

WALLINGTON DEMESNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual meeting of Wallington Demesne Parish Council held at 730pm on Monday 22nd May 2023 at Middleton Village Hall

Those Present: M Seth (Chairman), D Dexter, D Thompson, J Ballantine, L Brown, C Hughes, E Green, C Miller (Clerk)

2023/45 Apologies for absence

A Robson, R Boucher, G Sanderson (County Cllr)

2023/46 Declarations of Members interests

There were no Declaration of Members Interests.

2023/47 Election of Chairman

M Seth proposed and seconded as Chairman. J Ballantine proposed and seconded as Chairman. Vote was taken and M Seth duly elected.

2023/48 Election of Vice Chairman

A Robson proposed and seconded as Vice Chairman and duly elected.

2023/49 Opportunity for members of the public to raise any matter

There were no issues raised from members of the public.

2023/50 Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 27th March 2023

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 27th March 2023 be accepted as a true record.

2023/51 Review of Parish Council Standing Orders

It was resolved the Standing Orders were sufficient for the present needs of the Parish Council, but would require amendment should the request for on-line banking be authorised (to be considered later in meeting).

2023/52 To consider future aims and objectives of the Parish Council

M Seth would like to see a closer working relationship with the National Trust and it was agreed to add an agenda item to the next PC meeting to elect a Parish Council National Trust representative – in the meantime Clerk would advise NT of this.

M Seth wished to see improved relations with County Council regarding road repairs/pavement repairs/trees (particular concern about a tree in danger of falling at Middleton bank) – however these were matters to be raised under Neighbourhood Management.

It was agreed a review of parish footpaths, and organising a regular parish tidy up were future aims and objectives of the Parish Council.

2023/53 To consider improvements to the Parish Council's communication methods

C Hughes of the opinion that only some members of the council communicate between meetings via email. However, one would assume if other members do not respond via email communication, they have nothing to comment on the matter under discussion.

2023/54 To consider replacement Parish Council noticeboard at Scots Gap

Noticeboard at Scots Gap required repair, however C Hughes of the opinion a new covered noticeboard would be preferable. The present structure at Robson & Cowan's was not easily accessed and could be moved nearer the fence and entrance. It was agreed C Hughes would research options for replacement board and report back at next meeting.

2023/55 Speeding traffic within the parish/request to lower speed limit at Middleton

Speeding traffic still occurring. The newly installed traffic calming measures were clearly inadequate, however Clerk advised any request would need to be made via the County Council Local Transport Plan, with 2024-2025 programme requests to be considered at July PC meeting. Clerk advised petitions on any matter can be made via the County Council web-site, which require 50 signatories - E Green to organise.

2023/56 Drainage issues within the parish

Drainage issues continue at Middleton near to old railway bridge. Gullies were not in the correct position, with silt causing blockages. It was resolved E Green would forward photographic evidence to Clerk for transmission to County Council.

2023/57 To consider Parish Council role in Civil Emergencies; to receive update on Village Hall Committee's Crises Management proposals

Cambo Village Hall had received grant funds for a generator and solar panels from Northern Powergrid, however an initial survey had suggested there were bats in the building, therefore no further action could be taken until bat survey results were received. Middleton Village Hall were not furthering crises management due to Cambo and Scots Gap chapel being well advanced in their crises management plans.

2023/58 NCC Update

G Sanderson had forwarded update, including information regarding the boundary commission review, which would be considered later in the meeting.

2023/59 National Trust Update

2023/59/01 Request for signage to indicate parking for Wannie Line

National Trust had acknowledged the request relating to signage and parking for the Wannie Line Walk from the National Trust Offices at Scots Gap, and were to arrange a site meeting to consider. Clerk to request update.

2023/60 Financial Matters

2023/60/01 The following payments require authorisation:

- C Miller – March, April salary & expenses – £420.11/expenses £54.16
- NALC – annual subscription - £99.20
- BHIB – annual insurance premium - £395.73

It was resolved to approve the payments.

2023/60/02 Annual review of Cambo burial ground fees and charges

It was resolved to retain the Cambo burial ground fees at the current rates.

2023/60/03 To consider on-line banking and additional bank signatories

It was resolved to apply for on-line banking. C Hughes and M Seth to be added as signatories.

2023/61 Planning

2023/61/01 Planning Applications received

- 23/01182/FUL: Arquia Site, 304304 Grangemoor Farm – proposed telecommunications upgrade installation – no objections.

- 23/01232/OUT: West Grange Bungalow, Scots Gap – outline application – all matters reserved for new dwelling in garden of existing dwelling (self-build) – no objections.
- 23/01489/VARYCO: Workshop Todridge Farm Middleton – Variation of condition 2 on 21/00861/FUL to allow changes to approved scheme to limit impact of conversion on surrounding area and buildings by reducing footprint – no objections.

2023/61/02 Approval of Planning Application received

- 22/04293/LBC – Middle Steads, 6 Front Row, Cambo – Listed Building Consent to remove existing 20th century fireplace, open inglenook and expose lintel, remove existing modern hearth tiles and install sandstone hearth, install log burner and flue, replace missing chimney pot and cowl
- 23/00238/FUL: Todridge Farm – Conversion of existing agricultural building to residential use and installation of sewage treatment plant

2023/62 Neighbourhood Management - To report/update on action regarding issues within the parish

Resident had reported potholes in Cambo. Graffiti had reappeared on road signs at Payne's Bridge, with C Hughes removing. Further pothole required attention near to Grangemoor. Footpath from Newbiggin House Farm to Cambo requires clearance – C Hughes to provide photographic evidence to Clerk. M Seth to forward photographic evidence to Clerk regarding dangerous tree at Middleton Bank – Clerk to report issues to County Council.

2023/63 To receive information regarding B4RN/B4NTR Broadband matters

B4RN had appointed a representative to oversee the project. It was agreed the Parish Council supported the project.

2023/64 To consider Middleton Flood concerns

Works complete. Item to be removed from agenda.

2023/65 To consider Middleton Byway Open to All Traffic

D Thompson consulting with County Council as a private individual. Item to be removed from agenda.

2023/66 To consider arrangements for Christmas Tree 2023

It was resolved a Christmas tree should be placed in the parish, possibly lit by solar lighting. Clerk to enquire whether National Trust land in Scots Gap could be used, which would require a hole to be dug. Middleton Hall Committee were not in agreement with a tree being placed on their land. There were no sites for a tree in Cambo considered suitable. A smaller tree would look more impressive due to the shortage of lights. Two additional lighting strings could be purchased, with L Brown to enquire whether the current lighting could be adapted to be solar run.

2023/67 Audit of Accounts y/e 31/3/23

2023/67/01 To consider and agree any actions arising from the report of the internal auditor

There were no matters arising from the report of the internal auditor.

2023/67/02 To approve the Governance Statement

It was resolved to approve the Governance Statement.

2023/67/03 To approve the draft annual accounts for 2022/2023

It was resolved to approve the draft annual accounts for 2022/2023.

2023/67/04 To approve the Accounting Statement and explanation of variances

It was resolved to approve the Accounting Statement and explanation of variances.

2023/67/05 To approve the Exemption Certificate

It was resolved to approve the Exemption Certificate.

2023/67/06 To approve public right of inspection dates from 5th June to 14th July 2023

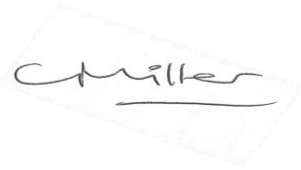
It was resolved to approve the public right of inspection dates from 5th June to 14th July 2023.

2023/68 To consider Local Government Boundary Commission draft recommendations for division boundaries in Northumberland

The Boundary Commission were proposing the Parish Council be moved into the Bellingham ward. The County Council were not in favour of this, and after consideration it was resolved to request the Council be retained in the Longhorsley Ward. Clerk to convey to Boundary Commission.

2023/69 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Wallington Demesne Parish Council will be held on Monday 24th July 2023 commencing 730pm in Middleton Village Hall



Claire Miller
Parish Clerk

The meeting closed at 855pm

DRAFT