

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Wallington Demense Parish Council held at 730pm on Monday 25th March 2024 at Cambo Village Hall

Those Present: A Robson (Vice Chairman), J Ballantine, D Thompson, A Robson, L Brown, C Hughes, S Pattison, D Dexter

In Attendance: C Miller (Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer)

2024/17 Apologies for absence

M Seth, G Sanderson (County Cllr)

2024/18 Declarations of Members interests

C Hughes declared an interest in Agenda Item NO 2024/27/01, Middleton Hall invoice for approval.

J Ballantine declared an interest in Agenda Item NO 2024/27/01, Hedgecutting invoice.

2024/19 To consider applications for Co-option Vacancy

There had been no applications for the Co-option Vacancy.

2024/20 Opportunity for members of the public to raise any matter

There were no matters raised from the public.

2024/21 Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 22nd January 2024

RESOLVED

Members agreed the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 22nd January 2024 were a true record.

2024/22 To consider future aims and objectives of the Parish Council

Drainage works had been actioned by County Council. County Cllr had advised a large amount of resurfacing works were planned for the parish. Gully sucking equipment had visited the parish, however there were still drains requiring attention. Scots Gap shop to close 31/3/24.

2024/22/01 To consider organising regular parish tidy up event(s) and health & safety implications

Clerk had been contacted by a volunteer litter picker requesting the Parish Council purchase litter picking equipment, however any litter picking approved by the Parish Council would need to be via an organised event with Risk assessment/insurance in place.

RESOLVED

Litter pick event to be organised in the future.

2024/22/02 To consider individual members aims and objectives

A Robson raised issue with analogue telephone signal being switched off in the near future.

RESOLVED

Clerk to supply additional information, further to attendance at a meeting 2/4/24 to consider the matter.

2024/22/03 To consider Parish Council statement of aims and objectives

Clerk had placed general information relating to Parish Council duties and powers onto website. D Thompson had compiled information for Chimes newsletter.

2024/23 To receive update on petition to request lowering speed limit at Middleton

40 people had signed the petition, with 50 names required.

RESOLVED

D Thompson to secure additional signatures.

2024/24 To consider Parish Council fund interactive speeding signage at Scots Gap

G Sanderson had confirmed funding of £4,000.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed to the Westcote interactive signage at the cost of £3935, excluding VAT, which came with a six year guarantee, to be placed Rothbury to Scots Gap road.

2024/25 NCC Update

County Cllr had provided update as follows: "I have asked for some large road schemes in this years programme for the Cambo, Scots Gap, Middleton and Wallington area, and they feature in our planned spending - £180,000 for the Wallington to A696 road, £230,000 for the C157 Wallington New Houses to Scots Gap, and B6343 Scots Gap to Hartburn surface dressing £160,000. Middleton Bank Top to Scots Gap C157 £175000 and B6342 Cambo to Hartington Gate £165,000. The Budget for the coming year was agreed two weeks ago - we will not cut frontline services and will continue with the investment across the County - The new Northumberland rail line will open in the autumn which links Ashington and Blyth and other stations along the way to Newcastle and the Metro with two trains an hour. We are keeping free town centre car parking, and our new £22 million Leisure Centre in Morpeth is going really well showing an over 100% increase in users over the old one. We have just started building a new Superschool in Seaton Valley with another starting soon in Amble and then in Berwick. So lots going on - BUT.....We have also allocated £7 million more to our roads because of the damage caused by the flooding - potholes are commonplace across most Counties in England at the moment but we are going flat out fixing them - I am told we have done over one thousand since January. So please bear with us - we will win this pothole battle!!! As always, please let me know if you need a hand with anything - always glad to help if I can."

2024/26 National Trust Update

C Hughes reported laurel trees at Cambo causing obstruction had been cut back. Broken seat had been reported, being the property of the National Trust. J Ballantine had voluntarily actioned repair via National Trust. J Ballantine thanked for this and voluntary repair of Scots Gap noticeboard. A request for handrail on new steps at Wannie line as part of the ongoing footpath improvements had been made, with NT to action. Fencing being erected for Newbiggen development. Meeting held between NT and Wallington Football Club. FC in agreement with NT proposal to stone up existing routes. Football Club not in agreement with proposals to use Club car park as an overflow parking facility.

2024/27 Financial Matters

2024/27/01 The following payments require authorisation:

- C Miller – January, February salary & expenses - £460.71
- Middleton & Todridge Village Hall - £20
- J G Ballantine – hedgecutting at cemetery - £195

RESOLVED

Members agreed to approve the payments

2024/28 Planning

2024/28/01 Planning Applications received

- 24/00407/LBC: 4 Front Row, Cambo – Listed Building Consent for maintenance repairs to include improvements to the current electrical system, alongside the installation of Grade 2:LD2 fire detection – no objections.
- 23/04412/FUL: Club House, Oakford – Extension and alterations to existing clubhouse to create larger facility
- 24/00553/FUL: 20 Oakford – Building above the existing garage to form a new bedroom at first floor – no objections.

- 24/00526/FUL & 24/00527/LBC: Stable House, Front Row Cambo – Listed Building Consent, replacement 3 roof windows on north elevation, slates, cladding, door to porch, windows – no objections.

2024/29 Neighbourhood Management - To report/update on action regarding issues within the parish

2024/29/01 To consider footpath issues within the parish

Footpath from Scots Gap to Cambo impassable in most places, and which had been reported via Fix My Street.

2024/29/02 To receive update on audit of footpaths within the parish

No update.

2024/29/03 To receive update on grit bin at Willow Park

NCC had advised a bin would be placed 27/1/24, however this had not occurred.

RESOLVED

Clerk to re-contact County Council.

2024/30 To receive information regarding B4RN/B4NTR Broadband matters

Meeting to be in held at Methodist Church Scots Gap 11/4/24. B4RN/B4NTR service to be available within the parish November 2024. Wayleaves being organised. Financials still an issue, entire project cost to be £3million, with the parish to benefit from a third of the investment.

2024/31 To receive update on proposal for new clubhouse at Wallington F.C.

Planning application had been submitted. There could be an issue with bat survey/licences.

2024/32 Annual review of internal controls

RESOLVED

Members agreed to the Statement of internal control, further to amendment requested from C Hughes relating to Payments, as follows: **“All payments are reported to the Council for authorisation, two members of the Council must sign each payment. The Clerk/RFO is responsible for the making of payments.”**

Amended to: **“two members of the council must sign each payment request,” “one member of the Council can arrange BACS payment.”**

2024/33 Annual review of internal auditor

RESOLVED

Members agreed to engage Mr M Ackroyd as internal auditor year ending 31st March 2024, at a cost of £25/hour, with an estimate of 4 hours to complete.

2024/34 Annual review of Asset register

RESOLVED

Members agreed the Asset Register was accurate, further to amendment of noticeboard size at Scots Gap to 3 x 3foot.

2024/35 Annual review of Risk assessment

RESOLVED

Members agreed the Risk Assessment was sufficient.

2024/36 Annual review of insurance cover

RESOLVED

Members agreed the present cover, as follows, was sufficient. Current levels – Employers liability £10m; Public liability £10m; Libel and Slander £250K; Legal Expenses £250K; Fidelity Guarantee £50K; Street Furniture £24k; Contents £9K (to include defibrillator's). Clerk to confirm whether interactive speed signage would be included in policy.

2024/37 Review of bank signatories, N&SI Investment Account

RESOLVED

Members agreed to add D Thompson and L Brown as signatories to Lloyds current account. L Brown, D Thompson and C Hughes to register as N&SI signatories.

To receive information relating to Northumberland Household Waste Recovery Centres (HWRC)

In response to new Government legislation, from 1st February Northumberland households can now dispose of limited DIY waste for free at our Northumberland Household Waste Recovery Centres (HWRC). From this date site users will need a pre-booked permit to dispose of their DIY waste at our HWRCs, to help us manage DIY waste disposal smoothly. Households that are taking in other non-DIY waste such as general household waste, garden waste, old furniture etc to the HWRCs are not affected by the new permit arrangements. The booking system is being introduced to manage these new DIY waste limits which are in line with the requirements of the new Controlled Waste Regulations 2023. A permit can be requested via www.northumberland.gov.uk/waste or through the contact centre on 0345 600 6400. The pre-booked permit allows free disposal of DIY waste up to 100 litres – that's about two typical 50 litre builders' rubble sacks, or one item no larger than 2000mm x 750mm x 700mm (ie the size of a shower screen). If the site user needs to dispose of more DIY waste than the allocated free allowance, then they can simply 'Pay as You Throw' for any additional DIY waste above the free amount using the existing tariff. Each household can have four visits with a permit to dispose of their DIY waste in any four-week period. Prominent site signage is in place at each HWRC informing site users of the new DIY permit requirements from 1st February 2024. Information has also been issued to the local media and a comprehensive social media campaign will include a DIY waste explainer video and an update in the News Section of the Council website.

Useful links:

Information leaflet (please scroll to DIY Waste Section):

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Waste/Tip.aspx#householdwastepermits>

Permit booking system: <https://wastepermitss.northumberland.gov.uk/selfservice/Permit.aspx>

2024/39 To consider correspondence from Elections Office, County Council, regarding review of parliamentary polling districts and polling places

County Council carrying out statutory five year review of polling places.

RESOLVED

Members agreed the current polling station facilities at Cambo Village Hall were sufficient.

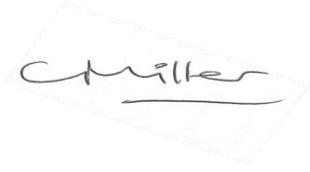
2024/40 Urgent Business/Items for next agenda

Replacement planter at Scots Gap.

Byway Open to All Traffic routes in the parish.

2024/42 Date of Next Meeting

The annual meeting of Wallington Demesne Parish Council will be held on Monday 20th May 2024 commencing 730pm at Middleton Village Hall.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Miller", is enclosed within a faint, light-colored rectangular border.

Claire Miller
Parish Clerk

The meeting closed at 845pm

DRAFT