

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday 21st September 2023 at 7:30pm.
At Wall Village Hall.**

PRESENT	Cllrs: Mark Wood, Chair (MW), Jane Michie (JM), Elisa Wyrley-Birch (EWB), Nick Morphet (County Councillor) (NM) Clerk: Alix Pearson (AP). Delia Faran Communities Together Co-Ordinatot NCC attended 7.30 - 8.00pm
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	The meeting commenced with a talk about the activities of Northumberland Communities Together by Delia Faron. Delia explained that Communities Together was available and able to help Parishioners on a 1:1 basis with a variety of needs - eg completing claims for Attendance Allowance. It was suggested that Delia attend one of the lunch or coffee events held in the Village Hall so she could speak with residents directly. Delia was happy and keen to do this. Delia's contact details: delia.faran@northumberland.gov.uk . 07970 789781 The main agenda commenced at 8.00pm
NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
2572	1. Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Steve Blake, John Lamb and Gina Scott-Middleton
2573	2 Declaration of interests There were no declarations of interest
2574	3. Approval of Minutes The minutes were approved as true record of the previous meeting.
2575	4. County Councillor Update NM's comprehensive report appears in full at appendix 1 Resolutions from the items reported: To progress with the application of parking restriction markings from Brunton Crossroads towards Chollerford Bridge. To request a speed survey in the village following the action of phase 1 of the traffic calming measures, being the removal of the central road lines which took place on 21st September 2023 To advertise on the Village FB page the opportunities for parishioners to be trained as Community Speedwatch Partners.
2576	5. New Playground Equipment EWB reported on her extensive research on suitable playground equipment, its installation and its appeal to residents. An embankment slide gained a lot of support. A cost estimate has been requested and EWB will make application to a fund for Sport and Play at NCC which is expected to cover some of the cost. Further funding will need to be sought. ACTION - EWB will continue to research finding options. NM suggested that Delia Faran - details above, would be a good contact with extensive knowledge of grant funds

Confirmed as a true record of Meeting:

2577	<p>6. Review of Action Log</p> <p>a) Community Resilience Plan Following advice from NF, AP & SB completed an application for support from the Northern Powergrid Foundation. Further development of the plan will await a response from NPG</p> <p>b) Book Exchange in Church Due to the apologies from GSM, this action will be reviewed at the November Meeting Action GSM</p> <p>c) Species Rich Grassland Site NM invoiced AP for the Parish Council's share of the bill for the signs. The invoice has been paid.</p> <p>d Wildflower Project Tree research will be ongoing until planting season in November. Action - MW</p> <p>e) Playground General Issues Due to the apologies from GSM, the action regarding the football nets will be reviewed at the November meeting. GSM to research cost of nets. A letter was written and delivered to the Rogstad's regarding the wall and remedial action is underway.</p> <p>f) LTP Priorities The three priorities agreed have been submitted to NCC and acknowledged.</p>
2578	<p>7. Grassland, Wildflowers and Trees</p> <p>The Species Rich Grassland area has been cared for according to the timetable and was very kindly nicely raked by Jenny and Robert Wyrley Birch (aged 6 and 4). The Parish Council wish to record their thanks for such a thorough job.</p> <p>MW & JL trimmed and raked the wildflower area and Chris Mowatt the mowing contractor will be asked to cut the area under the trees. ACTION - AP</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to plant two English Oak trees on the north side of the pig paddock, to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III</p>

2579	<p>8. 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>23/01757/FUL Wall Village Hall, Roof Replacement Permission GRANTED, see also Village Hall report at 2580</p> <p>23/02608/FUL Falshaw, conversion and extension of garage Wall Parish Council recorded no objection to this proposal</p> <p>23/03145/FUL Fallowfield House Construction of Tennis Court 23/03146/LBC Listed Building Consent The application was noted. The Application has since been withdrawn.</p>
2580	<p>9. Village Hall Report</p> <p>As apologies were given by SB, the Village Hall Report was given by MW. Permission was granted on 30/08/23 and building contractors engaged. Materials will be delivered to site w/c 16th October with work to commence on 23rd October. It was considered to store the building materials off site, but at the moment it is thought there is sufficient space around the hall to store the materials safely and securely. AP asked about insurance for both the materials and public liability around the materials. AP to check with SB on his return from holiday.</p>
2581	<p>10. Clerk's Financial Report</p> <p>AP presented a summary of the Parish Accounts for the half year. It was noted that the grant for the maintenance of the toilet block had not been received and AP had already chased this up with NCC. It is expected to be received within the next few days.</p> <p>Once the grant has been paid, the accounts should be in surplus by around £4,000, which does not include the remaining Wildflower grant of around £2,000. It was considered that the remaining grant could be put to community use on the back green.</p> <p>The following items of expenditure were APPROVED</p> <p>Purchase of wreath from RBL - £60 50% of cost for the repair of wall at St Oswald's £220 to Friends of St Oswalds who paid the original invoice Replacement battery for defibrillator approx £270</p>
2582	<p>11. Date of next meeting Thursday 16th November 2023 at 7.30pm</p> <p>The meeting ended at 9.25pm</p>

Confirmed as a true record of Meeting:

COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE FOR WALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 21/9/23

MY UPDATE (AGENDA ITEM 4)

1) The double yellow lines that we requested to stop the open water swimmers from parking on the footway at the bottom of Brunton Bank haven't been installed yet. The problem didn't seem to be so bad this summer, but I've spoken to the resident who lives opposite and he's still keen for the double yellows to be installed. Are you happy for me to continue to push for them?

2) The white lines from the centre of the main road in Wall village were removed today. I posted about the removal of the white lines on Facebook, and a small number of people found it hard to believe that it would slow cars down. I told them that a repeat traffic speed survey would be conducted and that if it didn't show a reduction in traffic speed we would push for further traffic calming measures.

3) On the subject of speeding traffic, I've just been cleared for **Community Speedwatch** and I'm looking for people to partner up with in the Humshaugh ward. If you haven't signed up yet you'll have to wait until they re-open for applications on 2/1/24. For more info, go to: <https://careers.northumbria.police.uk/volunteering/police-support-volunteers/#speed>.

4) The officer who installs the **EV chargers** (Keith Hopper) hasn't looked into suitable locations around the village green yet, but I've reminded him that he promised to do so and he says he'll do it soon. If he identifies a suitable location we could then approach the land owner.

5) I've recently received a complaint that the **traffic lights on Chollerford bridge** don't give cyclists enough time to cross. I'd already noticed this myself and I'd emailed the Streetlight department about it in January but hadn't received a response. I emailed them again and was told that they'd checked the situation in January and didn't think there was a problem. They also told me that if cyclists were given more time to cross it would unnecessarily delay motorists and might lead to them jumping a red light. As a cyclist I found that to be a highly unsatisfactory response, and I would personally prefer to take the risk that small numbers of foolish motorists might decide to jump a red light than to put every single law-abiding cyclist at risk. I reminded the Streetlight department that the new Highway Code prioritises the most vulnerable road users and they've promised to give it some more thought. I'll let you know what they decide.

6) I'll be **taking the Highways Maintenance Area Manager on a tour of the ward** on 3rd October, and I'd like your help to identify all the places that I need to take him. My current list is Chapel Lane, the A6079 between Low Brunton crossroads and Dunkirk (which was missed when they repaired other sections of the road early in the summer) and the minor drainage issue at Dunkirk. Can anyone think of any other places to include on the tour?

Confirmed as a true record of Meeting:

7) I've presented on **sewage pollution and river water quality** for five parish councils now, and I'll be presenting for Hexham Town Council later in the year. The presentations have led to some good conversations and several people have offered to support my campaign. Herbie Newell from Humshaugh Net Zero and I met with the Chief Executive of the Tyne Rivers Trust (Ceri Gibson) last week, and had a very productive conversation. Ceri felt that pushing for Bathing Water Status might not be a good use of our time and energy, because it often doesn't result in significant improvements to water quality. Ceri put us in touch with the researcher from Newcastle University who's been studying bacteria from sewage in the Ouse Burn, and Herbie has since spoken to him about the possibility of an MSc student studying bacteria in the North Tyne at Chollerford as part of a joint initiative with the Tyne Rivers Trust and Humshaugh Parish Council. Herbie tells me that the researcher was keen to collaborate and is currently writing a draft project outline. I'll keep you posted on developments.

8) New **greenhouse gas emissions data for Northumberland** was released over the summer, and it makes for very interesting reading. The amount of carbon dioxide absorbed by land uses such as forestry in recent years has been revised downwards, and as a result of that the total emissions for the county have been revised upwards. Whereas the data used to show that we achieved a 22% reduction in CO₂ emissions in 2020 (with the help of Covid), it now shows that we only achieved a 15% reduction. Unfortunately the new data for 2021 shows that the county's CO₂ emissions rose by almost 15% - meaning that we're more-or-less back to where we were before the pandemic with only 6 ¼ years to go before we're supposed to be a net zero county. Which is concerning!

9) There *was* some good climate news, in that the week before last the government amended the Energy Bill to facilitate a switch to renewable liquid heating fuels such as Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) after **the 2026 ban on new fossil fuel boilers in off gas grid areas** came into effect. However, this week the government has postponed the ban until 2030, meaning that off gas grid areas are off the hook for the time being, but that it'll be much harder for Northumberland to become a net zero county by 2030.

10) Finally, there's a **Town and Parish Council Conference** at County Hall on Thursday 5th October. It starts at 2pm and finishes at 6pm. There'll be updates on various council services as well as its climate change work, and a chance to ask the Leader of the Council questions.

PLANNING APPLICATION LOG (AGENDA ITEM 8)

The glamping site on Brunton Bank. The landowner hasn't removed the toilet hut yet, which means that she's failed to comply with the Enforcement Notice and that the County Council will commence prosecution and/or direct action. I'm assuming that by direct action they mean removing the toilet hut themselves and billing the landowner. The Enforcement Notice for the unauthorised vehicular access was served on 18th August and must be complied with by 24th November. The Conservation Officer is going to have the missing milestone delisted, because there's no way of knowing when it was removed, or by who. Up until now it was classed as a grade II listed building. I'll provide another update on all this in November.

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EMERGENCY PLANNING

The government has just released a **new “accessible and user-friendly” National Risk Register** and a new Resilience Framework/National Cyber Strategy, both of which might be useful reading for those of us involved in emergency planning. I haven’t had a chance to look at either yet, but I hope to soon.