

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Wallington Demesne Parish Council held at 730pm on Monday 27th March 2023 at Cambo Village Hall

Those Present: J Ballantine (Chairman), A Robson, L Brown, C Hughes, E Green, C Miller (Clerk)

2023/21 Apologies for absence

D Dexter, M Seth, D Thompson, R Boucher, G Sanderson (County Cllr)

2023/30 National Trust Update

Item moved up the agenda.

Lesley Silvera from Groundworks and Kelly Hollings from the National Trust present. SL and KH advised the Parish Council about a 12 month project working with several land holdings to improve water quality, hay meadows, peatland and hedgerows within the parish. The project is funded by DEFRA and part of a 10 year experiment on farmland within the Wansbeck catchment, relating to river restoration and habitat improvement.

The project will be involved in the improvement of water quality. White crayfish are a specialist creature that live in clear water, and vulnerable to plague. Partners, such as Natural England are to be involved, with ten sites having been determined, including three large farmed holdings, and land in Harwood Forest. Five metre wide hedgerows to be planted, and fencing protection arranged. A progress report can be supplied November/December 2023, and a field visit arranged. Wildlife survey taster day to be held by National Trust 29/4/23. LS and KH thanked for their attendance and left the meeting.

2023/22 Declarations of Members interests

As the new treasurer of Middleton & Todridge Village Hall Committee, C Hughes declared an interest in the payment to Middleton & Todridge Village Hall.

2023/23 Opportunity for members of the public to raise any matter

There were no issues raised by members of the public.

2023/24 Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 23rd January 2023

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 23rd January 2023 be accepted as a true record.

2023/25 Footpaths

Clearance works on Footpaths from Scots Gap to Cambo and footpath to school had been actioned.

2023/26 Speeding traffic within the parish/request to lower speed limit at Middleton

Eight slow signs had been placed at Middleton, however they were not in the location that D Thompson had suggested due to an email error. The signage had not appeared to have made a difference, with matter to be discussed at a future Parish Council meeting when D Thompson is in attendance.

2023/27 Drainage issues within the parish

All areas identified had been actioned by the County Council.

2023/28 To consider Parish Council role in Civil Emergencies; to receive update on Village Hall Committee's Crises Management proposals

There was no further information as regards the Village Hall Committee Crises Management proposals, with C Hughes to make enquiries.

2023/29 NCC Update

G Sanderson had provided a report on the following. County Council had agreed the budget 2023-2024, with increase kept to around 1.8% plus the adult social care precept of 2%. This had not been easy at a time of fuel and wage inflation of around 9%, however GS was determined NCC would not cut any frontline services, and to maintain special NCC offers, such as the first hour free in Country Parks and free town centre car parks. NCC were looking forward to taking a very detailed look across the Council services to try to do jobs in the best possible way and save money by creating efficiency. It will never be perfect but this is something NCC need to do. The new Leisure Centre in Morpeth opens very soon, and the new free car park at Goosehill is almost full everyday so that has been very well accepted.

2023/31 Financial Matters

2023/31/01 The following payments require authorisation:

- C Miller – January, February salary & expenses – £402.10
- HMRC – PAYE - £88.20
- Wel Medical – defibrillator pads - £79.08; defibrillator battery - £279.54
- Middleton & Todridge Village Hall – meeting room rent - £20.00

It was resolved to approve the payments.

2023/31/02 Annual review of Cambo burial ground fees and charges

Not discussed.

2023/32 Planning

2023/32/01 Planning Applications received

- 23/00238/FUL: Todridge Farm U6040 Corridge junction to Middleton junction – conversion of existing agricultural building to residential use and installation of sewage treatment plant – the Parish Council had no objections.
- 23/00725/FUL & 23/00726/LBC: Cambo Village Hall – replace existing window with door to create new access to village hall and install solar panels on East and West facing courtyard roof – the Parish Council had no objections.
- 23/00572/LBC: Two Queens, Front Row, Cambo – Listed Building for removal of 20th century fireplace, installation of log burner, new sandstone hearth, flue and flue liner, installation of new chimney cowl – the Parish Council had no objections.
- Proposed 4G telecommunications upgrade for The Home Office at Grangemoor Farm Scots Gap – the Parish Council had no objections.

2023/32/02 Approval of Planning Application received

- 22/04194/FELTPO: 8 Willow Park, Scots Gap – Tree Preservation Order
- 22/04482/LBC: 4 Front Row, Cambo – Listed Building Consent for internal works

2023/33 Neighbourhood Management - To report/update on action regarding issues within the parish

Complaints had been received about the lack of signage at the old National Trust HQ regarding car parking for the wannie line. It was resolved to re-contact the National Trust to request signage, which had been requested on several occasions further to ongoing parishioner concerns.

2023/34 To receive information regarding B4RN/B4NTR Broadband matters

inorthumberland top-up vouchers were available towards the B4RN Broadband scheme.

2023/35 To consider Middleton Flood concerns

Replacement of the culvert reduction boarding under the Wannie Line of the Middleton burn had been actioned. Some residents had been given a leaflet with photographs of the new installation dated 9th January 2023 and some other information on flood precautions. The barrier is a structural improvement on that installed in 2014/15 which had not

lasted very long. D Thompson prepared to initially carry out a bi-annual inspection to monitor the condition of the installation.

2023/36 To consider Middleton Byway Open to All Traffic

Nothing to report.

2023/37 To consider arrangements for Christmas Tree 2023

There had been no cost for the 2022 Christmas tree as it had fallen down during strong winds. It was agreed the church land was not the right location for any future trees. The National Trust land on the corner at Scots Gap junction would be preferred, however it had been agreed to move the tree around the parish, and Middleton or Cambo should be considered next. Additionally, there had not been enough lighting on the tree. To be discussed further at next PC meeting.

2023/38 To consider King's Coronation celebration(s)

It was resolved to contribute £100 towards the barbecue celebrations Cambo Village Hall were organising, with Rothley & Hollinghill Parish Council and Cambo Village Hall to also contribute £100.

2023/39 Annual review of internal controls

It was resolved the current level of internal controls were sufficient for the present needs of the Parish Council. It was agreed to add the possibility of on-line banking/BACS payments to the next meeting agenda.

2023/40 Annual review of internal auditor

It was resolved to re-engage Mr D Metcalf as internal auditor year ending 31.3.23.

2023/41 Annual review of Asset register

It was resolved the register was a true records of the Council's assets.

2023/42 Annual review of Risk assessment

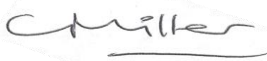
It was resolved the risk assessment was sufficient for the present needs of the council.

2023/43 Annual review of insurance cover

It was resolved the current insurance levels, as follows, were sufficient for the present needs of the Council. Public liability 10m; Employers liability 10m; Officials indemnity £500K; Libel and Slander £250K; Legal £250K; street furniture £24K; gates £9K.

2023/44 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Wallington Demesne Parish Council will be held on Monday 22nd May 2023 commencing 730pm in Middleton Village Hall.



Claire Miller
Parish Clerk

The meeting closed at 840pm