

July

Murton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in The Glebe Centre on Thursday 19 March 2026

Present: Cllr J Griffiths (Chair)
Cllrs, M Rafferty, J Rafferty, H Napier, T Parry, K Longstaff, B Brown, B
Hastings, G Farn, S Robson, K Dixon, G Maitland, J Maitland, D Rowe

Officer: Becca Brooks (Clerk)

Police: PCSO Jane Bradley-Harding
PCSO Bradley Ford

Public: Matthew Elliott

Matthew Elliott congratulated Cllr Griffiths on recently being elected County Councillor for
Murton, South Hetton, and Hawthorn
Cllr Griffiths thanked Mr Elliott

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Apologies: Cllrs L Grogan, M Grogan, County Cllr M Rowney
Resolved to accept apologies and log in the register

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None
Resolved to receive the information

3. POLICE REPORT

20 thefts
22 Anti social behavior
25 criminal damage – a number of arrests following vehicle damage
Resolved to receive the information

4. CHAIRMANS REMARKS

None
Resolved to receive the information

5. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Parish Council Meeting
Extraordinary meeting

19th February 2026
2nd March 2026

Members requested to approve, confirm and sign as an accurate record
Resolved the draft minutes of both Parish Council meetings to be approved, confirmed and signed as an accurate record

Matters arising

Cllr D Rowe raised questions regarding the suggested beneficiaries to Henry Smith Charity grants

Resolved to arrange a meeting of the Henry Smith Trustees to review before the next Parish Council meeting

6. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Griffiths reports that there is a planned £3 million improvement for buses at Dalton Park – there is a map available if members request

A discussion ensues regarding the removal of the planters outside the Glebe Centre to allow for the cycle path which has been delayed, which allows for inappropriate parking on the pavements which restricts visibility to the road

Resolved that the clerk contact the police to clarify parking restrictions and enforcement, and that the clerk contacts highways to clarify their responsibilities on this matter

7. REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED

None

Resolved to receive the information

8. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

Members are requested to endorse the appointment of Mark Harding at Galley and Tindle to conduct the Annual Internal Audit for financial year 2024/25

Resolved to endorse

9. STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Members are asked to review the Standing Orders and Financial regulations previously circulated

Resolved that the current documents are approved with no changes required for 2026/27

10. GLEBE CENTRE UPDATE

The Clerk updated the members that she had met with Ward Hadaway Solicitors in order to make legal arrangements for the lease of the Glebe Centre to East Durham Veterans. The Clerk had previously instructed the solicitors to investigate the land registry and requirements regarding a restrictive covenant within the purchase of the centre from British Coal, and relayed the information reported to the members, and advised that the findings aligned with the proposed usage of the Glebe Centre going forward.

The Clerk further reported that a lease agreement was to be drawn up, and that there would be instructions needed from the Parish Council on the conditions of this agreement, and also that while this was being negotiated a tenancy at will could be drawn up so that EDV could legally operate the Glebe Centre while the lease was being finalised. The proposed timeline was that the last day Murton Welfare Association would be operating within the centre is 2nd April, with it being closed for the following week for MWA to move out, and that EDV would begin operating from the centre on 13th April.

Resolved to receive the information

A discussion ensued whereby members discussed certain requirements for the lease during which the Clerk raised whether a suitable work space had been considered for her to carry out council business as it had been stated that the only suitable spaces had already been ear marked by EDV for other uses. Cllr G Farn indicated that it should be in the terms that the Parish Council Clerk needs an office within the building.

Resolved that the working group would meet with EDV to discuss terms of the lease and that members are invited to email the Clerk with any discussion points for the meeting

The Clerk also advised that the solicitors would be drawing up a Deed of Surrender which finalises MWA tenancy at the Glebe Centre and would include detail of the underwriting of the assets left in the building, as the lease would be based on 'as seen' and the assets are owned by MWA and are tied to the accounting value of the Charity.

Resolved to receive the information

11. MATTERS OF INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reports that confirmation has been received that no planning permission is required for reinstating the village green, and that Murphys have been sent this information

Resolved to receive the information

Cllr J Rafferty raises that as a local resident of the village green he has been made aware that Gregson Terrace has not been adopted by DCC Highways which was the original agreement with Plot build

Resolved that the Clerk would investigate this by contacting highways

12. PLANNING

None received

Resolved to receive the information

13. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Monthly Accounts and Wages

Details of receipts and payments made in the past month were reported as follows:



Total of Accounts received in February	£1,503.36
Total of Accounts passed for payment in February	£45,011.27
Total Wage Bill for the Month of February	£20,063.56
Contribution to Murton Welfare Association to date	£66,000.00

The Council supports the community centre financially under the;

- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Part 1, s19
- Local Government Act 1972 s144, 145 and 133

Resolved to receive the information and approve

Cllr K Dixon raised the matter of works being carried out at the cricket pavilion, the Clerk advised that Murton Cricket club was the client as they have the original agreement for the improvements to the changing rooms, and that the additional works were requested by MWA to improve the bar area, and not under the Parish Council

Resolved to receive the information

Approval requested for the purchase of new machinery; the clerk advised that these had been planned purchases and specifically precepted for at £20,000

Resolved to approve purchase

The next meeting of Murton Parish Council is Thursday 16th April 2026 at 6pm in The Glebe Centre.

The chairman thanked the members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 19:18

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CHAIRMAN

DATE: 16th April 2026