



MINUTES of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on

Monday the 1st September 2025 at Cottam Community Centre Haydocks Lane commencing at 7.30pm

Present Cllrs: Butler, Jewell, Lambert, Parker, Rayfield, Smith, Whitham,
McFarlane and Brown

There were 4 members of the public present

53/25 To receive apologies

Cllrs Gibson, Abram, Harper and Coward

It was noted that Cllr Abram, who has now moved away from the Cottam area, has decided after many years to relinquish her role as a Parish Councillor. The Chairman will be writing to her to thank her for her services in the past which have included being the Chairman and Vice Chairman on several occasions. Statutory vacancy notices will be displayed shortly.

54/25 To consider and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 30th June 2025 (enclosed)

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 30th June 2025 should be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record

55/25 To receive Declarations of Interest

Cllr Parker declared a personal and prejudicial in item 7 on the agenda referring to drainage works on Miller Green since she lives in the immediate vicinity overlooking Miller Green. She left the room and did not take part in the debate and voting on this item, although she was at the request of the Council, asked to make a comment with regard to the frequency of use of parts of Miller Green to assist in their debate.

56/25 To adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion

The meeting was adjourned

A member of the public referred to the last meeting at which suggestions had been made by Preston CC concerning the number of playgrounds in the area. He stated that he had recently looked at all of them and was of the personal opinion that their locations were suitable to the area covering most of the residential areas and providing easy access. He felt that the equipment was suitable for up to 14 year olds as displayed on various signs and challenged the PCC comment that the equipment was only suitable only for 7/8 year olds. He accepted that some equipment may be at the end of its life but that it would be far better to invest funds in replacing this rather than close playgrounds down to create a large central unit. In response to his question to the Council as to what they thought; the Chairman pointed out that the Council as a corporate body had no collective view on the matter at the present time since the expected consultation with residents had not yet taken place and no specific proposals put forward. Members were however encouraged to respond to the consultation when it took place.

Another resident who supported the above view enquired concerning the drainage proposals for Miller Green. It was confirmed that the northern part of the Green was not part of the proposals since this area did not have the same issues as the southern areas. It was also confirmed that tree planting would not be considered until the drainage issues had been dealt with and that some spoil from either or both of the proposed schemes outlined on the agenda would be used, to help fill the low level areas of Miller Green which ponded during the winter months.

It was confirmed that the issues with the underpass in Lea Town, which is closed due to continued flooding has been brought to the attention of M Henrick MP who has been provided with background papers and information.

The meeting was reconvened

57/25 To approve the following payments:

04/06/2025	COTTAM CC ROOM HIRE	28	35.00
04/06/2025	S FITZPATRICK LENGTHSMAN TEAM	29	633.15
04/06/2025	NEWGATE NURSERIES PLANTING & HANGING BASKETS	30	800.40
10/06/2025	PRESTON CC COTTAM TREE PROJECT	31	14931.16
10/06/2025	NEWGATE NURSERIES PLANTING	32	64.80
10/06/2025	VISION ICT 1 ADDED EMAIL ACCOUNT	33	20.00
17/06/2025	BARTLETT LENGTHSMAN TEAM	34	630.00
17/06/2025	CROSS LENGTHSMAN TEAM	35	878.57
17/06/2025	FITZPATRICK LENGTHSMAN TEAM	36	378.00
17/06/2025	GGs LENGTHSMAN TEAM	37	2241.00
18/06/2025	EON NEXT ELECTRIC SUPPLY	38	18.23
27/06/2025	REID CREATIVE CANBERRA INFO BOARDS	39	2953.20
27/06/2025	SANDERSONS GRASS CUTTING	40	2694.00
27/06/2025	HMRC 1ST QTR	41	2478.48
27/06/2025	WV MCWHITTLE SALARY 1ST QTR	42	2962.17
27/06/2025	COTTAM CC ROOM HIRE	43	35.00
27/06/2025	GGs LENGTHSMAN TEAM	44	1279.95
30/06/2025	BANK CHARGES	45	8.25
14/07/2025	1/3RD SHARE MICROSOFT 365 SOFTWARE	46	46.67
14/07/2025	S FITZPATRICK LENGTHSMAN TEAM	47	567.00
14/07/2025	GGs LENGTHSMAN TEAM	48	1372.70
14/07/2025	SOFT SURFACES WAR HORSE FINAL PAYMENT	49	2249.10
14/07/2025	A PARTRIDGE LENGTHSMAN TEAM	50	756.00
14/07/2025	A CROSS LENGTHSMAN TEAM	51	940.77
14/07/2025	A BARTLETT LENGTHSMAN TEAM	52	756.00
14/07/2025	PRINTING WORLD NEWSLETTER	53	284.00
22/07/2025	EON NEXT ELECTRIC SUPPLY	54	18.56
31/07/2025	BANK CHARGES	55	8.55

It was resolved that the payments referred to above should be approved

58/25 To approve the enclosed Financial Statement as at 30th June 2025

It was resolved that the Financial Statement referred to above should be approved

59/25 To consider the documentation and quotations sent out to members under separate cover regarding the installation of a drainage scheme on:

A. Dodney Drive Circular Green

B. Southern side of Miller Green.

It was resolved that this Council wished to go ahead with the drainage proposals for Dodney Drive Circular Green and that Duncan Ross Ltd should be appointed as the contractor to undertake the works as outline in the proposals, and that a budget of £22K should be set aside from CIL monies to allow this project to be taken forward.

It was further resolved following debate that further information was required before any final decision could be made in respect of Miller Green. The Clerk was instructed to engage further with Duncan Ross Ltd since there was a lack of clarity as to whether the quotation and potential connection to the UU surface water drainage system might cause further problems of flooding on Miller Lane itself. An area of road at the SW corner regularly floods during heavy rainfall due to what appears to be the inability of the local UU drains to cope.

In addition, and before committing to such a large expense (50 K) it was suggested that local residents might be consulted as to what their thoughts were with regard to the future use of Miller Green, which would then help to justify such a large expenditure. To date tree planting and the creation of an additional path are suggestions that have been muted.

60/25 To note that the next meeting is scheduled for the 6th October 2025.

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