

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday 20th July 2023 at 7:30pm.
At Wall Village Hall.**

PRESENT	<p>Cllrs: Mark Wood, Chair (MW), Stephen Blake (SB), Jane Michie (JM), Gina Scott-Middleton (GSM), Elisa Wyrley-Birch (EWB), Nick Morphet (County Councillor) (NM) Clerk: Alix Pearson (AP). A small number of parishioners attended to hear Cllr Morphet's talk on Water Quality in the North Tyne</p>
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	<p>The meeting commenced with a talk on Water Quality and Sewage Pollution in the North Tyne by Cllr Morphet. The main agenda commenced at 8.25.</p>
NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
2562	1. Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from John Lamb
2563	2 Declaration of interests There were no declarations of interest
2564	3. Approval of Minutes The minutes were approved as true record of the previous meeting, with the correction of an error of dates in minute 2555.
2565	4. County Councillor Update NM's comprehensive report appears in full at appendix 1

Confirmed as a true record of Meeting:

2566

5. Review of Action Log

a) Community Resilience Plan

AP & SB had not yet met with Nigel Fisher. **Action - AP to follow up.**

EWB demonstrated how to use Google Mapping to record and position information which would be very useful to first responders in the event of an emergency.

b) Clerk's Financial Report

AP & MW had signed the completed AGAR and submitted it to the Auditors. An acknowledgement was received. This completes the financial reporting cycle for 22/23.

c) Book Exchange in Church

GSM has sorted through the books in the church and plans to remove some books which have been in stock for a long time and replace them with additional titles. It was considered that a larger bookshelf was required. MW suggested that removal of books should be discussed with Jill Taylor and additional furniture be agreed with Sara Lunn. **Action GSM**

d) Species Rich Grassland Site

The signs have been made and erected and are agreed to look attractive and interesting. The proportion of funding contribution from the Parish Council is £36.95. NM will forward invoices to AP. **Action NM, AP**

e) Additional Play Equipment

EWB has arranged meeting with a play equipment provider and specialist at noon 27/07/23. They will survey the site and make recommendations for suitable equipment. Currently, the priority demand is for a slide. EWB also has grant application forms and once the costs of the equipment and its installation are known, EWB & AP will complete the forms. **Action EWB, AP.**

f) Wildflower Project

All councillors contributed to a discussion of the number and variety of trees which may be acquired. It was considered that thirsty tree varieties planted in the poorly drained areas of the green may provide some defence against waterlogging.

Tree research will be ongoing until planting season in November. **Action - MW**

g) Playground General Issues

MW & Julian Christopher tightened the bolts on the swings. It was noted that this is definitely a two person job, requiring at least one set of long ladders.

MW will investigate raising the height of swing seats by 1 link. **Action - MW**

The nets for the goals identified in minute 2559, may have been a mirage as they cannot be located anywhere. GSM requested that nets could be purchased. **Action - GSM to research cost of nets.**

A recurring item on the ROSPA Playground Safety Report is the loose stones in the wall of the Rogstad's garden which faces the playground. It was considered that the danger posed by this potential hazard was low, given the distance from the play equipment, but on balance it was agreed to write to the Rogstads and point it out.

Action - AP to write letter, MW to hand deliver it.

2567	<p>6. Review of Planning Application Log -</p> <p>21/03394/FUL Land on Hadrian's Wall holiday accommodation Ongoing enforcement actions are progressing. See NM's report at appendix 1 for full details.</p> <p>23/00691/LBC Fallowfield House Installation of Electric Car Charging Point Refused</p> <p>23/01757/FUL Wall Village Hall, Roof Replacement Ongoing, see also Village Hall report at 2569</p>
2568	<p>7. Local Transport Plan Priorities 24/25</p> <p>The following was agreed for submission to NCC:</p> <p>For the creation of a safe cycleway from Hexham to Brunton Crossroads The section of the A6079 climbing from Hexham to Brunton Crossroads is a single carriageway road with a speed limit of 60mph across much of its length. It is steep with no, or very little, verge. This part of the road is very busy with local farm vehicles, timber waggons heading to and from Kielder and quarry waggons travelling from Barrasford. There are almost no alternative routes to enable cyclists to avoid this busy road and many do not attempt it at all, thus removing an opportunity for active travel on the short and frequently made journey from Wall Village to Hexham.</p> <p>For improvements to the footway on A6079 (HWNT) between New Lane and Brunton crossroads The footway forms part of the Hadrian's Wall National Trail as well as linking Wall Village with Chollerford and Humshaugh. The tarmac footway is narrow and incomplete raising safety concerns for pedestrians, particularly those walking in groups and walking with dogs or pushchairs. The speed limit on the A6079 alongside the footway is National Speed Limit, exacerbating both safety and health concerns.</p> <p>For resurfacing of Chapel Lane within Wall Village Chapel Lane forms a main access route through Wall village, and is a shared surface used by motor vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians. Some of the pedestrians who use the road are elderly and infirm, and they tell us that they find the potholed and badly patched road surface dangerous and unpleasant to navigate.</p> <p>Action - AP to send to NCC</p>

Confirmed as a true record of Meeting:

2569	<p>8. Village Hall Report</p> <p>The replacement of the hall roof continues to move forward. The Planning Application has been submitted and the conservation officer has requested two modifications: the roof is to be slate coloured and the Velux windows should be of conservation style. SB had concerns about the considerable additional costs of conservation style roof lights and suggestions were made for an alternative approach. SB to consider discussing discussing cost saving suggestions with the Architect.</p> <p>NM has submitted the request for his funding support to NCC and works are on hold until approval is received. As soon as funding is confirmed, the architect will redraw the plans for the Planning Officer and the contractor (J T Dobbs) will be alerted.</p>
2570	<p>9. Parish Communications</p> <p>The clerk has received an unsigned communication which is not about a matter for which the Council has a responsibility.</p>
2571	<p>11. Date of next meeting Thursday 21st September 2023 at 7.30pm</p> <p>The meeting ended at 9.45pm</p>

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COUNCILLOR UPDATE FOR WALL PC MEETING 20/7/23

1. Starting with highways, and starting with the bad news, I still haven't received an update on **the experimental Traffic Regulation Order for the double yellow lines at the bottom of Brunton Bank**, despite several requests. I sent another request for an update on Sunday, and I'll let you know as soon as I hear anything. Incidentally, I told the Executive Director for Place & Regeneration how poor the communication is when I met with him the week before last.

2. Every **gully** in the ward should have been cleaned out over the last couple of months, so feel free to bring any that were missed to my attention. There's no need to flag up any with paint around them, because that means that the Highways department knows about it.

3. On the subject of flagging up issues, we should all now be using **Fix My Street** to bring highways maintenance issues to the Council's attention. If I email Highways Maintenance with a routine issue, all they do is put it on Fix My Street and tell me I should do it myself in future. However, if an issue isn't dealt with within a reasonable period of time people should provide me with their Fix My Street reference number and I can make enquiries by email.

4. I was one of two County Councillors who asked to represent Tynedale on **the new Local Bus Board**, but the vote went John Riddle's way so he's going to be Tynedale's representative. The first LBB meeting will be in the autumn. Feel free to contact me with suggestions for how our local bus services could be improved, and I'll pass them on.

5. Keith Hopper hasn't been out to investigate **suitable sites for an EV charger on the village green** yet. I reminded him last week and I should have an update for the next meeting.

6. The Trees & Woodland officer confirmed that he did check out **the possible dangerous trees on Brunton Bank**. He identified a few issues of minor concern, but nothing serious. He said he'd bring the problems closest to the public footpath to Tim Fish's attention, and might ask him to join him on site so that they could have a closer look together.

7. I attended a **community energy** workshop last week, and learned a few things that could be useful to anyone with a community energy project in mind. Community Energy England (info@communityenergyengland.org/<https://communityenergyengland.org/>) and the NE & Yorkshire Net Zero Hub (enquiries@NEYnetzerohub.com/<https://www.neynetzerohub.com/>) can both offer advice to community groups and signpost them to suitable sources of funding. Northern Powergrid are offering grants of £1k to £10k through their Community Energy Net Zero Fund (<https://www.northernpowergrid.com/news/northern-powergrid-launches-net-zero-community-energy-fund>), but the deadline is 8th August. Northern Powergrid is also looking for communities who would like to get involved with Community DSO pilots. These will involve exploring ways for communities to manage their energy usage to reduce demand on the grid and the need to power up gas-fired power stations at times of peak demand. For more information, email CommunityDSO@northernpowergrid.com. You can also:

- Watch the Community DSO Launch Webinar [here](#)
- Download the Community DSO Q&A [here](#)
- Visit the Community DSO Project web pages [here](#)

8. And finally, **the County Council declared an ecological emergency** last week, which is something that the Green Party group has been pushing it to do since March last year. The decision was made by cabinet after the Chief Ecologist presented them with a report advising them to declare an ecological emergency as part of a package of measures which included agreeing to lead the North of Tyne Local Nature Recovery Strategy on behalf of the North of Tyne Combined Authority. The

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declaration of an ecological emergency was somewhat buried in the package of measures, and cabinet actually managed to declare an ecological emergency without using the words “ecological emergency”. The comms they put out afterwards didn’t use those words either. I’ve asked Glen Sanderson whether he’s going to put out any comms about the ecological emergency declaration, and I’m also starting to think about ways that my group can push the County Council to act on it.

The Chief Ecologist’s report to cabinet is well worth reading, and you can find it here: <https://northumberland.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g2248/Public%20reports%20pack%2011th-Jul-2023%2010.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10>.

Agenda item 5: Action Log

The Species Rich Grassland project. Northumberland Communities Together decided to give me £500 towards the signs and the Royal Horticultural Society put £100 towards them, so I’m only £73.90 short and I only need to ask for £36.95 from each of the two parish councils.

Agenda item 6: Planning Applications Log

Glamping site on Brunton Bank. The deadline for compliance with the Enforcement Notice for the fence and toilet was 1st June, and the Enforcement Officer (Alex Campbell) visited the site on 29th June. She told me that the fencing boards had been replaced with wire but that the toilet hut hadn’t been removed yet. She wrote to the landowner giving her 14 days to comply before she obtained quotes for removal of the toilet and commenced prosecution. She hasn’t been back to check since then, so she hasn’t commenced prosecution yet.

The Enforcement Notice for the Earthworks won’t be served, because the works to put it back to how it was could cause even more damage. The landowner’s appeal over the vehicular access was dismissed and Planning Enforcement officers have drafted an Enforcement Notice which is currently with the legal team. I told Alex about the listed milestone by the entrance and she said that she thought it was slightly further down the hill and that it might have been removed well before the current planning application was submitted. She did say that she would investigate it when she was next on site though.

Agenda item 8: Village Hall report.

The Village Hall roof. I was a bit worried about contributing £10,000 in one go, so I mentioned it in my last newsletter and asked people for feedback. Two people told me that they were ok with it as long as I spent more money in other parishes over the next two years, and nobody told me they weren’t happy – so I submitted the request on 7th July and I’m expecting a decision any day now. I’ll be in touch with Steve as soon as I’ve heard anything.

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