

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

None received

4 members of the public present

02/01/2025 **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.

Cllr Fortune – Village hall interest

03/01/2025 **To approve the minutes of previous meeting held 5 November 2024.**

Approved & signed by chair

04/01/2025 **To receive comments/ queries from members of the public with regard to items on the agenda**

Attendees wished to speak about recent power cuts in the village, Memorial Hall grant and the proposed Community Action Plan

05/01/2025 **Parish Clerk's report**

Update from Police:

I have checked from 19/10/24 and there have only been three incidents in total. One incident refers to concern for the occupants of a property, there was a report of dangerous driving near to the A696 and B6342 junction which the caller has submitted dashcam footage however I understand we were only provided with a partial registration. The other was a report of icy road conditions near to the Knowesgate Hotel. So all in all a quiet period.

Play area improvements

Two funding applications have been submitted. We have been successful in the grant of £1182 from the Housing Development S106 funding from Northumberland County Council, but are still waiting to hear from the Community Foundation for c.£1800. Hopefully will hear by the end of the month and get the work completed in before April.

Clerk to contact the Kirkwhelpington Educational Trust to see if it might be possible to obtain funding from them.

Street lighting update

New lights have been installed and were working prior to the power outage on 2 January. Clerk has reported the majority of lights aren't working, so they should be getting fixed soon.

Fix my street

Loose kerbstone outside village hall. Reported, awaiting repair. Stone has been removed

Chair reported a fly tipping issue in the dog bin – domestic waste including broken glass was left in this bin on 2 January. Chair to mention this in Chimes article.

06/01/2025 **Exclusion of the public**

No items

07/01/2025 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
24/03815/FUL	Proposed single storey extensions and rooflights to main roof – 9 Eastlands, Kirkwhelpington	GRANTED

08/01/2025 Items for Consideration and Decision

a) Community survey & working group

There has been only one response to the request for working group participants from the information in the Chimes and on the website. Another person expressed their interest in the meeting of being involved. Suggestion to explore the Ray Wind Fund survey which was carried out previously. The survey should be available online and as a paper copy.

Chair will set up a working group to plan how to approach the parish and gather feedback. Any spend will need to be approved via the council.

b) Community Emergency Plan

Awaiting directions from village hall committee, particularly regarding out of hours access to the generator and the devising of a rota and training for those willing to help in emergency situations.

Cllr Fortune and Cllr Rogerson will work with Chair of Village Hall to get a plan in place and promoted through Chimes magazine.

c) Establishment of liaison committee – quarry application

Following the granting of the Northside Quarry application, a Liaison Committee is due to be established, which should give local representatives a chance to ensure works are proceeding as set out and raise any issues. The planning advisor is responsible for establishing this committee within six months of the agreement having been signed. Chair will contact for further details before the next meeting.

d) Parish notice board repairs

Clerk to obtain a quote from local carpenters for the repairs.

e) Adapt bus

The Adapt Bus has not run since last September and the Council were told Adapt were recruiting, but have since been informed the route isn't financially viable. The Clerk is chasing Adapt to provide the running costs for the route, and working with the neighbouring parish (Wallington Demense) to ensure this vital service is reinstated.

f) New street lighting

See Clerk's Report above.

g) B4RN update

Work has resumed with the B4RN broadband installation but it has caused some disruption in the village. Clerk to contact B4RN for an updated schedule of works and switch on dates for the service to go live. Additionally suggest they may want to install some form of hard standing by the junction box at the entrance to the village.

h) Clerk training 2025

Society of Local Council Clerk's are running training courses on the following topics which would be useful for the Clerk to attend.

Election training £18

Keeping on top of website access compliance £45

Clerk will make bookings and attend courses.

i) Community Chest funding opportunity – deadline 10 January.

The Chair has shared information about this funding opportunity with the Village Hall. The Parish Council are not eligible to apply.

09/01/2025 **Items for Information Only**

a. Correspondence

28/11/24 - Map modification order – Cllr Brown advised this is still under discussion and likely to be revised.

07/01/25 – Update from Northern Power Grid:

I was sorry to hear that Kirkwhelpington has been impacted by this unforeseen power cut. I hope the below is useful.

As you know our teams were deployed as swiftly as possible to investigate the cause of the fault. It was confirmed to be a neutral fault, caused by a fault on a connection to the transformer.

This seems to have been recognised by locals – who appreciate the amount of resources deployed to assist.

The fault caused excess voltage to be generated on our electricity network; because of this some customers experienced damage to some of their electrical equipment.

A generator was used to get the lights back on once the transformer was isolated – allowing our engineers to make a repair. The transformer has been tested and returned to service the same day, getting customer back on to mains supply. (If there was any concern about the transformer it would have been replaced however the faulty connection was found and replaced)

Although the fault was not due to a deliberate act or negligence on our part and we are not legally liable for any damage or costs our customers may have incurred, as a gesture of goodwill, we arranged for our contractor Graphic Electronic Services (GES) to visit customers; with a view to inspecting any general domestic equipment, which is believed to have been damaged as a result of the fault.

GES are continuing to repair and replace electrical items as a gesture of goodwill. The time frame for completing all repairs has been hampered slightly by the supply chain – ie they are awaiting parts for equipment to complete all repairs. However they have engineers in the village this week to continue their work.

There was a couple of short power cuts yesterday [6 January] – see below for info.

07.08 – circuit breaker trip due to a fault further up the network.

And later on at 19.28 – 19.29 – this was due to switching on the network to allow safe repairs on another section of the network.

Please pass on our thanks to residents for their patience and understanding.

Should any customer have any enquiries regarding outstanding repairs to their equipment, they can contact GES via the following telephone numbers: 01274 651733 Monday to Friday, 9:00 am -5:30 pm or 07885 251 361 outside of these hours. We are always here to help and should anyone need to speak to us at NPg, please call our 24-hour contact centre on 105. This number is free to call from both mobiles and landlines.

I have also provided a copy of the letter handed to customers after the fault. I hope you find the information provided helpful and we will follow up in writing by the end of next week, with an update.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if there is anything raised that you wish to discuss. Regrettably, we are unable to attend the meeting tomorrow to offer this explanation in person – however me and my colleagues would be happy to come in the future if you wish.

Chris Mitchell,
Regional Customer Service Manager

Clerk to invite Northern Powergrid to the Village Hall for a briefing from the company with regards to this and other power outages. The community want reassurance that the systems are robust enough. Ideally this will be a Saturday in early February and will be promoted around the village.

31/12/2024 Memorial Hall grant request

Memorial Hall Treasurer was present to provide additional information regarding their request for a grant from the Parish Council. Councillors agreed to grant of £700.

b. Items for Information

Ray Wind Fund update – directors meetings have moved to bimonthly as most of the funds have been allocated to the B4RN project. This will be the same for 2025, so any large funding requests should wait until August 2026.

Climate change toolkit – Chair has been persevering with the hot compost bins and these should be delivered next month. If you expressed an interest previously, Cllr Palmer will be in touch with you.

Net zero event – Chair to attend this event & report back at next meeting.

Home energy advisor session – this has been set up for Sat 25 Jan during the regular coffee morning. A poster has been put up to advise residents, as well as information on the PC website.

c. Items to be included in next agenda

Update from Northern Powergrid
Survey results from Community Plan
Liaison committee establishment
Grass cutting agreement
Adapt bus update
Insurance renewal
Elections update

a. Account Balances – *To receive a report detailing account balances*
£16,006.61

b. Accounts for Payment – To review and approve items of expenditure, including those received before the meeting.

Date	Description	Amount
Nov-Dec	Clerk wages	£372.30 inc. HMRC £74.40
January	Clerk training with SLCC	£63 + VAT
January	Memorial Hall toilet grant	£350
January	Memorial Hall grant	£700

All agreed and to be paid.

c. Budget review & precept setting

After reviewing the proposed budget the Council agreed to the precept being raised by £1000 for 2025/26. Clerk will submit the paperwork.

11/01/2025 **Date & time of next meeting.**
Tues 4 March 2025, 7:30pm