

**Minutes of the meeting of Heddon-on-the-Wall Parish Council held on
Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in Heddon Community Library**

PRESENT: Cllrs. D. Keller [DK] (in the Chair); K. Dryden [KD]; R. Adams [RA]; M. Wilson [MW]; D. Matthews [DM]; R. Oatway [RO]; Lesley Irving-Munro [LIM]; K. Ince [KI]

IN ATTENDANCE: L. Barton (Clerk); Cllr. P. Jackson **Members of the public: 2 present**

**Minute
No.**

Agenda item

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** J. McGreevy [JM]
2. **WELCOME GUESTS AND RESIDENTS AND ASK THEM TO SHARE MATTERS OF INTEREST:** One resident attended the meeting to ask about the speeding on Hexham Road. Another resident attended to discuss a planning concern.
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr. Keller declared an interest in Karbon Homes and Cllr. Wilson declared an interest in St Andrew's Church and Heddon on the Wall Education and Training Trust (HETT).
4. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: RESOLVED:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 11th December were approved and signed by the Chair.
5. **MATTERS ARISING AND REVIEW OF ACTIONS:** covered elsewhere

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:

Heddon Gossip £60	Waste removal Allotments £420
Grounds Maintenance £414	Electrician socket repair £80
Internal audit mid-term £300	Library cleaning December £165
Water for allotments (April 23 – Dec 24) £663.44	Dressing the Cross (2023/24) £540

- b) To consider any applications for grants or donations received at least 3 days before the meeting: None received
 - c) To agree the Precept and Budget – councillors considered and approved the draft budget for 2025 / 2026. It was **agreed** to increase the rent for Business Centre tenants by 3% from April 2025. It was also **agreed** to increase the precept by 3% this year.
7. **HR POLICIES:**
To discuss HR policies which may need drafting or reviewing. It was **agreed** to move this item to February.

8. GOV.UK WEBSITE AND EMAIL ADDRESSES:

The clerk explained that Parish Councils and principal authorities are being encouraged to move to a gov.uk website domain and gov.uk email addresses for clerk and councillors. The clerk explained the reasons for this. Councillors considered the information provided and decided not to go ahead with this change at the moment. It is not yet compulsory.

9. NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL:

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

Updates: Cllr. Jackson was in attendance at the meeting and provided the following updates:

- Northumberland County Council is currently preparing budgets and planning ahead. The demand for social care is increasing and costs associated with education are also increasing. However, this should not impact on the services residents receive and frontline services will be preserved at all costs.
- The new Northumberland rail line has now opened and is serving south east Northumberland.
- The project to make the A1 a dual carriageway is no longer continuing.
- Schools in the county continue to improve and Northumberland is in the top 25% of the country in terms of the quality of education offered. The local schools are doing particularly well.
- The government has introduced new housing targets which could affect the Tyne Valley.

Any Other business

- Cllr. Wilson mentioned the Welfare Field and Memorial Park lighting projects and requested support from Cllr. Jackson with this. Cllr. Jackson said that a plan and quotes would be needed.
- Cllr. Wilson mentioned the Welfare Field enhancement project where the Parish Council intends to replace and enhance the play equipment on offer. A consultation is taking place with residents and the school. The project will take place in phases. Cllr. Jackson said he may be able to provide some support to the project from his capital budget.
- Cllr. Wilson also mentioned the School Streets scheme where the Parish Council is awaiting feedback from NCC. Cllr. Jackson said he would chase this up. Action point: Cllr. Wilson advised he would forward all emails relating to the above topic to Cllr. Jackson for information.
- Cllr. Keller and Cllr. Ince mentioned the problem of speeding on Hexham Road. The Parish Council had requested a speed survey in the village and is awaiting a response. Cllr. Jackson said he would chase this up.

10. 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:

Welfare Field Enhancement project update: The school have received feedback from 48 parents regarding the Welfare Field project. A consultation with residents is currently underway and will run until the end of January.

Selman Park update: no update

Allotments update: rent increase as detailed in the December minutes.

Any other matters e.g. quotes for work:

Bells Waste Removal – the work to remove fly tipped rubbish from near the allotment site has been completed at a cost of £420. Councillors **agreed** to authorise this payment.

Stonemason – the stonemason had submitted a quote relating to maintenance and cleaning work required for the Memorial Cross. The cost is £1,494 including VAT. It was **agreed** that this work could go ahead in the summer. Cllr. Keller mentioned that grants may be available.

Additional Grass Cuts NCC - NCC has advised that the additional grass cuts for the 2025 season will be £839.08 + VAT. Councillors **agreed** to go ahead with this. The clerk will confirm this with NCC.

11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Planning consultations: 24/04272/VARYCO River Heights Station Road

Cllr. Wilson recused himself from these discussions. It was **agreed** to object to this application as the changes to the original plans have led to an increase in the footprint of the property, meaning it is not in keeping with neighbouring properties. The boundaries were also unclear on the new hand drawn plans. It was also **agreed** to request a site visit to look at scale.

Planning decisions:

24/03480/FUL Land south of Burnside Farm – conversion of a garage to a beauty studio – permission was **GRANTED**.

12. CORRESPONDENCE: A resident had advised that one of the Tommy statues was damaged at the base. Cllrs. Keller and Adams will look at this. A business centre tenant had requested soundproofing panels in their office. Councillors **agreed** that this work could take place and that the Parish Council would pay for this subject to satisfying and confirming requirements.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Cllr. Oatway mentioned looking into the possibility of further sustainable measures for buildings in Heddon on the Wall such as solar panels on the library roof. Cllr. Oatway will contact NCC and CAN (Community Action Northumberland). Cllr. Irving -Munro enquired about the whereabouts of the defibrillator in the village.

NEXT MEETING

That the date of the next meeting shall be Wednesday 12th February 2025 at 7pm.

CONCLUSION OF MEETING The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Income and Expenditure from 12th December to 8th January:

Account 1 (Precept) Expenditure:

Wall repairs	£420	12/12/24
Grass cutting Selman Park	£120	12/12/24
Tree maintenance Welfare Field	£2,340	12/12/24
Removal of tennis net box	£100	12/12/24
Grounds maintenance	£414	12/12/24
Graffiti removal Memorial Park	£125	12/12/24
Office supplies	£4.99	12/12/24
Trumpet player Remembrance	£50	12/12/24
Selman Park lease Q3	£350	12/12/24
NCC Bins	£16.68	16/12/24

Account 1 (Precept) Income:

Account 2 (Library) Expenditure:

Water bill library	£159.06	12/12/24
Window cleaning library	£33	12/12/24
Library cleaning	£135	12/12/24
Library roof clearing	£110	12/12/24
Boiler service	£309	12/12/24
Petty Cash	£100	12/12/24
BT (Library landline)	£39.32	17/12/24
BT (PC landline)	£35.29	17/12/24
Gas library	£181.70	17/12/24
Fire Alarm	£19.54	27/12/24
Burglar Alarm	£60.22	27/12/24
CCTV	£43.20	31/12/24
Electricity library	£232.35	01/01/25

Account 2 (Library) Income: from 12th December to 8th January Rental income: £ 1200

APPENDIX

MAINTAINING OUR VILLAGE FOR ALL:

ACTIONS:

DK to speak to resident about planters and possibly replacing them
LB to contact the stonemason regarding Memorial Cross repairs
LT / LB to look into quotes for soundproofing acoustic panels and confirm requirements with tenant

IMPROVING OUR VILLAGE FOR ALL:

ACTIONS:

LB to contact handyman re fence on Taberna – add additional posts for support
LB to contact Batsons to request replacement sponsored trees
MW to forward emails to Cllr Jackson re Welfare Field and lighting project

FINANCE AND ASSETS:

ACTIONS:

LB Contact resident at 5 Mithras Gardens re land at the side of their property
LB to book onto Procurement training with NALC
LB to submit precept request to NCC

OTHER:

ACTIONS:

LB to thank Halls of Heddon for the discount on their invoice and ask if they would like to be involved with the Memorial Park project
LB to submit objection to Planning Team