

Tuesday 2 September 2025**Meeting commenced: 19:31**

Present: Cllr Anne Palmer (Chair), Cllr Eileen Rogerson, Cllr Kevin Robson, Cllr Kevin Fortune, Cllr Phil Lawless, Cllr Nicky Brown. Clerk Natalie Warren.
2 members of the public.

01/09/2025 **To receive, and approve if appropriate, apologies for absence and reasons given**

None received

02/09/2025 **To receive declarations of interests**

Members are reminded to declare any interest in any item on the agenda, now or at any time during the meeting.

None given

03/09/2025 **To approve the minutes of previous meeting held 1 July 2025.**

Agreed and signed by Chair

04/09/2025 **To receive comments/ queries from members of the public with regard to items on the agenda**

To speak on Community plan item 08/09/25 a)

05/09/2025 **Parish Clerk's report**

➤ Update regarding online banking

The Council still have free internet banking with Santander for another 12 month (expiring July 2026).

➤ Update from Police

From 28/04/25 to 08/08/25:

Crimes - 6 however none relating to the community

Incidents - 29/06/25 Suspicious vehicle reported near Little Harle, vehicle not found

05/07/25 Early hours youth ASB reported near to Kirkwhelpington Post Office - no-one found.

06/09/2025 **Exclusion of the public**

Item 08/09/25 g) New clerk recruitment

07/09/2025 **Planning**

To consider planning policies, applications and appeals received and resolve to submit comments where appropriate. [Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Sched. 7, para.8]

Reference	Detail	Status
25/02083/FUL	<i>Improvements to St Wilfrid's Church, Kirkharle</i>	Withdrawn, 31 July 2025

The application was withdrawn to allow the applicant to establish finer details in the design before resubmitting to Northumberland County Council. The Grade 1 listed status of the building requires special attention.

08/09/2025 **Items for Consideration and Decision**

a) Community survey results

35 responses were received. Most appreciated assets include the Post Office and Memorial Hall. The Chair will call a working group meeting to

discuss the results and create a report for the next Parish Council meeting. This will include a one page summary to be shared on the Parish Council website and noticeboard.

b) Bench maintenance

Clerk has created plan and Cllrs Fortune and Lawless will complete checks and inform Council of any action needed.

c) Play area report and remedial actions

Report received. Very little remedial action needed. Just missing cap on piece of equipment. May need some remedial repairs to a bench, but will be checked in bench maintenance plan.

d) Northumberland County Council call for sites

Call for development sites - Northumberland County Council.

As a Parish Council we've been included in this consultation to advise NCC of sites which may be suitable for development (either housing or business/ industrial). The Council decided to submit the Knowesgate Hotel & Filling Station site and the unfinished housing development on Eastlands. Both these sites already have existing uses defined for them, but by submitting them the Council hope to highlight to Northumberland County Council the potential at both places.

e) NALC County Committee representative

Opportunity to submit a representative to sit on the Northumberland Association of Local Council's (NALC). No interest from Councillors.

f) Adoption of staffing committee terms of reference & appointment of staffing committee

Clerk circulated draft terms of reference, but Council decided to continue without a staffing committee, making staffing decisions as a full Council. Not adopted.

Members of the public left, 20:04

g) New clerk recruitment

Interviews for the position are ongoing. Decision should be reached this week. Need to understand what training might be needed.

h) Local Transport Plan priorities

Initial letter received advising of move to a three year plan to help with budgeting over a longer period. Currently awaiting further guidance from Northumberland County Council.

i) Community Champion award 2025

Request to include information about the award and how to submit a nomination in the show schedule.

This year's award goes to John Rowland for his many years of work with the Youth Group.

j) Gilbert Grove update

Money has been received to help tidy up the site. Clerk to get further details on skip hire.

- k) Conveyance of land to Memorial Hall
No further contact received.
- l) Expenses policy to agree & adopt
Agreed and adopted. Clerk to add to website.
- m) Communication and decision making between meetings
Chair established understanding of no comments received meaning assent to agreed options, or no opinion given.
- n) Items to be raised at Northumberland Chairs meeting
Chair to attend meeting, 16 September and report back at next meeting.

09/09/2025 Items for Information Only

- a. Correspondence – none received
- b. Items for Information
 - Ray Wind Fund update – no update.
 - B4RN update – still awaiting wayleaves, no further updates
 - Climate change toolkit – some feedback from Community Survey may advise future actions.
- c. Items to be included in next agenda
 - Community survey report
 - Chairs report from Northumberland Chairs meeting and Budgeting meeting with Northumberland County Council.
 - Indicative budget for 2026/7

10/09/2025 Finance

- a. Account Balances – £16,749.72
- b. Accounts for Payment – To review and approve items of expenditure, including those received before the meeting.***

Date	Description	Amount
July-Aug	Clerk wages	£378.92 <i>inc. HMRC £75.80</i> inc. back pay for annual increase £17.48
July-Aug	Clerk expenses Printer ink & no dogs sign	£27.99
July-Aug	Robson & Cowan	£67.26
23/7/25	RoSPA play area inspection	£129.60
Sept	Memorial Hall toilet grant	£350
25/8/25	Spanglefish web hosting	£108

All agreed for payment

11/09/2025 **Date & time of next meeting.**
Tuesday 4 November 2025

Meeting closed: 21:19