

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held on Thursday 20th November 2025 at 7:30pm.  
At Wall Village Hall.**

<b>PRESENT</b>	Cllrs: Mark Wood Chair, Elisa Wyrley-Birch, Vice Chair, Joshua Boulton-Baker, Andrew Gillespie, John Lamb. County Councillor Antonia Azocar-Nevin Clerk: Alix Pearson.
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NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
2754	<b>1. Apologies for absence and Declaration of interests</b> Apologies were received from Jane Michie. There were no declarations of interest.
2755	<b>2. Approval of Minutes</b> The minutes were approved as true record of the previous meeting and signed. There were no matters arising that were not addressed in the agenda. It was noted that the bolts on the swings should be tightened when the weather conditions render this safe.
2756	<b>3. Clerk's Reports</b> <b>Financial</b> The clerk presented Q2 report of expenditure which was approved and signed by the Chair. The bank balance at 20th November 2025 was <b>£12043</b> <b>Consideration of new website and email</b> As previously agreed, Wall Parish Council considers it appropriate to follow the decision taken by Humshaugh Parish Council in respect of the new website. Humshaugh Parish Council chose Parish Online, which was an option favoured by Wall Parish Council. Cllrs voted unanimously to move the website and email to Parish Online. <b>Clerk to contact Parish Online to arrange this.</b>  The Clerk had received the Community Governance Review Preliminary Questionnaire, which was voted upon and completed during the meeting. All Cllrs saw no reasons to change the current arrangements for number of Councillors, grouping or warding, or parish boundaries. <b>Clerk to send completed questionnaire to NCC Elections.</b>
2757	<b>4. Approval of Pay Award for Clerk</b> Motion: That Wall Parish Council approves a cost-of-living pay rise for the Parish Clerk, in line with the NJC 2025/26 pay award, to take effect from 1 April 2025. Details: The increase will put the Clerk's current salary at point SCP 10 on the NJC pay scale and shall be in accordance with the national increase of 3.20% with effect from 1 April 2025. The adjustment ensures the Clerk's remuneration remains consistent with nationally agreed sector standards and reflects the cost of living uplift. The Clerk's updated annual salary will be £2837.64 from 1 April 2025. Cllr Boulton Baker thought that the pay scale used to calculate the final salary may be out of date. Payroll company will advise. The motion was unanimously approved. <b>Clerk to send details to the payroll company, TP Jones.</b>

2758	<p><b>5. Consideration of Budget 26/27</b></p> <p>The clerk presented a paper previously circulated.</p> <p>The paper showed that current expenditure is still in excess of precept, owing to works on dangerous trees, replacement pads for the defibrillator and having to pay for the set up of the new website. Anticipated expenditure for 25/26 c£12740. £3,500 of reserve was earmarked for further tree work as a result of the forthcoming tree survey.</p> <p>Budgeted expenditure for 26/27 includes this reserve c£14,788.</p> <p>This would reduce the general reserve to c£6,500.</p> <p>Guidance is offered in the forthcoming Proper Practices document on an acceptable upper limit of general reserve - which is not more than 80% of precept, This does not include any earmarked reserves.</p> <p><b>Cllrs approved the budget</b> with a requirement to revisit it before the precept is requested at the January meeting, when the full extent of necessary tree works will be known.</p> <p>Additionally, reserves should be earmarked for the repair of the broken stone cundy on the Back Green.</p>
2759	<p><b>6. Consideration of s137 Charitable Donations</b></p> <p>Cllrs approved the following donations:</p> <p>Royal British Legion wreath &amp; donation £70</p> <p>Blind Veterans UK. £50</p> <p>West Northumberland Food Bank. £100</p> <p>Tynedale Hospice at Home. £150</p> <p>Great North Air Ambulance. £100</p> <p>Cllr Lamb would be able to provide a Christmas tree from his own land this year, so no provision was required for this. Grateful thanks were offered for this donation.</p> <p>It was agreed that it would be best to remove the small fir tree on the green which has failed to impress for many years.</p> <p><b>Clerk to arrange all donations. Chair to speak the Mr David Mason who originally planted the tree.</b></p>
2760	<p><b>7. Consideration of Parking Policy</b></p> <p>The Chair had previously circulated a draft parking policy. Councillors were asked to consider whether the Parish Council should produce written guidance for parking on the greens. Cllrs agreed that on occasions there was careless and unnecessary parking on the green and a guidance notice would be drafted to be published on the PC website and on the noticeboard.</p> <p><b>Action Cllr Wood.</b></p>
2761	<p><b>8. Review of Planning Applications</b></p> <p>There were no new planning applications. The two solar farm applications had not yet been decided.</p>
2762	<p><b>9. County Councillor's Report</b></p> <p>Antonia's succinct report appears at appendix 1</p>
2763	<p><b>10. Review of Parish Trees - Approval of Quotation for Trees Inspection.</b></p> <p>The Clerk had approached four Arborists for a quotation to undertake in inspection of Parish Trees and only one had responded with a quotation. The quotation is considerably lower than the bill for the previous tree inspection in 2022, so Cllrs were happy to accept it at £675, with no VAT. <b>Clerk to engage Redeswood Tree Surveying, work to commence as soon as possible.</b></p>
2764	<p><b>11. Review of Fix My Street Posts</b></p> <p>Cllr Wyrley-Birch had monitored all posts, and found no items being the direct responsibility of the Parish Council.</p>

2765	<p><b>12. Village Hall Report</b> Cllr Boulton Baker reported the following:</p> <p>The hall roof has been surveyed in the next step towards the installation of the PV system. Trustees are awaiting the completion of the sale of the vicarage before reconsideration of the need for additional space for PV batteries/B4RN cabinet.</p> <p>The Spend a Penny fund currently stands at £1,000 with contributions from VE Day party, Alison Say Concert, VS Quiz Night &amp; Back Green Campers. The Christmas Concerts are selling well, with Thursday 18th December almost sold out. Friday 19th has lots of availability, so please get your tickets and tell your friends &amp; family. Wine will be sold at the events and a temporary liquor licence has been obtained at a cost of £21.</p> <p>December events include a church carols/pie &amp; pea supper on 6th December and another Alison Say afternoon concert on Sunday 21st December. We have yet to hear whether there will be Old Year's Night again this year.</p>
	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b> <b>Thursday 15th January 2025 at 7.30pm.</b> The meeting ended at 9.30pm</p>

## Appendix 1

### WALL PC REPORT 20.11.25

- 1) Codlaw dene.** I contacted Stephen Sams about the road U8176 due to the repairs stopping at a certain point. I mentioned last meeting how in the report it mentions 'scheme shortened to aprx fit budget'. Stephen's response to this was:

I've just spoke to the Area Officer and they have confirmed all the work is complete, but they did less than was scheduled due to the cost.

I'll speak to the maintenance team and see if there's any plans to do anymore work there in future years.

I got a response from a Micheal McMonagle the senior programme officer at highways, and he said they plan to include a second phase for a future LTP scheme.

- 2) Brunton bank.** I have received an email from Glen Harris. He has recently been working on higher priority roads and there for not been able to address the dates for the work on Brunton bank. Since then his boss has updated me that Glen has been away on sick leave for a month which is why nothing has been programmed in. There is a man called Andy Fischer who will be taking over from Andrew Olive as highways delivery manager. Andrew Olive has asked Andy Fischer to consider this as a priority come Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> of November when Glen Harris should be back.

Today I found out that Andy Fischer has contacted Glen and he is unfortunately still ill and so has asked me for a brief overview of the whole situation which I have given him.

- 3) Local Transport Plan.** I have now submitted my three suggestions. I thought you would find it interesting that one of my suggestions was to tackle the speeding problems on the A68 which sits on the boarder of the 'Humshaugh ward'. Another one of my suggestions was the widening of paths at Newhouses and up to Wall.
- 4) Meeting with Joe.** My meeting with Joe went well. A lot of other PC's also mentioned the road safety concerned. Joe has a great attitude to working with people outside of his political party as he seems very keen to work and communicate with myself with regards to anything that may be of interest to the Humshaugh ward. His team have since updated me on case work in the area. It's good to know we have his support.