



Website: <http://www.tillside.uk/>

**Minutes of Tillside Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 8th January 2026
in Chatton Village Hall Commencing at 7pm**

Present: Chairman H Prytherch, Vice-Chairman R Ord,
Parish Councillors: I Brown, G Cutter, N Petronelli-Stone, H Ray, & D Spours
County Councillors M Mather & P Lambert
1 member of the public.
Clerk I Hunter

Public Question time: - None

Apologies for Absence: Parish Councillors A Wrangham, A Macdonald-Smith, T Faa-Thompson,
& M Strother
Parish Councillors considered and accepted the request for leave of
absence until the April 206 Parish Council meeting from Parish
Councillor A Wrangham.

Declaration of Interest: Parish Councillor I Brown declared a personal interest in Agenda
Item No 13 Restricted Byway No 56 and Byway Open to All Traffic No 10
(Parishes of Chatton & Chillingham)

Request for Dispensation: None

Min 2252- Community Police: The Clerk read out the following report:

Crimes and incidents– Low amount of recorded crime since the last meeting. A couple of the crimes however relate to burglaries to businesses in the local community which included the shop in Chatton village and enquiries are ongoing. This is again a prime example of despite being a rural area people are travelling around the area committing crime.

Incident wise- Low number of incidents this period with nothing occurring that needs passed on.

Local Matters- There's been some reports of poaching this period around Chillingham and as ever a reminder that if any vehicles are seen in what might appear to be suspicious circumstances, especially at night, then to report it via 101 or 999 in an emergency. Any information regards even just sightings of vehicles can be vital. Our rural crime team is active and any information does get passed onto them.

Other areas – There's been an increase in rural type theft and crime recently south of our area command with farm type vehicles being targeted so again even just sightings of vehicles up our way, which appear suspicious, certainly helps.

Community Engagement – Nothing to pass on.

Minutes- The previously circulated Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th November 2025 were agreed as a true record. The Chairman signed a hard copy.

Any urgent matters arising from the minutes if not already on the agenda- None

Min 2253- Grass cutting

- Parish Councillors agreed to make the payment to S A Douglas for the grass cutting of Chatton Village Hall field in 2025 on receipt of an invoice.
- Parish Councillors agreed to the issuing of an invoice to Chatton Village Hall for 50% of the grass cutting of Chatton Village Hall field in 2025 once the invoice is received from S A Douglas.
- Parish Councillors considered the quote of £800 from S A Douglas for the grass cutting of Chatton Village Hall field in 2026.
- Parish Councillors agreed to award the grass cutting contract for Chatton Village Hall field in 2026 to S A Douglas.

Min 2254- Financial Statement –

- Current A/c £ 1217.77
- Savings A/c Instant Access £ 13052.49
- Savings A/c 95 Days Access £12349.68

Min 2255- Receipts

- Savings A/c Instant Access £ 13.08 Interest
- Savings A/c 95 Days Access £ 49.72 Interest

Min 2256- Accounts for Payment- Parish Councillors agreed the following payments

- E I Hunter £ 72.00 Clerk's Salary-December
- HMRC £ 48.00 PAYE- December
- Bank of Scotland £ 4.25 Monthly service charges x1
- E I Hunter £ 72.00 Clerk's Salary- January
- HMRC £ 48.00 PAYE- January
- E I Hunter £ 15.15 Expenses
- Resident £ 70.67 Annual website fees

Min 2257- Chatton Village Hall

- Parish Councillor H Ray informed the meeting that if the generator had not arrived it was due to be received very shortly, which will finish off that project. However, other projects are ongoing. She concluded that an in-depth report had been received at the November Parish Council meeting.
- The Chairman provided the following update on the funding application to the Ellingham Windfarm in relation to erecting a fence on the Playing Field: The application had been successful: however, he still needed to obtain an additional quote for the fencing to allow all the necessary paperwork to be submitted to allow the Parish Council to access the funding.
- Parish Councillors noted that Chatton Village Hall Committee have a booking system for the use of the BBQ area, and it was the Parish Council's understanding that the BBQ area was to be used on a 1st come 1st served basis.

Parish Councillors agreed Parish Councillor H Ray as the Parish Council representative on Chatton Village Hall Committee to ask the question of the Chatton Village Hall Committee.

Min 2258- Planning Application- Parish Councillors to ratify the Parish Council's response of No Comments to the following Planning Application
25/04316/FUL- Proposed first floor dormer windows to North and West elevations- 8 Church Hill Chatton Northumberland NE66 5PY

Min 2259- Consultations-

- Parish Councillors agreed not to respond to the current consultation on the draft North of Tyne Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Parish Councillors agreed not to respond to the current consultation from Northumberland County Council on the Northumberland Design Code.
- Parish Councillors considered the current Northumberland County Council consultation on the Restricted Byway No18 (Parish of Roddam), and agreed to object to this consultation on public safety grounds.
- Parish Councillors considered the current Northumberland County Council consultation on the Restricted Byway No 56 and Byway Open to All Traffic No 10 (Parishes of Chatton & Chillingham), and agreed to object to this consultation on public safety grounds.
- Parish Councillors considered the current Northumberland County Council consultation on the Restricted Byway Nos 12,13 & 12 (Parishes of Chillingham & Lilburn) and agreed to object to this consultation on public safety grounds.

Min 2260- Parish Council website & email addresses

- Parish Councillors considered the updates from Parish Councillor A Macdonald-Smith & Northumberland County Council on the Northumberland County Council offer for a gov.uk website & a gov.uk email address for each Parish Councillor & Clerk by March 2026.
- Parish Councillors agreed to accept the offer of a gov.uk website & gov.uk email address for each Parish Councillor and the Clerk from Northumberland County Council.
The cost will be £350 per year + a one-off fee of £100 for the registration of the domain.
- Parish Councillors agreed the payment of £70.67 to a resident for the annual fees for the Tillside website.
- Parish Councillors agreed to have the gov.uk Parish Council website up and running ahead ensuring all the information is transferred from the current website across to the gov.uk website.
Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk update the resident who manages the current website.

Min 2261- Correspondence

- NCC- Email- Information on Joint Town & Parish Council Spring Conference 5th March. Parish Councillors agreed not to attend the Conference.

Min 2262- Budget 2026/27

- Parish Councillors considered the previously circulated draft budget.

- Parish Councillors agreed the budget for 2026/27 would be the same figure as 2025/26 £5445.
- Parish Councillors agreed not to increase the precept for 2026/27. The precept would remain at £5445.

Min 2263- County Councillor updates- County Councillor M Mather provided the following updates:

Bus Services- The yellow box markings will be installed at the Chatton bus stop using the funding received from North East Combined Authority Bus improvement funding.

Community Governance Review- The Tillside Parish Council grouping will be considered as part of the review; however, the possible changes may be complex. County Councillors Lambert, Hunter & myself are on the working group.

Emergencies- If anybody of any age needs help in an emergency, please encourage residents to contact Onecall via email: onecall@northumberland.gov.uk or phone number is **01670 536400**.

Northumberland County Council Communities Together are also, available if any resident needs help.

Power surges- Northern Powergrid will only make payments for non-luxury goods, however, if you believe your damaged goods are non-luxury goods you can submit a challenge.

Smart meters- As Portfolio Holder I am contacting David Smith MP about residents being unable to install and use smart meters in areas such as Chatton, stating in the northern area radio waves could be used to provide the necessary signals, the current preferred provision is not working in small rural communities. Parish Councillors agreed to also send a letter to David Smith MP if County Councillor M Mather provided the information.

Off grid properties – Northumberland County Council are looking to support houses that are off grid to gain access to the grid.

Budget- The settlement from Central Government is an additional £12.6m over 3-years, which is a £40m shortfall of what is required. The settlement predicts that Northumberland County Council will raise the Council Tax by the maximum 4.99%, this means that nearly 90% of the Council Tax raised will be used to fund services.

The Chairman raised concerns about the state of road on the Main Street in Chatton which was resurfaced in the last few years. County Councillor M Mather advised the meeting that the road was top dressed not resurfaced, however, he would ask Northumberland County Council Highways Officers to inspect the road as part of the Local Transport Plan works.

Parish Councillor D Spours raised concerns that he had reported blocked drains next to the bus stop on Fix my Street on 15th September, and to date there had been no action. County Councillor M Mather asked for the details of the report be forwarded onto him and he would investigate the issue.

County Councillor P Lambert advised the meeting that he did not want to see any frontline services cut in the Northumberland County Council budget. The services residents want to see retained are potholes filled, the grass cut, streetlights, gullies cleared etc. Northumberland County Council need to consider what they can live without, and the number of employees could be reviewed.

Northumberland County Council have lost the £3.1m rural grant.

Min 2264- Chatton News-Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk provide the following updates for the Chatton News:

Smart meters- County Councillor M Mather & Tillside Parish Council are writing to David Smith MP raising concerns that smart meters are unable to be installed and used within the parish, residents can also write directly to David Smith MP raising their concerns on this issue.

Emergencies – If you or any resident you know needs help in an emergency the first point of contact is Onecall via email:

onecall@northumberland.gov.uk or phone number is **01670 536400**, or you can contact Northumberland County Council Communities Together via email: www.northumberland.gov.uk/cost-living-support.

Dog fouling-Due to the ongoing issue of dog fouling within Chatton village Parish Councillors are investigating the option of installing CCTV.

Precept- Parish Councillors have agreed not to increase the parish precept in 2026/27 it will remain at £5445.

Any Other Urgent Business. None

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting: 12th February 2026

Chairman _____ Date _____