

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE PLANNING, CONTRACT AND WORKS COMMITTEE OF
PRUDHOE TOWN COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2026 at 7:00PM
at The Spetchells Centre, Meeting Rooms 1 & 2 Front Street, Prudhoe, NE42 5AA**

Present:

Cllr Holly Waddell (Chair), Cllr Dot Dickinson, Cllr Gerry Price, Cllr Angie Scott, Cllr Glenn Simpson, Cllr Jonathan Wheeler, Cllr Ignasious Varghese, Cllr Carol Stephenson

Shirley Ann Gaut Hall (Clerk)
Stephanie Kirby (Deputy Clerk)

It was noted Cllr Simpson joined the meeting at 7.04pm.

PCW2627/059 Welcome by Chair

Meeting opened by Chair Cllr Holly Waddell.

PCW2627/060 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Chris Barrett, Cllr Bryan Futers, Cllr Jane Johnson, Cllr Val Leslie.

Apologies not Received

Cllr Kiran Bell.

PCW2627/061 Declarations of Interest

None received.

PCW2627/062 Dispensations

None received.

PCW2627/063 Public Participation

No items of public participation had been received.

PCW2627/064 Draft Minutes of the Planning, Contracts and Works Committee held on 9th July 2026.

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

PCW2627/065 Planning Matters

a) Planning Applications requiring a response.

It was **AGREED** to receive and agree a response to the following Planning Applications, received since 9th July 2026. To view planning applications, please visit the [planning portal](#) and input the reference numbers listed.

Ref: 26/02756/ADE 2 Dukes Court Low Prudhoe Prudhoe Northumberland NE42 6DA

Advertisement Consent for installation of 2no hording 48 sheet freestanding LED illuminated display units comprising of pressed metal frames and sealed LED screens.

Councillor Price raised concerns regarding the potential impact of an illuminated advertisement on road safety, particularly the possibility of it causing distraction to drivers during hours of darkness.

Members also discussed whether an illuminated advertisement would be appropriate within the rural setting and character of Prudhoe.

It was **AGREED** to **OBJECT** the application for the following reasons:-

- Impact on Pedestrian Accessibility and Highway Safety
- Impact on the Public Realm
- Availability of Alternative Site

The full objection can be viewed in it's [entirety](#).

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Ref: 26/02886/ADE The Co-Operative Food Oakfield Terrace Prudhoe Northumberland NE42 5HF

Advertisement consent for 2no. Fascia Non Illuminated, 1no. Projecting Sign Illuminated, 3no. Remote totem sign and 1no. Entrance Vinyl.

It was AGREED to support the application.

Ref: 26/03106/FUL Land East Of 63 Front Street Prudhoe Northumberland

Proposed deployment of a Street Hub 3 unit

Concerns as on the glade and right next to the memorial area. Glade about people coming together. Risk to change the character of the area. Note there are future development plans for that space, object base on location. Issue as well is access – not against the proposal in principle.

It was AGREED to **OBJECT** the application for the following reasons:-

- Impact on Pedestrian Accessibility and Highway Safety
- Impact on the Public Realm
- Availability of Alternative Sites

The full objection can be viewed in it's [entirety](#).

Ref: 26/03107/ADE Land East Of 63 Front Street Prudhoe Northumberland

Advertisement consent: 2no digital 75-inch LCD display screens, one on each side of the Street Hub unit.

It was AGREED to **OBJECT** the application for the following reasons:-

- Impact on Pedestrian Accessibility and Highway Safety
- Impact on the Public Realm
- Availability of Alternative Sites

The full objection can be viewed in it's [entirety](#).

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

Ref: 26/03173/FUL The Dovecote Durham Riding Prudhoe NE42 5NX

Erection of a permanent stable block with hard standing in a field location

It was Agreed to offer no comment on 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 9th July 2026.

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

Northumberland County Council GRANTED permission.

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.

Northumberland County Council GRANTED permission.

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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 biodiversity haven with fencing and open fronted changing shelter.

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

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.)
Northumberland County Council GRANTED permission.

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

Ref: 26/02338/FUL 12 Front Street Prudhoe Northumberland NE42 5HN

Subdivide commercial building to create two separate units consisting of ground floor will remain in commercial use, while the first floor will be converted into a self-contained two-bedroom flat (Use Class C3), internal alterations and new entrance door.

Northumberland County Council GRANTED permission.

PCW2627/066 Clerk's Report

Front Street Planters

All planters have now been removed from Front Street. The flags that were damaged have also been replaced, with concrete being used instead of tarmac, as originally proposed.

Events

Town Show – Sunday 30 August 2026

The Town Show, scheduled to take place on Sunday 30 August 2026 at Eastwoods Park, was cancelled by due to unforeseen circumstances.

Family Fun Day – Saturday 12 September 2026

Prudhoe Town Council has organised a Family Fun Day at Eastwoods Park on Saturday 12 September 2026, 1-4pm. The event will include inflatables and a range of stalls. The event is free to attend, and residents are encouraged to bring along a picnic and enjoy the afternoon.

The Clerk will attend the event 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, provide information to residents, and encourage community engagement.

Prudhoe in Bloom 2026 and Grant Awards – Community Celebration

The Prudhoe in Bloom 2026 Awards will be presented at the Community Celebration on Friday 11 September 2026, from 6.00pm onwards, at the Legion. The event will also celebrate this year's Grant Award recipients.

Free Swim 2026

Prudhoe Town Council funded free swimming sessions at Prudhoe Waterworld throughout the summer, with sessions taking place each Sunday from 4.00pm to 5.00pm, commencing on 17 July 2026.

The initiative was open to residents of all ages and abilities and proved to be extremely popular, with more than 413 people attending across the sessions. On two occasions, the sessions reached the maximum pool capacity of 75 participants.

Formal thanks have been extended to Prudhoe Waterworld for facilitating the initiative throughout the summer holidays.

Miners Race – Sunday 30 August 2026

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

A total of 124 runners registered for this year's event, with 97 participants competing in the 10K race, 18 in the 5K race, and 9 in the Junior race. Participant numbers were lower than anticipated, which may have been partly attributable to a clash with a new 10K road race taking place in Middlesbrough on the same date.

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

PCW2627/067 Playground Inspection Reports

It was AGREED to receive the latest Playground Inspection Reports.

PCW2627/068 Proposal to Invest the Existing Castle Dene Park Using Reserve Monies

It was AGREED to receive and consider Councillor Angie Scott's proposal that Prudhoe Town Council consider allocating a proportion of its available reserve monies towards the upgrade and improvement of the existing facilities at Castle Dene Park.

Castle Dene Park is a project that Prudhoe Town Council has previously agreed to invest in during the current financial year, with funding having been allocated within the Council's approved budget. Members noted, however, that since the budget was established earlier in the year, the costs associated with delivering the proposed improvements have increased significantly. Consequently, the funding originally allocated may no longer be sufficient to deliver the scale or standard of improvements originally envisaged by the Council.

Members discussed the potential use of a proportion of the Council's available reserves to supplement the existing budget allocation and enable the proposed improvements at Castle Dene Park to progress. It was acknowledged that any additional investment should be proportionate, appropriately costed and represent value for money for the Council and the local community.

Discussion also took place regarding the level of reserves currently available and the potential scope of the proposed project. Members considered whether the works should be limited to improvements to the existing facilities or whether a more comprehensive redesign and redevelopment of the park should be explored. It was recognised that a full redesign could provide an opportunity to consider the longer-term needs of the park and the community, including facilities for children, families and other park users.

Members further discussed the importance of establishing accurate and detailed costs before determining the level of any additional financial contribution from the Council. It was agreed that further consideration should be given to the scope and specification of the project, together with the preparation of final costings and consideration of the views of local residents and park users through an appropriate public consultation exercise.

It was AGREED to support the proposal in principle and to explore the allocation of additional funding from the Council's available reserves and explore external sources of funding towards the improvement and potential redesign of Castle Dene Park, subject to the preparation of final costings, confirmation of the proposed scope of works and appropriate public consultation.

It was further AGREED that the precise level of additional funding to be allocated from reserves would be determined once the final project scope and associated costs had been established and reported back to the Council for consideration and approval.

PCW2627/069 Town Football Club – Annual Fireworks Display 2026

It was AGREED to issue a letter of permission for the Annual Fireworks Display, to be held on Saturday, 7th November 2026 at Prudhoe Town Football Club.

PCW2627/070 Prudhoe Town Council Miner's Race 2026

It was AGREED to consider the advertisement of the tender opportunity for the appointment of a Race Director for the 2027 Miner's Race, proposed to take place on Sunday, 29th August 2027 at 9:00am. It was noted that the proposed date is subject to confirmation and had been suggested as it falls approximately two weeks prior to the Great North Run, which is scheduled to take place on Sunday, 12th September 2027.

Following discussion, Councillor Price proposed that consideration be given to reverting the route to the riverside. It was noted that this could avoid the costs associated with road closures, minimise inconvenience to residents and provide a more pleasant setting in which to hold the race. A cost for measuring a new route would be needed however while reducing or potentially eliminating the requirement for road closures

Members discussed historical routes, many of which do impact greatly on access to the town with road closures in place. The tender could be drafted outlining the current route but also offer suggestions for alternative routes, with the emphasis on reducing closures.

It was AGREED that a draft tender be prepared and presented to a future meeting for consideration.

PCW2627/071 Correspondence

It was AGREED to receive the following correspondence:

- a) Highway code 201/TRO_101_47 Parking changes/Prudhoe – resident concerns

PCW2627/072 Date of Next Meeting

It was AGREED that the next Planning, Contract and Works meeting will be held on Thursday 8th October 2026.

Meeting ended 7.42pm.