**Minutes of ordinary meeting of Wallington Demesne Parish Council held at Middleton Village Hall on Monday 23rd September 2019 commencing at 730pm**

**Those Present:** J Ballantine (Chairman), D Cowan, A Robson, V Bland, C Hughes, R Boucher, D Dexter, E Green,

C Miller (Clerk), G Sanderson (County Council)

**2019/64 Apologies for absence**

S Richards, A Teasdale (Northumbria Police).

**2019/65 Declarations of Members interests**

There were no Declaration of Members Interests.

**2019/66 Co-Option Vacancy**

J Ballantine proposed R Boucher be co-opted onto the Parish Council, A Robson seconded, all in agreement.

**2019/67 Opportunity for members of the public to raise any matter on the agenda**

There were no members of the public present.

**2019/68 Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22nd July 2019**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 22nd July 2019 were accepted as a true record.

**2019/69 Matters arising from previous meeting held on Monday 22nd July 2019**

* **Fibre optic broadband:** No further information received.
* **Lampost at Oakford:** J Ballantine had been contacted by County Council regarding the ownership of the lamppost, however no further information had been received and the matter was being pushed from one organisation to another.
* **Cambo seat:** New seat had been purchased, however seat outside of Cambo Village Hall had now fallen into disrepair, and it was resolved J Ballantine would remove the structure and a replacement ordered.
* **Defibrillator signage at Wallington:** Planning application decision to be made 30/9/19.

**2019/70 NCC Update**

Climate change work ongoing at County Hall with action plan being produced which would include items such as planting more trees and installing additional electric vehicle charging points. 63,000 potholes had been actioned in the last twelve months with larger sections being actioned as opposed to patching works, with G Sanderson requesting a new million plus project to spend money on country roads, however there was no guarantee this would be approved. New Morpeth school open and car park to be built on old school site and work to commence next week on new strip of land at train station to create a 25 space car park. C Hughes mentioned the well used road from Scots Gap to A696, with large chunks of the road maintained to an acceptable standard, other parts not so, and it was a constant nightmare to drive on some areas.

G Sanderson explained the County Council work within a very small budget for road maintenance, road condition surveys are carried out on all County roads and this particular section, it was thought, would be actioned in the next financial year. V Bland concerned about roads being inspected after repairs carried out, further to a road in a neighbouring parish being actioned, with drainage still an issue. A Robson reported potholes from Grangemoor junction to Bolam had recently been actioned, however the quality of the repairs were unacceptable, and the C158 road through Middleton has very poor surfacing from the Ox Inn through to the T Junction. G Sanderson stated he believed these repairs were actioned before winter weather had occurred (beast from the East) which had then created further problems. Signage at Wallington and Scots Gap still required repair, however County Cllr had been informed signage at Wallington had been rectified.

**2019/71 Police Update**

There had been an increase in scrap metal vans and reports regarding poachers, any suspicious vehicles should be reported to Northumbria Police, and there is to be a week long rural crime operation addressing these issues. Two dogs had been found near Angerton North Moor in the farmyard on Thursday 12/9/19, running around, however the occupants of the properties do not know who they belong to and they eventually ran off, at least one had a harness on and was quite aggressive.

**2019/72 Reports from representatives at outside meetings**

* **Cambo School:** New teacher had started at the school, swimming, tag rugby, football, yoga and music lessons continuing. Art Creativity visit organised at Wallington, Harvest Festival to be held 25/10/19.
* **Cambo Village Hall:** Table tennis and bowls club attempting to expand, with bowls club applying for grant through Ray Wind Farm fund. The hall do have money tied up in trusts which cannot be accessed for a few years, and funding had been secured through Ray Wind Farm for roof repairs.
* **Middleton Hall:** Thanks given to A Robson and his brother for organising the annual leek show. Regular events being held in the hall. Full funding for building work had now been secured. Release of grant monies of £5000, previously agreed by the Parish Council, had been requested and it was resolved to authorise the cheque at tonight’s meeting.
* **Wallington F.C:** Club had received grant for dug outs and fence from Ray Wind Farm, and green paint had been purchased for repainting of container. Washing machine and tumble drier purchased. D Cowan reported a problem with litter being dumped on the pitch on match days. Club still in the two cup competitions this year.

**2019/73 Financial Matters**

**2019/73/01 Payments for authorisation**:

* C Miller – August, September salary & expenses – £421.07
* HMRC – PAYE on above - £2.00
* Cambo Village Hall – rent of meeting room - £9.00
* Four Seasons Timber Products – seat for Cambo - £358
* Middleton & Todridge Village Hall – grant funding of £5,000 towards hall extension

**2019/74 Planning**

**2019/74/01 Planning Applications received**

* 19/02027/FUL: 12 Willow Park, alterations to existing bungalow – no objections.

**2019/74/02 Approval of Planning Application received**

* No approval of planning application had been received.

**2019/75 Neighbourhood Management – to report/update on action regarding issues within the parish**

C Hughes concerned about the unacceptable state of the old National Trust property at Scots Gap, with the grounds being left to overgrow with grass over one foot high, and in places poking through tarmac, and the whole site could be a potential danger, ie, squatters. There is no longer a W/C facility for wannie line walkers, with persons parking at Robson and Cowan to use their facilities, instead of using the car park. It was agreed the building looks dilapidated, the grounds completely unkempt, and a letter would be forwarded to National Trust at Wallington. J Ballantine had been contacted by parents regarding a bus driver speeding when on school run duties and dropping children off in inappropriate places, and which had been reported to the bus company.

**2019/76 Local Transport Plan Programme 2020-21**

At the previous meeting it had been agreed to request speed reduction of 30mph to 20mph /traffic calming measures at Cambo school, footpath repair between Doctor’s and Oakford at Scots Gap, with third request agreed as footpath repair to Cambo school.

**2019/77 Correspondence**

* Northumberland Age UK – funding events
* Northumberland County Council – Waste leaflets & stickers
* Northumberland County Council – notice of 6th Annual Town & Parish Council Conference – 3/10/19
* Ray Wind Funds – Fund report – Year one

**2019/78 Cambo Burial Ground – Regulations regarding headstones**

Request had been received for gravestone to be inlaid onto burial ground, however this was contrary to the burial ground regulations as they any structures had to be upright. A parishioner from Rothley had queried why they had been charged for burial fees as a non-parish resident, however Rothley were not part of any Joint Burial Committee, although it now appeared they had been paying towards Rothbury cemetery, which was assumed to be an error at County Hall Council Tax Department, as they were not a part of Rothbury Joint Burial Committee, with further information awaited.

**2019/79 Urgent Business**

Northumberland Local Plan – Consultation on Scoping Documents for Affordable Housing and Planning Obligations SPDs had been received, however it was felt a professional planning expert would be required to submit a response.

**2019/80 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Wallington Demesne Parish Council will be held on Monday 25th November 2019 commencing at 730pm in Cambo Village Hall.



Claire Miller

Parish Clerk

The meeting closed at 835pm.