

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday 25th May 2023 at 7:30pm.
At Wall Village Hall.**

PRESENT	<p>Cllrs: Mark Wood, Chair (MW), John Lamb (JL), Stephen Blake (SB), Jane Michie (JM), Gina Scott-Middleton (GSM), Elisa Wyrley-Birch (EWB), Nick Morphet (County Councillor) (NM) Clerk: Alix Pearson (AP).</p> <p>Parishioner Mel Bramley attended as an observer.</p>
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NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
2550	1. Apologies for absence: There were no apologies for absence
2551	2 Declaration of interests There were no declarations of interest
2552	3. Approval of Minutes The chair welcomed Mel Bramley and Jane Michie The minutes were approved as true record of the previous meeting.
2553	4. County Councillor Update NM's comprehensive report appears in full at appendix 1
2554	5. Presentation of Community Emergency Plan V2 SB explained the background to the compilation of the emergency plan for the benefit of all and new member JM particularly. The same concerns remain regarding councillors engagement with the activities within the plan, particularly in respect of personal health & safety and insurance. NM suggested that once a robust plan had been approved, this would play some part in protecting the liability of councillors in their actions whilst executing it. It was generally acknowledged that in an emergency, villagers tended to rally round and it was not always easy or desirable to seek to intervene. It was suggested that the Civil Contingencies Team at NCC would be best placed to advise. RESOLVED AP to contact Nigel Fisher at NCC to arrange a time for SB & AP to discuss the plan.
2555	6. Local Transport Plan Priorities (LTP) 2024/25 NM confirmed that the traffic calming measures agreed at the last meeting (2538 b) have been included in Highways forward plan. It was suggested that we bring forward the two other priorities which did not receive approval in 23/24, to 24/25 - namely resurfacing of Chapel Lane and widening the footpath between Wall Village and Brunton Crossroads. A third priority will be considered for the next meeting.

2556	<p>7. Clerk's Financial Report AP presented the audited accounts for 22/23. See Appendix 2 The longstanding Internal Auditor, Susie Swan retired in 2022 and thanks were offered for her many years of service in this respect. Michael Barker, newly residing in the village has kindly offered to take on the role of Internal Auditor of Parish Accounts. Councillors approved the accounts. RESOLVED AP & MW to sign and submit the 22/23 AGAR forms.</p>
2557	<p>8. Review of Action Log</p> <p>a) Community Resilience Plan See main agenda item</p> <p>b) Speeding Traffic in Wall Village Traffic calming measures on Highways forward plan for 23/24</p> <p>c) Energy Efficiency in Wall A watching brief will be maintained</p> <p>d) Book Exchange in Church GSM has agreed protocols with Canon Sara Lunn and the Book Exchange will be publicised soon</p> <p>e) Species Rich Grassland Site NM has agreed funding for signage from the Wall Parish Council Wildflower project grant and has spoken to Christ Mowatt, the mowing contractor, to agree a mowing protocol for the site.</p> <p>f) Additional Play Equipment EWB has met with the new Estate Manager at Allendale Estates and will work with them to agree an appropriate site for any additional play equipment.</p> <p>j) Wildflower Project Councillors accepted the recommendations proposed in appendix 2 of Minutes of 16th March seeking to broaden the concept of wildflowers to include climate resistant trees. RESOLVED MW, assisted by JM to continue to research and consider suitable tree varieties.</p> <p>It was noted that, some three years after initial planting, some wildflowers are now appearing at the designated sites at the rear of the back green. Thanks were noted to Ian Robinson who completed the original grant application forms.</p>

2558	<p>9. Review of Planning Application Log -</p> <p>21/03394/FUL Land on Hadrian's Wall holiday accommodation Fencing boards have been removed. A contractor on behalf of owner is currently replacing fencing boards with wire</p> <p>22/00919/VARYCO Chapel Lane, variation of building finishes. All deviations from original finishes have now been approved</p> <p>22/02989/FUL & 22/02990/LBC Fallowfield House, Building Alterations Granted April 2023</p> <p>23/00209/FUL West Dunkirk Farm Ongoing</p> <p>23/00691/LBC Fallowfield House Installation of Electric Car Charging Point Ongoing</p> <p>23/00776/FUL Ivy Cottage, Front Street Replace porch and windows Granted April 2023</p> <p>Also permitted: Tree work at Peartree Cottage and Penryhn</p>
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2559	<p>10. Village Hall Report</p> <p>The hall continues to be a valuable asset playing a significant part in village events over the year. The successful return of ‘Old Years Night’, organised by the Booking Secretary Rob Say, exemplifies this, however, there is a steady stream of use, our beekeepers, musicians, village society, PCC meetings and coffee mornings and lunches all contribute to its use. As ever virtually all of these bookings continue to be from within the village, and current income is enough to cover the hall’s outgoings. This may change however when our present ‘Fixed Rate Contract’ for electricity expires in 2023. An increase in Booking Fees is likely.</p> <p>The replacement of the hall roof continues to move forward. A structural survey has been completed and advised some simple strengthening will be required if we are to fit solar panels. A Planning Application is underway/has been submitted, and a contractor (J T Dobbs) selected.</p> <p>Currently the hall’s financial assets are £39,092.07. This is enough to cover the replacement of the roof (@£33,996) and the architect/planning application fees of £1500, leaving a modest reserve.</p> <p>Unfortunately the hall does not have the funds to install solar panels and a battery. (Present costs are around £24,000 for a suitable system.)</p> <p>However, our local Councillor Nick Morphet has offered a grant of £10,000 as a contribution towards the roof costs and future installation of solar panels. This generous offer has to be approved by NCC auditors and we are awaiting the outcome.</p> <p>All of the current Trustees and Officers stood for re-election and were duly elected. However, the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer have ‘given notice’ that they will not continue past this term. In advance of this I thank them for their support and work over the years. We have some work to do to find replacements.</p>
2560	<p>Additional Business</p> <p>AP alerted Councillors to the forthcoming ROSPA Annual Playground Inspection. MW requested an assistant to help with the tightening of the bolts on the swings. EWB agreed to help and if necessary, to seek assistance from FWB.</p> <p>GSM wondered if there were any nets for use with the goalposts. SB recalled that there were new nets, purchased as part of the installation of the goalposts and that ex-councillor David Mason would likely know where they had been stored. Assuming the nets can be located, they may be installed (safely, according to instructions) and removed by the footballers wishing to use them.</p> <p>It was noted that the rabbit flock was showing signs of Myxomatosis. It was agreed that appropriate action would be taken.</p>
2561	<p>11. Date of next meeting Thursday 20th July 2023 at 7.30pm</p> <p>The meeting ended at 9.35pm</p>

COUNCILLOR UPDATE FOR WALL PC MEETING 25/5/23

1. My request to have the 40mph speed limit extended up Brunton Bank was rejected. The traffic speed survey showed that the average speed downhill was 39.4 mph and the average speed uphill 37.7mph, suggesting there's no need for a lower speed limit.

2. Unfortunately there hasn't been any progress on **the double yellow lines to stop the open water swimmers parking on the footway and verge at the bottom of Brunton Bank**. I passed the parish council's comments on to Highways Programme in March, and suggested that they either install the double yellow lines between the lay-by and just below the crossroads or as per the plan – which was from the lay-by to the crossroads and all around the crossroads. I made the point that the lines could be extended down to the bridge if necessary. I haven't heard anything since, despite asking them for updates on at least two occasions. I'll keep trying, but it's looking like we might have another summer of complaints ahead of us.

3. The military road has been surface dressed between the Codlaw Hill turn and the Fern Hill turn, and sections of the A6079 have been repaired. I've had one complaint that the surface dressing on the military road seems rather thin, which I agree with. I'm also disappointed that they didn't repair the section of the A6079 immediately to the NE of Low Brunton crossroads.

4. The gulley wagon will be cleaning out all of the gulleys in the ward over the next few weeks. It only comes around every 32 months these days, so it's worth celebrating!

5. The County Council has launched a new system for flagging up issues, called **FixMyStreet**. You can use it on a computer, tablet or phone and you can let it identify your location or enter the location manually. Once you've logged the issue you'll get updates on what's been done to fix it. I can share a link (<https://fix.northumberland.gov.uk/>) with anyone who wants it.

6. Neighbourhood Services didn't take McDonalds up on their offer of help picking litter on the A6079. However, Glen Sanderson announced last week that the County Council's going to crack down on **roadside litter**. He hasn't said how it'll do it yet, but I'll keep you posted.

7. I ordered **the signs for the species-rich grassland project** yesterday, and they'll be installed one Friday in June. I'm getting a microgrant from Northumberland Communities Together as well as a contribution from the Royal Horticultural Society, but I'm still £258.30 short. Chollerton Parish Council feel that it would be appropriate for the two parish councils to split the cost equally, which would mean both parish councils making a contribution of £129.15. Would that be ok with you?

Chris Mowatt cuts the grass between the road and the trial site. I've spoken to him, and he's happy for me to put the signs on the boundary between the short grass and the trial site.

8. I had a look at **the alleged dangerous trees on the SW side of Brunton Bank**. I didn't see anything that worried me other than a small branch hanging loose. I reported it to the Trees and Woodland Officer, who said he would look at it. He also told me that members of the public can report concerns about trees through the County Council's website.

9. The owner of **the proposed glamping site on Brunton Bank** started to remove the unauthorised fencing a few weeks ago, and has until 1st June to finish the job and remove the toilet as well. The Enforcement Notice for the earthworks hasn't been served yet. It's finished and with the legal team, but the archaeologist now thinks that because of vegetation re-growth it might now be better to leave things as they are. They're going to speak to Historic England before they make a decision.

10. **The holiday accommodation on Chapel Lane** has now received planning permission to vary the conditions of the original planning permission – meaning that all of the departures from the agreed plans have now been “regularised”.

11. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England released its proposals for Northumberland's **new ward boundaries** on 2nd May. They're proposing to change most wards to a degree, but there are no proposals to change the Humshaugh ward boundaries. They're consulting on the changes until 10th July, and I can share a link to the consultation (<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/northumberland>) with anyone who wants it.

12. **Northumberland Communities Together has recruited a second Locality Coordinator** for Tynedale. The new recruit is a lady called Delia Faran, and she'll be the Locality Coordinator for the Humshaugh ward. The job of a Locality Coordinator is to act as a link between community groups and to support vulnerable members of society, and they like to start by meeting the parish councillors. Would you like me to invite her to a future meeting? Delia's email address is Delia.Faran@northumberland.gov.uk.

13. **Northumberland has just received £7.8 million to improve its bus services.** Most of the money will be spent on new and improved ticketing products and new and improved services. Apparently there'll be “extra funding available for local bus service enhancements following engagement with parish councils and county councillors”, so we should look for opportunities to push for better bus services for Wall parish. They're creating a Local Bus Board, and I've asked to represent Tynedale on it - which would give me an opportunity to engage with bus operators and users as well as public transport officers. I'll let you know if I'm successful.

14. Nick Johnston in the climate change team tells me that Wall could make the list for **an EV charger** this financial year, but that it would probably be located on the village green. I spoke to Keith Hopper (the officer who installs the EV chargers) today, and he's going to identify the most suitable site.

15. And finally, I've been looking into **sewage pollution/water quality in the North Tyne**, and Humshaugh Parish Council have asked me to do a presentation on the subject. If you would like me to do it for Wall Parish Council, just say. It'll be about ten minutes long.

Summary Accounts

Full accounts may be found in the Documents section of the Parish Website

WALL PARISH COUNCIL INCOME/
EXPENDITURE 22/23.

22/23 INCOME (rounded)	
Precept	8744
Toilet Grant	2060
VAT Refund	950
ITV Vera	500
Bfwd from 21/22	3152
TOTAL	15406

22/23 EXPENDITURE	(rounded)
Salaries	2196
Mowing	3440
Website (old)	90
Charitable Donations *	534
NALC Subs + New website	196
Insurance	410
Trees	1080
Stationery **	72
Playground safety	84
Toilets	2000
Tax not yet paid	180
TOTAL	10103

* GNAA, Hospice at Home, People's Kitchen, RBL, Wall Jubilee

** Includes new signs and outgoing clerk's leaving gift

WILDFLOWERS	
Original Grants (2017)	3000
Cfwd 21/22	2318
Spent in 22/23*	120
Cfwd to 23/24*	2198
* sums INCLUDED in overall	expenditure

FORWARD BUDGET 23/24

23/24 Projected INCOME	(rounded)
Precept	8744
Toilet Grant	2060
VAT Refund	776
Bfwd from 22/23	5303
TOTAL	16.882

23/24 Projected EXPENDITURE	(rounded)
Salaries (Gross)	2400
Mowing	3320
Defibrillator Maintenance	350
Charitable Donations *	450
NALC Subs + New website	196
Insurance	500
Playground safety	84
Toilets	2000
TOTAL	9300

23/24 TOTALS	
Income	16882
Projected Expenses	9300
Ringfenced Wildflowers	2198
Potential Surplus	5384

Confirmed as a true record of Meeting: Original Signed M Wood