

1. Opening prayer – Chair – Minsteracres prayer

2. Present (attendance record at Appendix 1)

Chair, Alan Hodgson, Vice-Chair, Lucilla Solly; Deacon David Collins Fr Emmanuel, Eileen Carew, Frank MacDonald, Cecilia Port (secretary). Apologies, Tony Gibson. (Note: membership is 2 clergy *ex-officio* members, plus a minimum of 5 other members; *quorum* is two-thirds of all voting members, which includes *ex-officio* members).

3. Previous minutes & Matters arising

3.1 Draft minutes of last meeting 9 July 2026 passed with corrections.

4.. Passionists – update

4.1 AH spoke directly by phone to Fr Martin Coffey, Provincial, last week, with a new proposal that the temporary appointment of Fr Ben Lodge for 6 months from September to our parish be considered, in order that we have more time to explore other options with the diocese; Fr Martin replied that he would give this serious consideration. **AP26-1**, AH will telephone Fr Martin by or on 30 July to further discuss need and urgency of time frame, given Fr Emmanuel's departure on 30 August. The action *re* Fr Giuseppe will be temporarily paused until after the telephone call. Another option might be via the Carmelite order, three of whom will soon be based in Hexham and could be asked to help provide a Sunday service outside the usual diocesan protocols.

5. Diocese – updates

5.1. AP26-1 AH has telephoned the diocesan Finance department on three recent occasions, in order to obtain clarity about what would happen to parish money from 30 August and to advise parishioners about their monthly standing orders going into the parish account (reference Passionists account 30171697, 20 40 09). On 16 July, AH requested an in-person meeting, but as yet, no-one has been able to advise and to date no call backs have been received, despite the urgent timescale. AH will seek legal advice over parish money from local legal contacts.

5.2 AP26-2, DC will seek more information from Fr Jeff (diocesan Vicar General) on constraints to our parish having Sunday services once parish suppression is underway. No regular Sunday services, including Saturday vigil services would be held, but priests visiting the retreat centre may be permitted to hold Sunday services; also see Minute 4.2, 9 July 2026.

6. Social Committee

6.1 Social Committee reported that previous week's parish barbecue, Sunday 19 July, was an enjoyable and successful occasion, with takings of £478, a large proportion of which went to catering plus goody bags for children. A parish lunch buffet including a cake was proposed for Sunday 30 August, the day of Fr Emmanuel's departure, to follow 10.30am mass. This was supported by the PC to use parish funding.

7. AOB

7.1 Church organ: a quote to repair the pedal action of £960+VAT has been received. It was agreed that the decision on whether/when to go ahead with the repair should wait until the parish had more certainty of surviving. AH will inform Margo, who handles this on behalf of MRC.

7.2 AP23-8 vegetation blocking gutter along south western/main church door aspect: FM has ensured that Andrew is aware of repair need and already plans to get quotes for this for our consideration.

7.3 The PC has sent a condolence card to Jimmy Harris and family, following the recent death of parishioner Mavis Harris, who has served us in several volunteer roles including past Chair of the Parish Council. Her requiem mass will be on 4 August.

7.4 Safeguarding, health and safety and risk assessments will become the responsibility of MRC in future if a Passionist parish priest is no longer in post

8. PC Agenda, Dates & Times of Next Meetings

8.1 Agenda: Safeguarding and Health & Safety are compulsory items required by the diocese.

8.2 Next meeting: Sunday 9 August, between the masses, 9.30-10.15am.

Closing Prayer – FrE

Minutes, Cecilia Port, Secretary to Parish Council

APPENDIX 1

Attendance	FrE	DC	AH	LS	EC	TG	FM	CP	Observers
17/1/2026	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	
22/4/2026	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	
20/5/2026	FrG	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Note, Fr G in absence of Fr E
21/6/2026	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Short meeting
9/7/2026	A	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	
26/7/2026	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	Short meeting

A= Apologies

APPENDIX 2

Appendix 2.1 Actions completed

Origin	Number/owner/s	Notes	PC Action completed

Appendix 2.2 Live Action Points

Origin	Number/lead/s	Notes	Action/Timescale
16/3/23	AP23-8 AH, FM	meetings with MRC re church repair & maintenance priorities, procedures & timelines; follow up to quinquennial report Nov 2023 items	ongoing
21/9/23	AP23-19 FrE, AH	MRC church roof survey report awaits feedback from MRC re grant applications; Historic Churches Trust contact offered	ongoing
10/7/25	AP25-3 AH, FrE	Feedback to PC from MRC trustees re new business plan to secure future, via Fr E & AH from Jim D	ongoing
22/4/26	AP26-1 AH, DC	Future of St Elizabeth's: contacts with Passionists, Diocese & Heavenfield partnership	ongoing
9/7/26	AP26-2 DC	Next steps, Mission group, "Friends of St Elizabeth's"?	ongoing