



(i) See **Appendix F** for the 2025/26 Annual Governance Statement to consider and approve. The Council needs to answer each assertion based on the findings in Appendix D and Appendix E. The Chair and Clerk will then sign and date the Annual Governance Statement.

(j) See **Appendix F** for the 2025/26 Accounts to consider and approve. The Clerk has already signed the accounts as the Council's Responsible Financial Officer and once approved the Chair will sign and date the accounts and authorise the submission of the complete Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) to the external auditor in advance of the statutory deadline of 30 June 2026. The AGAR includes the accounts, Annual Governance Statement, and the internal auditor's signed report.

## 5. **Hope Moor Wind Farm and other planning applications**

The Hope Moor Wind Farm stage one consultation is in progress and ends on 30 June. As the proposed development is outside the parish boundaries the Council are not statutory consultees and it is not the Council's usual policy to respond to planning proposals in these circumstances. However, the Council appreciates that the scale of the proposed development will impact on the village and many residents are concerned about the proposals. Accordingly, the Council are maintaining an impartial watching brief, attending the Hope Moor Community Liaison Group (HMCLG) meetings, and feeding back to the next parish council meeting. Since the last meeting, Cllr Hughes and Cllr Thompson attended a consultation event at Bowes and Gilmonby Village Hall and a meeting with Durham County Council explaining the process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Proposals. They will provide feedback to this meeting.

As this is the last meeting of Bowes Parish Council before the end of the initial consultation, the Council are asked to formally review their position on the proposal, noting that the 900-page scoping report has only just been published and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

Barningham Parish Council have requested an extension to the consultation so this can be carefully considered. However, it should be noted that there will be a further consultation period (due winter 2026) when the plans for the wind farm will be more detailed and a final decision on the planning application is not anticipated until 2029.

There have been no planning applications within the parish boundaries since the May 2026 meeting.

## 6. **Correspondence**

(a) Durham County Council sent the Clerk a leaflet advertising their Durham Explorer bus service connecting Barnard Castle and Durham City with local tourist attractions throughout Summer 2026. The Council may wish to consider displaying the leaflet on the noticeboard and / or as a news article on the website.

(b) The Clerk has received a one-page poster about the mandatory switch-over from wired landlines to digital landlines due in January 2027. The Council may wish to consider displaying the leaflet on the noticeboard and / or as a news article on the website.

(c) CDALC have invited councillors to a meeting at Cotherstone Village Hall on 1 July 2026 (6.30pm) to explain their work, present awards and provide an opportunity for networking among Teesdale parishes.

## 7. **Cemetery & Village maintenance**

The Clerk has completed the reconciliation of burial records to the cemetery plan. This involved checking the 752 registered burials since the cemetery opened to allocated graves on the plan. There remain 167 spaces in the cemetery, 75 of which are reserved. The exercise identified an error rate of approximately two per cent. The Clerk has made the appropriate changes to resolve these discrepancies and claimed overtime as agreed at the last meeting to reflect the significant additional work that such historic data cleansing involved.

8. **Allotments**

There are no matters for consideration at this month's meeting.

9. **Play Park**

To consider the latest inspection sheet for the playground, noting that Playdale have completed the installation of the new swing post and their final invoice is presented for approval at item 4c.

10. **Footpaths**

The Clerk has informed the two potential contractors of the contract award at the May 2026 meeting in respect of 2026/27 footpath repairs funded by Durham County Council. The Council are asked to remind the Clerk of the additional footpath requiring repairs noted after bids were sought. DCC may decide to undertake this work directly or suggest the Parish Council include it in their 2027/2028 grant application.

11. **AOB (for discussion only)**

12. **Date, time, and venue of the next meeting**

The Council agreed a 2026/27 meeting timetable at the last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 14 July 2026.