

Minutes of ordinary meeting of Wallington Demesne Parish Council commencing 730pm on Monday 26th September 2022 at Middleton Village Hall

Those Present: J Ballantine (Chairman), A Robson, D Dexter, M Seth, C Hughes, E Green, L Brown, D Thompson, C Miller (Clerk), Forestry Consultant, two representatives from National Trust

2022/83 Apologies for absence

CLlr G Sanderson (County CLlr), R Boucher (received 27/9/22)

2022/84 Declarations of Members Interests

There were no Declaration of Members interests.

2022/85 Presentation by National Trust regarding the design for the Woodland Creation at Newbiggin House Farm on the Wallington Estate

National Trust representatives carried out a presentation regarding the plan to create a 125-hectare community woodland at Newbiggin Farm, which would be a mixture of native trees on open ground and some areas of conifer. There would be a new path network connecting Scots Gap and Cambo, Cambo School to Scots Gap, and other new trails within the woodland. The proposals would be classed as a community asset and plans were currently displayed to the public for comment. The plans showed over 6km of new paths, including two circular routes which would be multi use. There would be Riparian planting to the North, blocks of native woodland, wood pasture, wild orchard, grazing land, and a fabulous opportunity to develop wildflower meadows. Planting anticipated 2023-2024, depending on receipt of planning consent. Woodland would create additional habitat, with red squirrels a key beneficiary, and lead to benefits with public access, and new ways for people to interact. Project would sequester 200,000 tonnes of carbon, equivalent to the emissions of over 250 people across their full life time. Depending on popularity of the proposals, there would be potential for additional car parking at Scots Gap, and provision of W/C's if necessary. Food production on the site still being considered and Stirling university were working towards growing fungi along with conifers, to bring forestry and food production together. Natural England, Environment Agency, Historic England and Forestry Commission could see no reason why the project should not go ahead, with Northumberland County Council ecologist and archaeologists in favour. The project was also supported by the Great Northumberland Forest, and supportive comments had been received from local people. Fence and path installation would be commenced early Summer 2023 before planting. Rest places, ie seats could be installed. Several funding options were being looked at. Accessibility such as handrails would be beneficial, and the site does lend itself to be accessible to all. Broken land drains were currently being investigated. Fracking infrastructure queried, however it is unlikely National Trust members would vote for this, once land had been planted and trees became protected, although whoever owns the mineral rights could submit proposals for fracking.

Representatives thanked for their attendance and left the meeting.

2022/86 Opportunity for members of the public to raise any matter

There were no matters raised from members of the public.

2022/87 Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 25th July 2022

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 25th July 2022 be accepted as a true record.

2022/88 Footpaths

National Trust had advised their team should now have cleared the overhanging trees from the footpath between Cambo and Wallington. Clerk to report overgrown ivy from bus shelter/school garden to National Trust. Ongoing problems with footpath past Doctors, and hedge debris from households problematic. Clerk to re-report footpath to County Council; D Thompson to speak to householder regarding hedge debris.

2022/89 Speeding traffic within the parish/request to lower speed limit at Middleton

D Thompson had re-contacted County Council regarding reduction in speed limit, who had suggested "SLOW" road markings, with County Cllr G Sanderson willing to fund through his small schemes fund.

2022/90 Drainage issues within the parish

Gullies at Payne's Bridge and Oakford Scots Gap continue to be problematic. Clerk to re-contact County Council.

2022/91 To consider Parish Council role in Civil Emergencies; to receive update on Village Hall Committee's Crises Management proposals

Village hall attempting to purchase a generator via Ray Wind Farm funding. Middleton Hall Committee did not consider a Crises Management centre feasible, with the low population and costs of maintaining a generator. Transportation of parishioners to Cambo would need considered during a crises. Volunteers willing to check on residents could be organised, with local knowledge imperative.

2022/92 To receive update regarding additional planter for green at Scots Gap junction

Planter had been installed at a cost of £80.

2022/93 To consider venue(s) for future Parish Council meetings

Cambo Village Hall Committee had advised that in the future Parish Council meetings would not be disturbed by other users of the hall.

2022/94 NCC Update

County Cllr G Sanderson had forwarded the following report. "It has been a very sad two weeks, but we have honoured Her Majesty well in Northumberland. I have attended a large number of Church Services and I have been pleased with the way NCC have facilitated the Books of Remembrance and organised a large number of civic functions including the Proclamation in Morpeth. You will have read in the press about the difficulties we have had in respect of some HR issues at the Council - these are now resolved, and things are very much improved. We have had a very good response to our advert for a new CE and we will be recruiting one soon. We also have a new management structure agreed and will be advertising for those roles shortly as well. Despite the internal problems we have continued to provide good service and our education results are improving every year. Our Ofsted results show that in 2017 76% of our schools were Outstanding or Good compared to a national average of 86% while in 2022 we are at 89% compared to the national average of 86%, thus moving from lower quartile to higher quartile in five years. The Morpeth Leisure Centre is looking good and the new car park at Goose hill will be ready in a few months. Our Budget process has begun - like Newcastle which has a budget Shortfall of £30million we are around £17 million as things currently stand. This is entirely down to pay, fuel, and general inflation. So, in plenty of time, we are working hard now looking at how we can manage this."

2022/95 National Trust Update

Response to Newbiggin Woodland proposals to be forwarded to National Trust, once Cllrs had looked closely at the plans and confirmed their opinion to Clerk.

2022/96 Financial Matters

2022/96/01 The following payments are due for authorisation

- Spanglefish – annual web-site hosting - £103
- C Miller – July, September salary & expenses – £371.92
- HMRC – PAYE - £81.56
- J G Ballantine – planter - £80

It was resolved to approve the payments.

2022/96/02 To approve costs for lighting of Christmas tree at Scots Gap

Costs had been secured for tree delivery, erection and removal - £270; transformer and three 10m strips

of lights - £275. If required, 5m Cable guards would be £50. Church Committee had to formally meet to ensure church electricity would be sufficient and their insurance would cover a tree on their property. It was resolved a tree would be organised, subject to church committee giving permission. Lighting charges would need to be met by the Parish Council.

2022/97 Planning

2022/97/01 Planning Applications received

- 22/10486/FUL: West Grange Bungalow – remove existing rear PVC conservatory and replace with single storey rear extension including new patio/decking, remove existing wooden stable block and storage shed and replace with new detached garage – no objections.

2022/97/02 Approval of Planning Application received

- 22/00290/LBC: 2 Front Row Cambo – Listed Building Consent
- 22/01009/FUL: Scots Gap Medical Group – proposed new modular prefabrication building, fully accessible with ramp

2022/98 Neighbourhood Management - To report/update on action regarding issues within the parish

Water leak in Scots Gap had been rectified by Northumbrian Water who had then failed to remove their traffic lights in good time. Middleton village signage at the West end had disappeared – Clerk to report to County Council.

2022/99 To receive information regarding B4RN/B4NTR Broadband matters

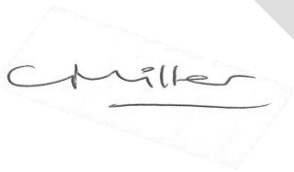
Government approval of top-up vouchers awaited.

2022/100 Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981, Review of the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way – Informal pre-order consultation –

Proposals relating to add a restricted byway 235m South-East of Hartburn Grange to 720m south-east of Greenside Farm considered and it was resolved the Parish Council would support the plan.

2022/101 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Wallington Demesne Parish Council will be held on Monday 28th November 2022 commencing 730pm in Cambo Village Hall.



Claire Miller
Parish Clerk

The meeting closed at 905pm.