

DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday 17th July 2025 at 7:35pm.
At Wall Village Hall.

| | |
|----------------|---|
| PRESENT | Cllrs: Mark Wood Chair, Joshua Boulton-Baker, Andrew Gillespie, John Lamb, Jane Michie. Clerk: Alix Pearson. Member of Public Mel Bramley. |
|----------------|---|

| NUMBER | DESCRIPTION |
|--------|---|
| 2734 | <p>1. Apologies for absence and Declaration of interests Apologies were received from Elisa Wyrley-Birch and County Councillor Antonia Azocar-Nevin. There were no declarations of interest.</p> |
| 2735 | <p>2. Approval of Minutes 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.</p> |
| 2736 | <p>3. Clerk's Reports</p> <p>Financial The clerk circulated the expenditure for Q1, which was approved and signed by the Chair. It was noted that charges of £4.25 per month were now being levied on the account by Lloyds. The bank balance at 30th June 2025 was £9,769.90</p> <p>Election Update Most Cllrs had completed their Acceptance of Office forms and Declaration of Interests, which the clerk send to County Hall and received an acknowledgement.</p> <p>Administration It was proposed by Mark Wood and seconded by John Lamb that the Parish Council might consider reducing the number of ordinary meetings per year from 6 to 5. This would help with Cllrs diaries during the busy summer months in a rural parish and also would help smooth out the gap between the clerk's current salary and the national pay scales. All agreed this was worth further investigation. Action - Clerk.</p> |
| 2737 | <p>4. Consideration of new website and email. The SAPP guidance from April 2026 contains a recommendation that all Parish Councils should have a .gov domain website and email. NALC had offered some discount to the first year's hosting charges should the Parish Council decide to migrate to HugoFox, who is one of the largest Parish Council website providers. Many of the Cllrs had not been able to fully investigate the HugoFox offer and consider whether it would meet our needs. It was agreed that the clerk would undertake some further research into alternative provision.</p> |
| 2738 | <p>5. Review of Planning Applications</p> <p>25/00833/LBC St Oswalds Cottage The Green Wall Northumberland NE46 4DX Conservation Officers had requested a bat report since validating the application.</p> <p>25/01494/RENEIA Solar Farm with up to 32MWac of export capacity, installation of solar photovoltaic panels, associated infrastructure. It should be noted that, although this project is visible from the west side of the village it is not in Wall Parish and the Parish Council is not a consultee. Most councillors had attended the Public Consultation Stage 2 held at Wall Village Hall on Monday 12th May. It was agreed, that although the Parish Council is not a consultee, a comment would be made on the application.</p> |

| | |
|------|---|
| 2739 | <p>6. County Councillor's Report Cllr Azocar-Nevin had offered apologies so the clerk read her report, which appears at Appendix 1</p> |
| 2740 | <p>7. Chair's Maintenance Report The Chair 's maintenance report once again mainly related to trees. The pruning and felling of the trees in the small wood below the School House, took place on Friday 11th July. The Parish Council extends its grateful thanks to all those who turned out to chainsaw branches and help clear the arisings, particularly to Cllr Lamb.</p> <p>Now that this work has been completed, the clerk will contact the Arborist for a quotation to inspect all the remaining parish trees.</p> |
| 2741 | <p>8. Fix My Street Review Cllr Wyrley Birch provided a summary of outstanding Fix Mt Street posts - overflowing bins in the scenic lay-by which had been posted by the Chair - now fixed. Other posts relating to RTC debris at Brunton Crossroads and a fallen branch at Codlaw (since January 2025) seem to be awaiting administrative clearance.</p> |
| 2742 | <p>9. Village Hall Report Cllr Boulton-Baker, recently appointed as Parish Council Trustee for the Village Hall read the following summary:</p> <p>The trustees of Wall Village Hall recently approved the reduction of meetings across the year from four to three and there had therefore not been a recent meeting. However, the committee has not been quiet and has the following to report: Looking ahead to September where activities traditionally start to pick up, the committee is keen to run a trial film event, to test the concept and see if people enjoy it. Any volunteers with an interest in helping to organise this are most welcome. Over the summer, a similar proposal is in place to have a regular Thursday night Cornhole chuck around on the back green, during August. Bob Bell & David Watson will run this.</p> <p>The Chair completed an expression of interest to the National Lottery Community Spaces Partnership for a large capital project to include a full PV & battery installation and major refurbishment at the front of the hall, to include new automated front doors, shifting of the gents toilet and improvement of both ladies and gents and installation of a large cupboard for chairs where the gents currently is. The Chair & The Vice Chair have been to a meeting with the funders today to pursue this.</p> <p>The treasurer attended the West Northumberland Community Buildings Partnership lunch in July and did some networking. NCEL said that Wall Village Hall may be on the list for PV installation in 2026. We are currently spreading our PV eggs across more than one basket.</p> <p>Finally, there could be some movement in the purchase of the land at the top of the Vicarage garden from the Diocese. It has been confirmed that the Vicarage will be sold and perhaps the attitude to our having the land may have softened. Mark Wood is negotiating the purchase and Stephen Porteous is chasing local solicitors for cost estimates.</p> <p>Once again, please put 18th December in your diaries for Michael Barker's Christmas Concert in aid of the Spend a Penny Fund.</p> |

| |
|---|
| <p>Date of next meeting Thursday 18th September 2025 at 7.30pm. The meeting ended at 9.15pm</p> |
|---|

Appendix 1

WALL REPORT FOR PC 17.07.25

- 1) Codlaw dene.** This is the email I have received from Stephen Sam's about Codlaw Dene: The work at Codlaw Dene is Road Footway Structural Maintenance and cover both carriageway and footway works.

Below is an extract from the maintenance team about what work will be done. There's no planned date yet, I'll see if they have one before sending out next months reports.

Treatments typically involve either inlay or overlay resurfacing using conventional or recycled bituminous materials. The aim is to restore structural integrity and prolong the life of the asset by replacing deteriorated surfacing layers.

- 2) Beukley A68.** I've sent a document over of the scheme drawings for the bend warning signs at Bingfield. The signs were installed last week and replaced the older ones that were there. **Please contact the Clerk if you would like to see the drawings.**
- 3) Stagshaw roundabout.** Works are still being carried out. I had a look on one.network and still can't see any dates set out to finish the work.
- 4) Nicks report on Acomb woods public footpaths.** Waiting on Map to give a report. **Again, please contact the Clerk if you would like to see this report.**
- 5) Local Area Committees.** Last full council meeting, one of the matters we voted on was changing the number of planning committees from 5 to 3. This was because apparently there were some LACs that weren't receiving many applications and some LACs being inundated. The new 3 LACs will hopefully balance out the workload. Due to proportionality Both myself and Martin (Green party Leader in Northumberland) have both been told we will be on a LAC. This will hopefully give the Humshaugh ward a good insight as to what is happening with planning applications. It will mean I will be able to speak on a support certain applications like Juno's.

The information has just been updated yesterday so I can't find the new boundaries. I will have more information on why it was changed and the exact areas each committee covers.