

**DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday 18th January 2024 at 7:30pm.
At Wall Village Hall.**

PRESENT	<p>CLRs: Mark Wood, Chair (MW), Elisa Wyrley-Birch Vice-Chair (EWB), Steve Blake (SB), John Lamb (JL) Jane Michie (JM), Gina Scott-Middleton (GSM) Clerk: Alix Pearson (AP).</p>
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NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
2596	<p>1. Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Cllr Nick Morphet, County Councillor</p>
2597	<p>2 Declaration of interests There were no declarations of interest</p>
2598	<p>3. Approval of Minutes The minutes were approved as true record of the previous meeting.</p>
2599	<p>4. Clerk’s Financial Report AP presented a short report detailing expenditure to date and forward budget in the 23/24 FY. Available funds by 31/03/24 should be in the region of £6,000, which includes £1600 remaining in the wildflower budget. The new playground equipment will be installed in February 2024, whereupon AP will be able to draw down the S106 grant which will cover the entire cost of the equipment, excluding VAT, which is £14602. The invoice from the supplier, Pennine Playgrounds, will include VAT of £2812. The Parish Council funds will need to stand the cost of the VAT until June, when the clerk will be able to complete the forms to reclaim the VAT from HMRC. Prior to agenda item 5, the setting of the precept for 24/25, the clerk outlined the expenditure requirements for 24/25. The main heads of expenditure are: Clerks’s Salary, Mowing, Insurance and Charitable donations. The Clerk’s salary is fixed, the parish insurance premium is fixed until 2026 and charitable donations are at the discretion of the Councillors. It was agreed that AP would contact the mowing contractor to discuss any raise he might be seeking in the contract for 24/25. The councillors are very happy with the work undertaken by Chris Mowatt, which is timely and responsive. The contractor now understands the landscape of the parish very well. A brief comparison was made between what is paid in Wall and what is known to be paid in other parishes with different arrangements and the councillors are satisfied that our contractor continues to provide value for money. ACTION AP to contact Chris Mowatt to discuss pricing and contracts for next year.</p>
2600	<p>5. Consideration of 24/25 Precept After a discussion about the impact of a raised precept on households in the parish, Councillors Unanimously AGREED to maintain the precept at its current level for the third year in a row. MW signed precept requirement form. AP to sent to NCC on 19/01/24</p>

Confirmed as a true record of Meeting:

2601	<p>6. Feedback from Footway Accessibility Survey</p> <p>On Saturday 9th December, MW & AP joined Cllr Morphet in a detailed survey of all the footways in the Village. The team was joined by Alex Carrithers, newly resident in the parish, who uses a motorised wheelchair. Councillors were very engaged with the detailed work undertaken by the team and the detailed maps produced by Cllr Morphet. The exercise has exposed that many of the footways in the village are dangerous and difficult to navigate either on wheels or on foot. Councillors look forward to discussing this item in more detail at the next council meeting.</p>
2602	<p>7. County Councillor Update</p> <p>As Cllr Morphet offered his apologies, an update will be received at the next meeting.</p>
2603	<p>8. Review of Action Log</p> <p>a) New Playground Equipment</p> <p>A successful application had been made to NCC for an S106 grant for new playground equipment. A local playground contractor, Pennine Playgrounds had provided quotation for supply and installation of equipment at a considerably lower cost than that previously received from a national provider. NCC offered an additional grant if we were able to install an accessible piece of equipment and a basket swing was chosen. EWB discussed the plans with the landowner, Allendale Estates, showing the plan of the proposed equipment and its siting. The landowner's agent was happy with the sylvan style of equipment being proposed and its location, being sited on the same plane as the existing equipment.</p> <p>The precise location of each piece of equipment will be refined at the point of installation. The equipment will be installed during week commencing 5th February. ACTION AP will notify all councillors once the date is known and all are welcome to come and check where the equipment is being sited, bringing tween children if available.</p> <p>b) Community Resilience Plan</p> <p>AP explored the grant opportunity from SUEZ Landfill which will be an excellent grant opportunity for general refurbishment of the Village Hall, but will not pay for PVs. SB had received a personal quotation for a PV/battery installation at his home and considered that the price had fallen. Village Hall trustees can reconsider this at their next meeting.</p> <p>c) Book Exchange in Church</p> <p>The cold weather has prompted a reorganisation of chairs in the church and the book exchange is now more visible and more accessible and looks good and is well managed. Another bookshelf would still be very useful, so all to continue to keep their eyes open for a bookshelf of the correct size which will acceptable when placed in the church.</p> <p>d) Wildflower Project</p> <p>MW purchased and planted approx 30 trees of several varieties on the bank below the fell.. Better quality rabbit guards were purchased and installed and it is hoped that the trees will do well. Two English Oaks were purchased and planted to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, after whom the trees are named. Thanks to parishioner Bob Elliott who assisted with the planting and also to Cllr Blake. and Wood.</p> <p>ACTION AP to discuss new trees with moving contractor.</p>

Confirmed as a true record of Meeting:

2603 cont	<p>e) Playground General Issues GSM purchased a football net and it has been installed at the north goal. Installation required many hands and it is preferred to keep the net in place if possible. As it has not been easy to find anywhere suitable and accessible to store the nets, and because it has been suggested that continual removal and refitting of the nets will shorten their life, it was agreed that we should try and keep the net in place. ACTION AP to discuss the net with the mowing contractor to find out what he recommends.</p> <p>f) Charitable Donations All donations as agreed were paid and acknowledged.</p> <p>g) Accessibility Issues in Village See also minute 2601. Not discussed in detail, but actioned - after receiving complaints about the thick mud on the roadway north of Chesterwood on Old Lane, making it extremely difficult to navigate on foot, MW wrote to Cllr Morphet to ask for support from Highways Department.</p> <p>h) Sycamore Tree outside Ridge Lea AP wrote a letter to Karbon Homes, MW hand delivered the letter and spoke to a Karbon Homes representative at their Hexham Office. It was explained that Karbon had a green policy towards trees which means that no action will be taken unless a tree is dangerous. MW pointed out that the very close proximity of the tree to several residences, including their own properties, made it dangerous and requested that the tree was surveyed promptly.</p>
2604	<p>9. Review of Planning Application Log</p> <p>21/03394/FUL Land on Hadrian's Wall holiday accommodation Ongoing enforcement actions are progressing.</p> <p>23/03918/FUL Braeside, Side extension, garage conversion and raise the roof for the additional rooms. Closing date for Comments 14th November 2023. Parish Council supported the application.</p> <p>23/02276/FUL 23/04683/LBC. Peartree Cottage Extensive Modernisation Closing date 10th January 2024 Parish Council supported application.</p> <p>23/04246/FUL Halton Grange Extensive Alterations. Closing Date 28th January The clerk had omitted to forward details of the application to the councillors, which was done in the meeting. Councillors will send their comments to AP by the closing date. It was noted that the previous planning request for this property had been denied and that the new application seeks to overcome some of the planning department's objections.</p>
2605	<p>10. Village Hall Report</p> <p>SB reported that the roof replacement work had gone very well, with the final activities likely to take place next week. The installation of the rooflights had been slightly delayed due to availability of the materials, but they would be installed on Monday. The Village Society's Burns Night event takes places on Thursday 25th January and the roofing contractor is aware that the hall needs to be available for decoration from the evening of Tuesday 23rd. Some internal works to make good the ceiling may be delayed until after Burns Night. Thanks were noted for the considerable efforts of SB & MW in the management of this project which has run to time and to budget.</p>

2606	12. Date of next meeting Thursday 21st March 2024 at 7.30pm The meeting ended at 9.00pm
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Confirmed as a true record of Meeting: