

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday 19th January 2023 at 7:30pm.
At Wall Village Hall.**

PRESENT	Cllrs: Mark Wood, Chair (MW),, Elisa Wyrley-Birch (EWB) Stephen Blake (SB), Nick Morphet (County Councillor) (NM) Clerk: Alix Pearson (AP).
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NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
2525	1. Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from John Lamb
2526	2 Declaration of interests There were no declarations of interest
2527	3. Approval of Minutes Approved

2528

5. Review of Action Log -

a. Community Resilience Plan

NM to remind Humshaugh Parish Clerk to send a copy to AP to help inform the Wall Working Party.

b. Speeding Traffic in Wall Village

Results of the new speed survey have been received, which can be found in detail in the County Councillor Report at Appendix 1.

c. Energy Efficiency Talk

The talk took place on 22/11/22, with a small, but engaged audience. A newsletter - Wall Heat and Energy News (WHEN) was produced and circulated via the Parish Council website and the village FB page. 3 attendees agreed to meet with representatives of the Humshaugh Net Zero (HNZ) initiative to gather information and learn how the project might support green energy ambitions in Wall. The group will report back to the next council meeting.

RESOLVED

AP to manage communication between WPC and the WHEN sub group.

d. Book Exchange in Church

GSM presented her draft guidelines for the book exchange and was encouraged to write these up and present to the churchwardens. Keeping the church tidy and preventing it from being overwhelmed with unwanted books was a key consideration. EWB volunteered to help with this.

RESOLVED

GSM to write up the guidelines and protocols for discussion with churchwardens..

e. Species Rich Grassland Site

Following the raking and flailing of the site, a date was agreed for volunteer team to dig up the remaining brambles.

NM circulated draft designs for signs to be erected at the site, which have been designed in conjunction with Humshaugh First School. The signs will be erected once the brambles have been cleared.

RESOLVED

Bramble digging session 25th February 2023, 1.00 - 3.00pm. Volunteers to bring their own spades and protective clothing.

f. Streetlighting Consultation

See also Appendix 1

RESOLVED

NM to continue to escalate progress chasing on this project within NCC

g. Matters Arising from Bi-Annual Land & Buildings Inspection

The overgrown fell path has been cleared and some improvements have been made to the path surface.

MW is still waiting for a response from a contractor regarding the churchyard wall and it is possible that a fixed price for the work may never be forthcoming.

	<p>Following a tree fall on Brunton Bank on 14th January, further safety concerns were raised relating to partially uprooted trees on Brunton Bank, New Lane and Old Lane. NM said that NCC Highways may be aware of some of these and that any serious concerns should be reported to him without delay.</p> <p>The ditch clearance to improve free drainage on the Old Lane has been completed, but the drain pipe still needs to be rodded. Both MW and SB make regular inspections to monitor for blockages.</p> <p>RESOLVED MW to follow up contractor for quotation to repair churchyard wall MW to speak to relevant landowners about dangerous trees ALL to monitor the partially fallen/uprooted trees and alert NM to immediate dangers.</p> <p>h. Additional Play Equipment NM confirmed that funding for play equipment is available through Housing Developer Fund for Sport and Play and is able to be accessed by Parish Councils. Any additional play equipment needs to be of the appropriate type for its location and the usual approvals and permissions obtained.</p> <p>RESOLVED EWB to research type and costs of play equipment desired.</p> <p>i. Dilapidated Signs in Scenic Lay-by Both AP and NM have requested the removal of the signs.</p> <p>RESOLVED AP to monitor NM to pursue</p>
2529	<p>5. County Councillor update NM's comprehensive report appears in full at appendix 1</p>
2530	<p>6. Wildflower Project The wildflowers have lain dormant for almost 3 years due to Covid restrictions. It was noted that the initial planting attempt, beneath the trees behind the toilet block had not been successful and that more specialist advice was needed. The original site is too shaded and obstructed by tree roots to produce a growth of wildflowers that might be considered to be attractive and an alternative site on the slightly raised ground at the back of the green was considered to be more suitable.</p> <p>The remaining funds in the wildflower project budget (£2198) could be used to pay a contractor to prepare, plant and manage the site until wildflower growth was established. There was also support for the work to be undertaken by volunteers from within the parish.</p> <p>RESOLVED EWB to contact local gardening club to seek recommendations to support next steps</p>

2531	<p>7. Review of Planning Applications Log</p> <p>21/03394/FUL Land on Hadrian's Wall holiday accommodation Planning Permission Refused. Reinstatement order prepared for issue</p> <p>22/00919/VARYCO Chapel Lane, variation of building finishes Ongoing. Closing date for comments on variation 22/10/22</p> <p>21/04496/FUL – The Cottage, The Green, Wall. Holiday Accommodation – ongoing.</p> <p>22/02989/FUL, 22/02990/LBC. Fallowfield House Building Alterations and Listed Building Consent. Closing date for comments 11/10/22</p> <p>22/03362/FUL Halton Grange Building Alterations Closing date for comments 27/10/22 REFUSED</p> <p>22//03407/FUL Brunton Quarry - Farmworkers Dwelling Closing date for comments 25/10/22. REFUSED</p> <p>22/04495/FELTPO Bibury Trees Closing date for comments 28/12/22. PERMITTED</p>
2532	<p>8. Village Hall Report</p> <p>A verbal report was given by SB</p> <p>The Trustees met on 9th and agreed to proceed with the replacement of the hall roof. Availability and price rises of Solar Panels and Batteries mean we cannot replace the roof and install Solar. (The roof needs to be strengthened to accept panels.) At the moment the project will cost in the order of £28,600. The hall currently has assets of £39,024 which leaves a sufficient 'reserve' should the works reveal any necessary supplementary work.</p> <p>I have emailed Simon Temperly (a Newbrough-based architect aware of the project) who will supervise the works. and deal with the planning preamble and building regulations. I'm awaiting a reply.</p> <p>Presuming he accepts then I will contact the roofing company and link the two up to develop a detailed specification and contract.</p> <p>Other hall matters:</p> <p>A very successful return to 'Old Years Night' was had and enjoyed by a capacity crowd.</p> <p>Bookings are all 'local' and remain at a steady state.</p> <p>AP asked how long the hall would be out of use whilst the roof was replaced. Contractors had suggested two weeks, although this may be ambitious. Councillors were concerned about the damage done to the green this winter and would have to take great care that the work on the hall roof did not cause similar damage. There followed a wide ranging discussion about access for contractors at the front of the hall and through neighbouring gardens. There were some concerns that such activities could cause considerable damage to that part of the village green which is already more susceptible to damage due to poor drainage. There was already considerable damage due to vehicle access after heavy rain.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>All to monitor the condition of the green and consider preventative and remedial measures which might be acceptable to the landowners.</p>

2533	<p>9. Village Assets Register</p> <p>The previous registration of Assets of Community Value had lapsed during Covid restrictions and the parish currently has no assets on the register.</p> <p>An asset of community value is a building or piece of land that is used to further the social wellbeing or interests of the local community. Previously, The Hadrian, The methodist Chapel and The Village Hall had been placed on the register, held by NCC, by the Parish Council which is a properly constituted group..</p> <p>The purpose of the register is to compel NCC to notify the Parish Council if an asset is placed for sale, allowing the PC to exercise their right to bid to purchase the asset for the wellbeing of the community.</p> <p>Although, in its previous guise as an hotel and a pub, The Hadrian had been a very valuable asset, councillors felt that it was futile to apply to reinstate it on the register as its market value on sale would be well beyond the means of a small community. It was noted that the car park of The Hadrian hosts the only EV charger in the parish, which was publicly funded.</p> <p>As the village hall is already owned through a village trust, it was not considered necessary to add it to the register.</p> <p>St George’s Church and its site and The Methodist Chapel were still judged to have considerable potential as community assets.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>AP to draft documents to request that St George’s Church and the Methodist Chapel are placed on the NCC Register of Assets of Community Value.</p>
2534	<p>11. Date of next meeting</p> <p>Thursday 16th March 2023 at 7.30pm</p> <p>The meeting ended at 9.15pm</p>

COUNCILLOR UPDATE FOR WALL PC MEETING 19/1/23

Agenda item 5. County Councillor update

1) I spoke to the cabinet member for local services (John Riddle) in December about the fact that we were struggling to get a response from Gavin Barlow regarding **the street light consultation**. John suggested that I emailed Gavin again, copying in his boss and his boss' boss as well as John. I did that and got a reply the same day promising that he'd be in touch with Alix between Christmas and New Year. Unfortunately, he hasn't been in touch with her yet.

2) I haven't received the plans for the **traffic calming** scheme yet, but I have received the results of the most recent **traffic speed survey**. The good news is that the southbound speeds are just high enough to meet the criteria for enforcement. The speed survey team have passed the results on to the police, and I've passed the speed survey results on to Highways Programme.

It's probably not important now, but the strips on the two side roads showed that 242 vehicles per day on average turned on or off the main road. Assuming that half of those vehicles also crossed the strips on the main road, I think that means that 3.7% of the vehicles in the speed survey were slowing or had already slowed to turn.

	Northbound	Southbound
Vehicles/day	1696	1581
Average speed	29 mph	31 mph
85th percentile	32.9 mph	35.2 mph
95th percentile	37 mph	38 mph
Maximum	64 mph	65 mph
Percent speeding	32 %	56 %

3) Most of **the drainage work** on Old Lane was completed in early December. They've recut the ditches and I think they've joined them with underground pipes where the verge is too narrow for a ditch. They haven't flushed the pipe that crosses beneath the A6079 yet, which is why we had a flood on New Year's Day. I flagged this to Highways Maintenance and I'm confident that it hasn't been forgotten about – but I haven't been able to pin them down to a date either. I'll let you know if I manage to.

4) I asked Highways Maintenance who was responsible for removing **the old signage** in the lay-by in late December, but I haven't had a reply yet. I'll nudge them again soon.

5) I found the time to design the signs for **the species-rich grassland project** over Christmas. I'm just waiting for the printers to confirm a couple of things and then I'll get the signs themselves ordered. There's still a few brambles to dig out, and I'd love some help doing that.

6) As you know we submitted an Expression of Interest to the Borderlands Partnership Board for **funding to improve the footway** alongside the A6079 – and I later sent them the estimate of the cost that Highways Programme prepared for me. I got an email from the Borderlands Partnership Board in late December telling me that they've decided not to take our proposal to the next stage, which I think is exactly what John Scott of the Hadrian's Wall Partnership Board expected when he encouraged me to submit the EoI. I've been trying to get confirmation that the proposal's now going to be assessed for funding outside of Borderlands, but I haven't got it yet. I'll let you know when I do.

7) I've just received the plans for the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order to stop **pavement and verge parking by the open water swimmers** at the bottom of Brunton Bank. The double yellow lines are going to start at the entrance to the cricket club and they're going to extend just above and to both sides of the cross roads. Is everyone happy with the proposals?

8) I heard that one of the trees in the woodland that's for sale on Brunton Bank was blown down in the strong winds on Saturday night? The resident who told me about it feels that some of the other **trees in the woodland** are **becoming dangerous**. He's already reported them to the County Council and I'm planning to have a look myself next time I'm passing. Does anyone else feel that there's an issue that needs to be addressed?

9) Steve told me in late November that **the flooding on Hadrian's Wall National Trail** just above the woodland that's for sale had returned. I flagged it up to the Countryside and Rights of Way Officer (Tim Fish), who'd previously told me that he was ready to jump to action as soon as it flooded again. The landowner had said the same thing, so hopefully they did jump to action. I haven't heard anything yet, but I'll let you know when I do.

10) You might like to know that **a cycle path between Acomb and Chollerford** has been scored very highly in the County Council's draft Local Transport Plan programme for the next financial year (2023/24). The route hasn't been determined yet, and the scheme won't be progressed if it's found to be too expensive – but the Highways Programme officers will investigate the possibilities over the next six months, and I'll let you know what they decide.

11) And finally, the County Council's **climate change collaboration event** will be held at Hexham Mart on Wednesday (which is the 25th January). The idea is to discuss how we can all work together to reach net zero by 2030. The three main topics will be energy, transport and land management. You need to book, and this is the booking link: <https://nland.cc/ClimateW>. The event starts at 5.45pm and finishes at 7.30pm.

Agenda item 7. Review of planning applications log

The **rural workers dwelling north of Brunton Quarry** was refused planning permission on Tuesday.

There doesn't seem to have been any progress on the **Land South of Black Pasture Cottage** planning application. It seems that the Enforcement Notices are still with the legal team and haven't been served yet, and I'm not aware of any progress on the appeal over the access.

