

**Minutes of the meeting of Heddton-on-the-Wall Parish Council held on  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in Heddton Community Library**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. D. Keller [DK] (in the Chair); R. Adams [RA]; M. Wilson [MW]; R. Oatway [RO]; K. Ince [KI]; J. McGreevy [JM]

**IN ATTENDANCE:** L. Barton (Clerk); **Members of the public: 4 present**

**Minute  
No.**

**Agenda item**

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** K. Dryden [KD]; L. Irving-Munro [LIM]; D. Matthews [DM];
2. **WELCOME GUESTS AND RESIDENTS AND ASK THEM TO SHARE MATTERS OF INTEREST:**

One resident mentioned speeding in particular on Hexham Road and asked for an update. Cllr. Keller explained that a survey has been requested as part of the Local Transport Plan and we are awaiting feedback from Northumberland County Council (NCC).

One resident asked about the Welfare Field consultation and whether, in future, notices to advertise any consultations with residents could be posted at the entrances to the Welfare Field. Councillors **agreed** that this was a good suggestion and will be implemented in future.

Another resident asked about lighting in the Welfare Field and Memorial Park which had been mentioned in the minutes of a previous meeting. They expressed concerns about any additional lighting in these areas and explained that there are alternative lit routes which could be used instead. They also raised concerns about the impact on wildlife such as bats who feed at dusk. They asked whether a survey could be undertaken to investigate the impact on wildlife. Cllr. Keller explained that the lighting request has been made to explore what may be possible. It is not definite that it will go ahead. Cllr. Wilson explained that NCC would undertake surveys if any lighting request were agreed by them. Cllr. Adams explained that lighting had been considered as a way of making the MUGAs accessible in the evenings.

One resident asked about the possibility of a youth worker or youth club for older children in the village. Cllr. Keller explained that there would need to be volunteers prepared and able to run any such activities.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr. Keller declared an interest in Karbon Homes and Cllr. Wilson declared an interest in St Andrew's Church and Heddton on the Wall Education and Training Trust (HETT).
4. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: RESOLVED:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January were approved and signed by the Chair.
5. **MATTERS ARISING AND REVIEW OF ACTIONS:**

The clerk informed councillors that any repair works to the Memorial Cross (mentioned at the January meeting) will require Listed Building Consent. The clerk is working on an application for this.
6. **FINANCIAL MATTERS:**
  - a) To approve payment of invoices presented at the meeting. **RESOLVED.** All councillors confirmed that as per our financial regulations and ahead of this meeting, we've circulated via email a full record of accounts, bills and invoices paid and due to be paid this month. The following invoices were approved for payment:

Heddton Gossip £60	Courant vouchers £26.88
Grounds Maintenance £414	Electrician (library light / PAT testing) £160
External audit year end 2024 £378	Library cleaning £165
NCC Additional grass cuts £1,006.90	Postage £11.60
Garden waste renewal library £54.50	

The following invoices, which arrived just after the January meeting and which were paid to avoid late payment charges, were also approved:

BT Library landline £37.57 (paid on 15<sup>th</sup> January)

BT Parish Council landline £35.24 (paid on 15<sup>th</sup> January)

All Clean £33 (paid on 16<sup>th</sup> January)

BT have confirmed that the Parish Council landline account has now been moved to monthly direct debit billing. We have not yet heard about the library account.

- b) To consider any applications for grants or donations received at least 3 days before the meeting: **None received**

**7. HR POLICIES:**

To discuss HR policies which may need drafting or reviewing. It was **agreed** that Cllrs. Keller and McGreevy will work on updating or drafting any necessary HR policies.

**8. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL:**

To consider any matters relating to Northumberland County Council (NCC)

**Updates:**

Local Transport Plan – will be considered in March

School Street Scheme –an update has been received from NCC. The legal process is complete and notification has been provided to construct the School Streets scheme on Trajan Walk to the local Area Office. As soon as an estimated completion date is known, a further update will be provided.

Welfare Field and Memorial Park Lighting request – no feedback yet

Welfare Field Enhancement project donation request – no feedback yet

Electric Car charger scheme – no feedback yet

**Any Other business none**

**9. MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING OUR VILLAGE FOR ALL:**

To consider any matters relating to maintenance, repairs, and assets management, projects

**Reports and updates:**

**Asset Officer report:** It was **agreed** that the soundproofing work in one of the offices within the Business Centre could go ahead at the quoted price of £414.97. The Asset Officer had suggested replacing the sanitary ware in the library toilet. Councillors requested comparative costings in order to consider this. The Asset Officer had mentioned that some of the hangings on the library blinds are having to be replaced. Councillors said to continue to replace these as and when needed. The Asset Officer sent details of sponsored trees damaged by the storm. It was **agreed** that the clerk will organise replacement trees. Two new plaques will also be ordered.

**Welfare Field Enhancement project update:** comments from residents will be collated and councillors will be updated

**Selman Park update:** It was **agreed** to review the use of Selman Park in April or May

**Allotments update:** the water tank overflow issue has been resolved.

**Any other matters e.g. quotes for work: none**

**Sustainable Heddon** met with representatives from Community Action Northumberland (CAN) to discuss how the library building could be made more energy efficient. Cllr. Oatway suggested that a Net zero retrofit plan assessment could be carried out on the library and the Knott Hall. He explained that Northumberland County Council has a Climate Fund grant, which the Parish Council could apply to. It was **agreed** to apply to the fund for funding to cover the cost of the assessment. The clerk will work with Cllr. Oatway to collate the paperwork needed to support the application.

**10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

**Planning consultations:**

**25/00246/FUL** – Heddon Steads Cottage – new detached garage – no comments or objections

**25/00137/FUL** – 5 Antonine Walk – proposed single storey rear extension and partial side extension – no comments or objections

**25/00282/FUL** – Land west of Ashtree Farm – change of use of field from agriculture to dog walking field – no comments or objections.

**25/00163/FUL** – Loudside Farm – proposed conversion and extension of existing buildings to create a residential dwelling. It was agreed to comment on the consultation to the effect that a bridleway passes through the proposed development and appropriate protocols should be followed.

**Planning decisions:**

**24/04019/FUL** – Driving Range and Café Close House estate – permission was **GRANTED** for the proposed roof covering and cladding.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE:** A resident had enquired whether they could have a memorial bench in the Memorial Park in memory of their mother, who had contributed in many different ways to the community and village over many years. Cllrs. asked for more information so they could consider this request. Halls of Heddon got in touch about their sponsored tree which had been damaged in the recent storms. They suggested a replacement tree which they could supply. Cllrs. **agreed** to this request.
12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Cllr. Adams mentioned mud on the road (drainage channels) on the approach into the village from the A69. It was **agreed** to request a street cleanse and drain clearing in the area.
13. **NEXT MEETING**  
That the date of the next meeting shall be Wednesday 19th March 2025 at 7pm.  
**CONCLUSION OF MEETING** The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

**Income and Expenditure from 9th January to 11<sup>th</sup> February:**

**Account 1 (Precept) Expenditure:**

ICO renewal (Data Protection)	£35	09/01/25
Heddon Gossip	£60	09/01/25
Grounds maintenance	£414	09/01/25
Mid-term internal audit	£300	09/01/25
Water for allotments (April 23 to Dec 24)	£663.44	09/01/25
Dressing Memorial Cross (2023 / 2024)	£540	09/01/25
Removal of waste from allotments	£420	09/01/25
NCC Payroll (December and January)	£2395.88	15/01/25
NCC Payroll Admin fee (Dec and Jan)	£40	15/01/25
NCC Bins	£16.68	15/01/25

**Account 1 (Precept) Income:** £3,637.07 VAT rebate

**Account 2 (Library) Expenditure:**

Electrician socket repair Bus. Centre	£80	09/01/25
Library cleaning	£165	09/01/25
Lighting Selman Park	£21	10/01/25
BT (Library landline)	£37.57	15/01/25
BT (PC landline)	£35.24	15/01/25
Window cleaning library	£33	16/01/25
Gas library	£245.11	17/01/25
Fire Alarm	£19.54	26/01/25
Burglar Alarm	£60.22	26/01/25
CCTV	£43.20	31/01/25
Electricity library	£205.76	03/02/25
Lighting Selman Park	£21	10/02/25

**Account 2 (Library) Income:** from 9<sup>th</sup> January to 11<sup>th</sup> February Rental income: £ 1209

## APPENDIX

### MAINTAINING OUR VILLAGE FOR ALL:

#### ACTIONS:

LB Contact NCC Highways re mud on roads on the approach from the A69 into the village  
LB Ask Batson's to clear branches from Memorial Park  
LB Contact Batson's to request replacement trees for sponsored trees damaged in storm  
LB Confirm with Halls of Heddon re tree  
LB / LT Allotment water tank – disconnect water and empty partially in winter

### IMPROVING OUR VILLAGE FOR ALL:

#### ACTIONS:

Dyno rod to investigate any future blockages of library drains

### FINANCE AND ASSETS:

#### ACTIONS:

Councillors check dog walking field application on planning portal  
LB check planning application re rights of way and respond re Public Bridleway

### OTHER:

#### ACTIONS:

DK Clarify meetings on second Wednesday of each month on Facebook (with the exception of August)