

**DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**  
**held on Thursday 21st May 2026 at 7:30pm.**  
**At Wall Village Hall.**

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| <b>PRESENT</b> | Cllrs: Mark Wood Chair, Elisa Wyrley-Birch Vice Chair, Joshua Boulton-Baker, Andrew Gillespie, Jane Michie.<br>County Councillor Antonia Azocar-Nevin.<br>Clerk: Alix Pearson. |
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| <b>NUMBER</b> | <b>DESCRIPTION</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| 2784          | <b>1. Apologies for absence and Declaration of interests</b><br>Apologies were received from John Lamb, There were no declarations of interest.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 2785          | <b>2. Approval of Minutes</b><br>The minutes were approved as true record of the previous meeting and signed.<br>In Matters Arising, the question of planning application <b>24/01727/AGRGDO</b> was taken up by the County Councillor.<br>The Annual litter pick was attended by 13 parishioners and the Parish Council offers grateful thanks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2786          | <b>3. Clerk's Reports</b><br><b>Financial Report</b> The clerk presented the expenditure for Q4 which was approved and signed off by the Chair.<br>The Clerk presented the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 25/26 for approval: The Chair presented the Opinion letter of the Internal Auditor and this and the Internal Audit Report were <b>accepted</b> .<br>The Annual Governance Statement was <b>Approved</b> .<br>The Annual Accounting Statements were <b>Approved</b> .<br><b>Clerk to send Certificate of Exemption from Limited Assurance Review to EA.</b><br><br>The annual parish insurance renewal had been received at cost of £575.51. This was a very modest increase from last year and was <b>approved</b> .                                                                                                                                    |
| 2787          | <b>4. Resolution for Agreement of Lease for PV Panels at Village Hall.</b><br>The Chair explained the position of the Parish Council as Custodian Trustee of the Village Hall. Cllrs were already familiar with the NCEL project and continue to be in support of the installation of the system, which will both reduce the energy bills at the Village Hall and provide some resilience for the community in the event of a power outage.<br><br>It was <b>RESOLVED:</b> that the Parish Council grant a lease of the roof of Wall Village Hall to Northumberland Community Energy Ltd for the installation and operation of solar photovoltaic panels and associated infrastructure.<br><br>The Chair, as the statutory office holder and Clerk, as Proper Officer are authorised to execute all necessary documentation relating to the lease on behalf of the Parish Council. |
| 2788          | <b>5. Review of Planning Applications</b><br><b>26/01077/FUL</b> 26/01077/FUL Keepwick Farm Chollerford NE46 4HW - covering of livestock yard between two barns,<br><b>26/01222/FUL</b> 26/01233/LBC High Barns - Barn Conversion - resubmission.<br><br>The two solar farm applications had not yet been decided.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

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| 2789 | <p><b>6. County Councillors Report</b></p> <p>Antonia's report appears at appendix 1. Of particular interest to Cllrs was the news that the long requested safety improvements to HWNT running through the village had been added to the LTP.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 2790 | <p><b>7. Chair's Maintenance Report</b></p> <p>Permission had been received for the tree works required at the bottom of Old Lane and to the Coronation Beech and a tree surgeon engaged. It is too late in the season to undertake the works on the beech, so this will be addressed in the autumn. The trees at the end of Old Lane are dead or dying so it is important to undertake the works quickly. A start is planned for 28th May and notices will be placed near the site to warn pedestrians.</p> <p><b>Action Cllr Wood.</b></p> <p>The subject of whether a notice about car parking on the green should be put up on the website was revisited. Cllr Michie had written some helpful words and the clerk would upload the documents when time allowed.</p> <p><b>Action - Clerk. ongoing.</b></p> <p>The 6 flowering cherry trees on the roadside opposite The Hadrian are in need of some maintenance. It has been established that the trees are the responsibility of Highways. The tree Officer recommends sending a short report of the works required to Highways who will request the work from the Tree Officer. Cllr Michie to prepare a photographic report.</p> <p><b>Action Cllr Michie</b></p> <p>Chris Mowatt our mowing contractor had complained that the mole hills on the back green were damaging his blades. It was agreed that in the first instance we would attempt to alleviate the problem by removing or levelling out the molehills, before a mole contractor was engaged.</p> <p><b>Cllr Wyrley-Birch to alert the Wall Action Team. Clerk to remind action teamers of imminent mowing activity.</b></p> |
| 2791 | <p><b>8. Review of Fix My Street Posts</b></p> <p>Cllr Wyrley-Birch had monitored all posts, and found no items being the direct responsibility of the Parish Council.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 2792 | <p><b>9. Village Hall Report</b></p> <p>Cllr Wood, the newly elected Parish Council Representative for the Village Hall Trust- reported key points from the Trust's AGM which had taken place on 20th May.</p> <p>The work on Gents Toilets was now complete and both toilets in the hall would be relabelled as Unisex. Once again County Councillor Azocar Nevin was thanked for her generous contribution.</p> <p>The hall's expenditure is currently exceeding its income, but the Trustees had agreed to hold the rent stable in anticipation of the NCEL installation which would reduce the hall's electricity bill and bring income and expenditure in closer line.</p> <p>Hall Trustees had also agreed a resolution relating to the the lease of the roof to NCELfor the PV installation.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|      | <p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <p><b>Thursday 17th September 2026 at 7.30pm.</b></p> <p>The meeting ended at 9.00pm</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

Wall PC report 21.05.26

The library consultation. The library consultation received 5801 responses. The staff consultation will begin in June and in July it will go to the oversight and scrutiny committee that I sit on. It will then be received by cabinet early September to hopefully have a new model by early 2027.

In my oversight and scrutiny committee meetings I have made sure to make a point of our mobile library service as this went from being a 3 weekly operation to a 6 weekly. The fully operational mobile library has only been operating in the north of the county while the west in rural areas have had a transit van to operate this service. I don't believe this is fair so hopefully by being involved in these conversations, I can keep pushing for a better outcome.

I had a meeting on Monday to comment on the robustness of the consultation, and I do believe they have done a good job at engaging with the community. The proposals made will be scrutinised before being made concrete at the cabinet meeting in September. NCC will also be analysing the views from different areas like rural and urban, N,S,E,W. I did ask why there was such a big percentage of people being unsure when asked about the standardisation of hours across all libraries. NCC responded that when they did their drop-in session, some people had already filled in the survey before knowing all the information they learnt at these events.

Bus drop in event. Since becoming a representative for NCC on the local bus board I have been organising a bus drop in event at Hexham Library on the 27th of June 1:30-4:30. NCC representatives from the bus team will be attending and I have also invited bus companies to join us, some of which have already confirmed they will be attending. I will also be inviting Tynedale County Councillors. The day will start with a Q&A to a panel of transport representatives, followed by a breakout discussion in smaller groups facilitated by those from bus companies, NCC and Councillors. This will be a great opportunity to communicate concerns and suggestions to contribute to the improvement of bus services in the ward, especially in rural areas.

Integrated transport plan. I received my monthly report for the for the projects in my ward and in there are the first stages of pedestrian safety improvements for Hadrian's Wall path and Wall village.