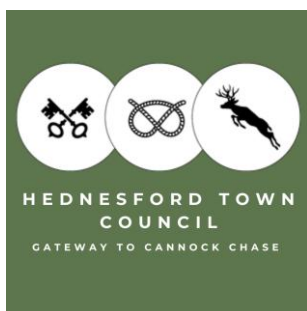




Minutes from Extraordinary Full Council

Friday 9th October 2026

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Friday 9th
October 2026 at 10am at Pye Green Community Centre,
Bradbury Lane, Hednesford, WS12 4EP

Members of Hednesford Town Council present

Councillors Ron Turville (Chair), Sheila Cartwright, Paul Jones, Graham Millington, Alan Pearson, Shirley Pearson, Arthur Roden, Garry Samuels, Ann Turville and Carl White

Others present

Lindsey Smith (Chief Officer)
4 Members of the Public

EXFC/10.26/1 - Apologies

None

EXFC/10.26/2 - Declaration of Interest for any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests & Dispensations

Cllr R Turville declared an interest in agenda item 4a

Cllr P Jones arrived at 10.04am

EXFC/10.26/3 – Public Participation

A member of the public made a statement expressing pride in being a resident of Hednesford and highlighting the town's positive reputation. They raised concerns regarding comments made online by a member of Hednesford Town Council, which they considered inappropriate.

The member of the public also raised concerns about comments made at the Annual Town Assembly and regarding the conduct of the Member on at least two separate occasions, stating that comments and questions raised by women were not acknowledged directly and that responses were instead directed towards men. The member of the public described this behaviour as misogynistic.

The member of the public advised that several community groups had intended to submit a joint letter to Hednesford Town Council regarding these concerns; however, due to delays, this was not progressed.

The member of the public expressed the view that the Member concerned, and the Council more generally, may not fully appreciate the impact that such incidents can have on the Council's reputation and urged Members to carefully consider the consequences of their actions, communications and online activity.

EXFC/10.26/4a – Response to Hednesford in Partnership

Cllr R Turville read a pre-prepared statement in which he advised that the comments in question had been made in his capacity as a private individual and not on behalf of, nor as a representative of, Hednesford Town Council. He stated that the comments were a repetition of words used during a conversation with a resident who was dissatisfied with the arrangements relating to the car element of the Hednesford Summer Festival.

Cllr R Turville informed he had expressed his appreciation to Hednesford in Partnership for the work undertaken in delivering the Summer Festival, stating that they had done a wonderful job.

Cllr R Turville left the meeting at 10.30am.

Deputy Chair of Council, Cllr G Samuels, took the Chair.

Members discussed the matter and noted their view that no illegal activity had occurred. Members expressed concern regarding the impact of the situation on the reputation of the Council and stated that they did not endorse the comments that had been made on social media or in person.

Members recognised the valuable contribution made by community and volunteer groups within Hednesford and expressed their thanks for the work undertaken by those groups.

Members further stated their view that no malice had been intended; however, they considered the situation to be disappointing and acknowledged that it had the potential to affect public perception of the Council and the positive work being undertaken by it. Members agreed that efforts should be made to rebuild relationships and avoid creating further animosity.

Cllr G Samuels issued a public apology on behalf of the town council for any upset and distress caused.

Resolved: That a formal letter be sent to Hednesford in Partnership in response to the concerns raised

Proposed: Cllr A Pearson. Seconded: Cllr S Pearson. 8 Agreed. 1 Abstain.

Cllr R Turville returned to the room at 10.45am and re-took the Chair

EXFC/10.26/4b – Actions to be taken

Following further discussion, Members were reminded of the requirements of the Council's Social Media and Email Policy and advised to seek guidance from the Chief Officer where clarification was required. Members were also reminded of the importance of fact-checking information before sharing it online or in person and of always conducting themselves in a professional manner in accordance with the Code of Conduct and the Nolan Principles. Members were further reminded of their individual responsibility for their own actions and behaviour

EXFC/10.26/5 - Date of next meeting

Tuesday 03rd November 2026 at 6.30pm

Meeting closed at 11:04am

Signed:

Date: