

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
CASTLE EDEN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 15 JANUARY 2026**

Present: Councillors M Wilmer, J Welsh, J McCallum, D Gordon, L Taylor

Also Present: 1 resident

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor S Woodhouse.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. POLICE REPORT

The Clerk advised that a police report would be sought from the PCSO for the area and circulated.

4. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 20 November 2025, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. MATTERS ARISING

The gardener had submitted a quotation for £800.

RESOLVED that the quotation be agreed.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Woodhouse was unable to attend the meeting, but advised by email that over the past couple of months he has been working with the Castle Eden Ladies Cricket Team on a sponsorship agreement, which has now been successfully finalised

Councillors requested an update regarding the STOP sign that had been requested.

RESOLVED that an update be requested on the STOP sign.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

8. PLANNING PROPOSALS

- a) DM/25/03481/FPA Reinstatement of a pathway through the historic churchyard at St James Church, The Village, Castle Eden

RESOLVED that no objection be made.

- b) DM/25/03581/LB Structural intervention to stabilise existing Palm House structure at The Castle, The Village, Castle Eden

RESOLVED that no objection be made.

- c) DM/25/03579/PND Prior Notification for the demolition of existing pipe bridge at Land To The West Of Former Spoil Heap, Hesleden

RESOLVED that no objection be made.

- d) DM/25/00970/FPA Installation of 1938mm access gates and piers At The Old Station House, Stockton Road, Castle Eden

The development would be visible from the road therefore gates were being erected. The tree report would be brought up to date and planting will hide visibility however there had been no response to the property being used as a business. Concern was expressed that vehicles would be stationary on the road for gates to open.

RESOLVED that concerns be expressed.

- e) DM/25/02260/FPA 1no. flat roofed dormer to front, 2no. flat roofed dormer to rear, rear extension & conversion of loft space into habitable rooms (part retrospective) at Loreta, The Bleachery, Castle Eden

An application had been received by DCC for the identified breach of planning control.

RESOLVED that it be discussed at the next meeting.

9. FINANCE

Invoices for Endorsement of Payment

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	Amount	CHEQUE NO
Clerk	Microsoft renewal	£84.99	000776
Creative Ape	Rails for memorial	£790	000777

Balance as per bank reconciliation as £42,243.99
Bank statements were viewed by the Chair

10. **PRECEPT 2026/27**

The Clerk advised that the notification of the Tax Base and request for Precept for 2026/27 had now been received from Durham County Council. The Clerk circulated an estimate of income and expenditure for 2026/27. The Clerk advised that the LCTRS grant had been removed.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the 2026/27 budget be set at £10,000 which equated to a Band D charge of £31.77.

11. **VILLAGE MATTERS**

- a) **Village Signs** – a preliminary drawing had been reviewed regarding a new sign to be erected near the turning circle. The Clerk advised that permission would need to be sought from Durham County Council.
- b) **Golf Club Parking** – Concerns were raised that individuals attending the golf club were parking at Beechwood entrance without due regard for residents. The Chair stated she would forward the correct contact details for correspondence with the golf club.

A query was raised regarding possible recent legislation aimed at preventing pavement parking. The Clerk stated she would make enquiries with the police to gather further details.

- c) **Turning Circle** – It was reported that four nitrous oxide canisters were discovered around the turning circle during recent litter picking, with evidence that additional canisters had been present the weekend before. The Clerk stated she would notify the police of the findings.