

01/03/2025	To receive, and approve if appropriate, apologies for absence and reasons given None received Cllr Robson arrived 19:39 One member of the public present	
02/03/2025	To receive declarations of interests <i>Members are reminded to declare any interest in any item on the agenda, now or at any time during the meeting.</i> None given	
03/03/2025	To approve the minutes of previous meeting held 7 January 2025. Approved & signed by Chair	
04/03/2025	To receive comments/ queries from members of the public with regard to items on the agenda None given	
05/03/2025	Parish Clerk's report <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Adapt bus update –Ray Wind Fund are going to fund a route from Otterburn to Morpeth, picking up in Kirkwhelpington & Scot's Gap. Once the details are confirmed they will share details with the Council for promotion.➤ Parish noticeboard repairs – no quotes received, local joiner to have a look.➤ Fix my street reports	
	Item reported	Outcome
	Pothole at entrance to The Crofts	Northumberland County Council (NCC) is not responsible. Karbon Homes believe it is Northumberland Estates who are responsible. Awaiting a response from Northumberland Estates.
	Loose kerbstone outside Memorial Hall	This has been chased again NCC believed it had been completed. Clerk to chase again.
	Fallen tree at the bottom of Eastlands	This land belongs to the development and the Parish Council (and NCC) have been unable to contact the developer.
	Worn markings at Kirkharle junction	NCC to undertake work in this area
	Update from the Police: From 06/01/25 to there have only been two incidents of note: 06/01/25 - 1 vehicle RTC just south of Kirkharle on the A696 due to icy conditions. 15/02/25 - possible poaching near Great Bavington. Person reporting saw lights in the fields and an unknown pick-up nearby. Officers attended, searched the area but nothing was found.	

	Councillor Fortune reported the new play equipment was due to be installed on 21 March. A note of thanks to be sent to funders are the install.		
06/03/2025	Exclusion of the public Item 08/03/2025 d) Grass cutting agreement Chair to draft risk assessment. Clerk to circulate agreement for final comments.		
07/03/2025	Planning <i>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]</i>		
	Reference	Detail	Status
	25/00172/FUL	Erection of greenhouse in vegetable	NO
	25/00173/LBC	garden, Kirkharle Hall	COMMENTS
08/03/2025	Items for Consideration and Decision a) Community survey update Working group set up with 3 members of the public, led by Chair. A draft survey has been drawn up. Parishioners will be able to complete it online, so posters will be needed and a link can be uploaded on the website. Paper forms will also be made available. Results will be collated into a spreadsheet for analysis. Initially it is hoped to keep the survey simple with 5 key questions, and depending on the data received it may be the Council repeat this every 3-5 years as need arises. One query from the working group was the extent to which the parish wanted to welcome visitors/ tourists. Being on St. Oswald's Way provides an opportunity and there are a few Airbnb's locally. The current draft will be circulated to Councillors for comments. Clerk to create a simple document to explain the levels of responsibility in local government. Suggestion to include a note about the limitations on Parish Council influence. Clerk to see if Ray Wind Fund can share their initial research from when the fund was established. b) Community Emergency Plan These details were printed in the February/ March edition of The Chimes and constitute the Memorial Hall Committee's commitment to ensuring access to a hot drink and somewhere to keep warm during power outages. <i>"In the event of a power outage Mrs Rogerson and the Hall team will endeavour to maintain facilities at the Hall from 9am – 7pm for the benefit of the community."</i> c) Establishment of liaison committee – quarry application There have been no updates on this matter. Cllr Lawless explained there will be a lot of initial set up work needed before any quarrying takes place. The liaison committee (and any presentation on it) will be established by the developer. Clerk to contact Cllr Riddle to understand more about the committee and what to expect. e) Gilbert Grange development Current state of site has been reported to NCC Planning Enforcement department and they have attempted to contact the developer. The site is		

	<p>currently being managed by a bridging company and it is understood the majority of the existing houses are under offer. Parish Council will persevere with trying to make contact and get the site tidied up.</p> <p>f) Insurance renewal – quotes for consideration Insurance renewal due on 1 June. Currently only one quote received. One broker asked for further details on the mower and whether it requires a licence to go on the road. Cllrs agreed it does not. Further quotes to be gathered and to be decided at next meeting.</p> <p>g) Documents to be reviewed: i. Risk assessment ii. Asset register Approved and ready to be published.</p> <p>h) Conveyance of land to Memorial Hall Memorial Hall have achieved the necessary funding for first stages of the work and have appointed a contractor. The land from the playing field now needs to be conveyed to the ownership of the Memorial Hall. Clerk to instruct solicitors. Cllrs agreed the work can proceed before the conveyance is completed and a verbal agreement of this with the Memorial Hall committee is sufficient.</p>
09/03/2025	<p>Items for Information Only</p> <p>a. Correspondence Digital switchover drop-in sessions – poster put up in Post Office and information to be included in Chimes. A sticker has been put on the defibrillator stating it is not in use. Clerk is chasing this and will remove the sticker once contact has been made with the originator.</p> <p>b. Items for Information Ray Wind Fund update – small grants/ bursaries are still going through, but largely committed to B4RN works. B4RN update – connections should be going live this month. Climate change toolkit – hot compost bins have been delivered and all have been taken. If anyone missed out, please contact Cllr Anne Palmer who may be able to obtain some more from NCC. Net Zero meeting attended by Chair. This meeting was in Cramlington and shared information about grants available for net zero projects. The closing date has now passed, but details were shared with the Memorial Hall Committee. Home energy advisor session. This session was postponed due to storms. They have now been invited to March last Saturday coffee morning (29 March). Elections update. This year is an election year in Northumberland. Clerk to confirm details for meetings in May, including Annual Parish Meeting.</p> <p>c. Items to be included in next agenda</p>
10/03/2025	<p>Finance</p> <p>a. Account Balances – <i>To receive a report detailing account balances</i> £16,809.54</p>

	b. Accounts for Payment – To review and approve items of expenditure, including those received before the meeting.	
	Date	Description
	Jan-Feb	Clerk wages
		£350.40 inc. HMRC £70.00
	31/01/25	Robson & Cowan
		£21.30 fuel
	01/02/25	Northumberland Estates rent
		£15
	March	Memorial Hall toilet grant
		£350
	All approved for payment.	
	c. confirmation of internal auditor appointment	
	Robert McFarlane has confirmed he can carry out the audit for the Council again.	
11/03/2025	Date & time of next meeting. Annual Parish Meeting – 6 May	