are currently awaiting quotation for the removal and emptying of the planters, together with advice on the options available.

In addition, met with NCC officers on 7th July 2026 to undertake a site visit and explore whether the County Council could help with the proposed works. At this stage, awaiting quote; however, initial advice indicates that the works are likely to incur a significant cost. This is due to the number of

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planters involved (28 in total) and the requirement for appropriate traffic management measures to ensure the works can be carried out safely on the public highway.

Once the quotes have been received, further discussions will be undertaken to assess the financial implications, consider the available options, and determine the most appropriate plan of action before any recommendations are brought forward.

Edgewell Cemetery Chapel

Awaiting quote for replacing windows. In addition, clerk seeking costs for a robust replacement bench to replace the existing damaged potting bench. The intention is to provide a durable, low-maintenance, non-wooden replacement bench that is suitable for long-term use.

Front Street Bunting

A site meeting is currently being arranged with Christmas Plus Limited for next week to discuss proposals for the installation of bunting within the town centre, with particular focus on Front Street. The intention is to have the bunting installed before the end of July; in terms of colour this will be red, white, and blue.

As part of these discussions, consideration will be given to maximising the use of the existing infrastructure to achieve the greatest visual impact in the most cost-effective manner. This includes utilising existing street furniture, such as that located at the West End, where the Christmas festoon lighting and illuminated spheres are currently installed.

Similarly, installing bunting at locations where the festoon lighting is routinely suspended across Front Street, together with additional displays within The Glade, would provide an attractive and cohesive display throughout the town. This approach would enhance the overall appearance of the town centre while making effective use of the existing infrastructure and minimising the need for additional installation works or permissions where possible.

It was noted that members preferred the bunting to reflect the colours of the Northumberland flag and therefore requested the colour scheme be red and yellow.

Events

Music by the Riverside will take place on Saturday 11th July 2026, from 11.00am to 9.00pm, at Prudhoe Riverside Park. Prudhoe Town Council is proud to be sponsoring this popular annual community event, which showcases a wide range of local musical talent and provides a free day of entertainment for residents and visitors alike.

The event will also welcome a delegation from Mity-Mory, Prudhoe's twin town, providing an excellent opportunity to strengthen the long-standing relationship between the two communities and to extend a warm welcome to our visiting guests as they experience one of Prudhoe's flagship summer events.

Town Show Sunday 30th August 2026, Eastwoods Park, Prudhoe Town Council is proud to be sponsoring this popular annual community event. We will also be presenting awards for Prudhoe in Bloom 2026.

The Clerk will be attending both events with the Council's branded gazebo to support the event, engage with members of the public, and promote the work and services of Prudhoe Town Council. The gazebo will provide an opportunity to raise awareness of the Council's activities, share information, and encourage community engagement.

Prudhoe in Bloom 2026 The closing date for entries to Prudhoe in Bloom 2026 is 4.00pm on Friday 10th July 2026. Following the close of applications, entries will be collated and judging arrangements finalised. Confirmation of the judging date and schedule will be issued to all entrants in due course.

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The annual competition continues to encourage residents, businesses, schools, churches, and community groups to enhance the local environment through attractive floral displays, contributing to civic pride and the overall appearance of the town.

Free Swim 2026 each Sunday commencing 17th July 4-5pm, Prudhoe Town Council is funding free swim sessions this Summer at Prudhoe Waterworld. Open to all ages and abilities – perfect for families looking for a fun, active way to spend a Sunday afternoon. No booking needed, first come first served – 75 spaces per session. A series of Facebook posts has been scheduled for publication each Friday to provide regular reminders to residents about the offer.

Miners Race, organised by Wild Deer Events on behalf of Prudhoe Town Council, will take place on Sunday 30th August 2026, with the race commencing at 9.00am.

The event will follow the same route as last year, incorporating Low Prudhoe, with Essity Park serving as the event headquarters and host venue.

Clerk continues to liaise with organisers as required to ensure the smooth delivery of the event and supporting arrangements where appropriate.

PCW2627/053 Playground Inspection Reports

- a) **It was AGREED** to receive the latest Playground Inspection Reports
- b) **It was AGREED** to receive summary of RoSPA June 2026 inspections

The Clerk advised that the report would be reviewed in detail and that a programme of works would be developed to address the recommendations and actions identified within its findings.

PCW2627/054 Local Transport Plan Programme 2026-2029

It was AGREED to receive feedback from Northumberland County Council's Highways Programme in relation to Prudhoe Town Council's submitted priorities for inclusion within the Local Transport Plan Programme 2026–2029.

PCW2627/055 Speed Survey Results – Mickley First School

It was AGREED to receive the results of the speed survey undertaken by Northumberland County Council between 15 May 2026 and 21 May 2026.

It was noted that the 85th percentile is that speed at which 85% of vehicles are travelling or less, while the remaining 15% of vehicles will be travelling above that speed. Within a 30mph speed limit, the 85th percentile is required to be a minimum of 35mph for enforcement to be considered by the police.

PCW2627/056 Regeneration Plan

Following the meeting held 11th June 2026 and agreement that further information was required before a final decision is made. To receive and consider proposal and summary and any additional information presented by Cllr Smith that Prudhoe Town Council explore the development of a Regeneration Plan for Prudhoe, with the aim of establishing a clear strategic framework to support the town's future development and to help secure:-

- The rightful and focused investment it requires
- That investment directly contributes to the elevation of poverty in our community
- Through a process of engagement and commitment to solve the problem

Following a lengthy discussion, Members acknowledged the potential benefits of developing a plan and recognised that further evidence was required before determining the scope, objectives, and potential resource implications of such a project.

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It was AGREED that additional data-driven evidence and supporting information should be obtained to provide Members with a comprehensive understanding of the social, economic, and environmental challenges facing Prudhoe.

The additional evidence will enable Members to assess the need for a regeneration plan, identify key priorities, and determine whether the development of a strategic regeneration framework would represent the most effective approach to supporting the town's future growth and prosperity. The matter will be brought back to a future meeting for further consideration once the requested information has been compiled.

PCW2627/057 Correspondence

No items of correspondence had been received.

PCW2627/058 Date of Next Meeting

It was AGREED that the next Planning, Contract and Works meeting will be held on Thursday 10th September 2026.

It was noted that, as no Council meetings are scheduled to take place during August, any planning applications received during this period that require comments will be circulated to the appropriate Ward Members for consultation and submitted accordingly.

Meeting ended 7.55pm