

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

IN ATTENDANCE: L. Barton (Clerk); **Members of the public: 1 present**

Agenda item

Minute

No.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: L. Irving-Munro [LM]; D. Matthews [DM];

2. WELCOME GUESTS AND RESIDENTS AND ASK THEM TO SHARE MATTERS OF INTEREST:

A trustee from the Knott Hall attended the meeting to update councillors on plans for a mural in the Memorial Park shelter. The original plan was for a mural covering just the back wall of the shelter; however, the artist would prefer to use the whole of the interior. Councillors agreed to this request. The mural will depict scenes associated with the village and will be a collaborative effort between the artist and local residents.

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 19th March were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. MATTERS ARISING AND REVIEW OF ACTIONS: covered elsewhere

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:

Window cleaning £33
Grounds Maintenance £414
Heddon Gossip £60
Library cleaning £150

One Business Centre tenant, who had made an accidental rent overpayment, will be refunded £18. 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: 4 donation requests were received, 1 was redirected towards HETT as a more appropriate option. Of the other 3 requests, it was agreed to donate £250 to the Heddon Culture Festival. It was further agreed to donate £100 to the Poppy Carpet project and £50 to the VE Day afternoon tea.

c) Budget Monitoring Quarter 4 – councillors approved the budget monitoring for quarter 4.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL:

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

Updates:

Local Transport Plan – no feedback yet

School Street Scheme – awaiting implementation dates as to when works will commence on Trajan Walk

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

8. 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: quotes will be sought for the fencing work required

Welfare Field Enhancement project update: Cllr. Wilson fed back on responses from residents; 89 responses were received in total and residents were consulted via a QR code survey, the school newsletter and an open consultation event in the library. The majority (73/89) want a separate toddler area; 50/89 would like adult gym equipment, but 38/89 do not want this; some residents wanted a shelter or hangout area for teens and older children, but others did not. More seating in general was requested. The next step will be to decide on the exact specifications required and seek final quotes. It is likely that the toddler area will be the first priority, but any further action will be postponed until after the elections in May.

Selman Park update: the Parish Council have tried to encourage the use of Selman Park, but uptake has been low. It is likely that Selman Park will be handed back to the landowner in October.

Allotments update: 2 plots have become available and have been offered to people on the waiting list.

Any other matters e.g. quotes for work:

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Planning consultations:

25/00884/LBC – War Memorial cleaning and repair – no comments

Planning decisions:

10. CORRESPONDENCE: Halls of Heddon had asked if their replacement sponsored tree could be planted in Autumn for optimal conditions. Councillors **agreed** to this request.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: none raised

12. NEXT MEETING

That the date of the next meeting shall be Wednesday 14th May 2025 at 7pm.

CONCLUSION OF MEETING The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Income and Expenditure from 19th March to 8th April:

Account 1 (Precept) Expenditure:

Grounds Maintenance	£414	20-Mar-25
Welfare Field signs	£126	20-Mar-25
Selman Park lease	£350	20-Mar-25
Selman Park hedge cutting	£240	20-Mar-25
Flowers	£27	20-Mar-25
Plaques	£45	20-Mar-25
Allotment fencing	£489.54	20-Mar-25

Account 1 (Precept) Income: Precept £21,960; Sponsored tree income £150; Climate Fund Grant £2,500; Allotment rent £632.75. Total income £25,242.75

Account 2 (Library) Expenditure:

Library cleaning	£180	20-Mar-25
Electrician EICR certificates	£120	20-Mar-25
Window cleaning	£33	20-Mar-25
BT (Library landline)	£35.96	20-Mar-25
Fire Alarm	£19.54	25-Mar-25
Burglar Alarm	£62.92	25-Mar-25
BT (PC landline)	£35.24	26-Mar-25
CCTV	£43.20	30-Mar-25
Electricity library	£196.11	01-Apr-25

Account 2 (Library) Income: from 19th March to 8th April Rental income: £ 927

APPENDIX

MAINTAINING OUR VILLAGE FOR ALL:

ACTIONS:

MW – catch up with school
LT to get quotes for fencing work

IMPROVING OUR VILLAGE FOR ALL:

ACTIONS:

Chase up NCC outstanding items in June
LB to contact NCC Highways re signs

FINANCE AND ASSETS:

ACTIONS:

DK – amend grant form to include amount requested
LB contact DB re donations
LB update suppliers re Welfare Field Project
LB to contact resident re tree / plaque
LB/DK respond to resident re tree locations in Welfare Field and Memorial Park

OTHER:

ACTIONS:

MW to handover contacts to LB