

WALLINGTON DEMESNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held at 730pm on Monday 25th November 2024 at Cambo Village Hall

Those Present: Parish Cllr's J Ballantine (Chairman), S Pattison, D Dexter, D Thompson, S Roberson, M Seth

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

2024/109 Apologies for absence

Parish Cllr's L Brown, A Robson, County Cllr G Sanderson

2024/110 Declarations of Members Interests

There were no Declaration of Members Interests.

2024/111 To consider applications for Co-option Vacancy

There were no applications for the Co-option vacancy. As it was less than six months before the four yearly elections, Clerk advised the vacancy did not need to be filled.

2024/112 Opportunity for members of the public to raise any matter

There were no members of the public present.

2024/113 Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 23rd September 2024

RESOLVED:

Members agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 23rd September 2024 were a true record.

2024/114 Petition to lower speed limit at Middleton. Members to receive update.

Petition had been debated at the Castle Morpeth Local Area Committee meeting 18/11/24. D Thompson had supported the petition with a five minute speech. This was very well received and supported by the Chairman, who who had thought that Middleton was already a 30mph area. However Council Officers Robin McCartney and Neil Snowdon stuck to their previous standpoint that Middleton did not meet the legal criteria. D Thompson has asked for clarification of this. County Cllr Sanderson acted as mediator and suggested that the proposed speed limitation measures be installed before 31st March 2025, and if there were still concerns in 12 months time, he would support the 30mph proposal. The petition had also received some publicity in the Newcastle Chronical and Journal.

RESOLVED:

Members were in agreement with installation of light oak gateway signage at Middleton stating "Thank you for driving carefully."

2024/115 Interactive speeding signage at Scots Gap. Members to receive update and consider additional signage.

Interactive speeding signage had been very successful at Scots Gap. There were continuing problems with speeding vehicles East/West access approaching the bridge, and Northbound direction.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed to monitor signage for twelve months before considering additional equipment.

2024/116 Members to receive County Cllr Report

It was agreed that members would thank the County Cllr for funding the interactive signage.

2024/117 Members to receive report on National Trust matters.

D Thompson had met with Dan Bird 22/11/24 where the following items had been discussed. 1.Newbiggin Plantation program – previously reported dangerous wiring had not been corrected. Planting underway, with invitation for community assistance at Scots Gap and Cambo cancelled 23/11/24 due to weather conditions, to be re-arranged this weekend. 2.Broadband – Wayleaves and approach to houses in Cambo still being discussed but agreed in principle. 3.Christmas Tree licence – to be signed and dated by Clerk. 4.Cambo Green Waste – National Trust have no plans to officially recognise the area in and around the now disused public toilets, which has been used by Cambo residents. They have no plans to remove the current piles of green waste and residents may have to apply to NCC for an alternative.

2024/118 Financial Matters

2024/118/01 NJC Pay scales. Members to note pay increase of £1290/annum (full-time hours), payable from 1st April 2024

Members noted the NJC payscale rise from 1st April 2024.

2024/118/02 The following payments require authorisation:

| Payable to | Detail | Net | VAT | Gross |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|-----|-------|
| Middleton Village Hall | Meeting room, 23/9/24 | £20.00 | NIL | |
| C Miller | September, October Salary Expenses | £450.54 £17.05 | NIL | |
| HMRC | PAYE (retrospective) | £190.40 | | |

Members approved the payments.

2024/118/03 Grant request from Wag & Company, North East Friendship Dogs. Members to consider request
Wage & Company were a charitable organisation providing dog visits to the elderly in their own homes, hospitals and care settings.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed to donate £50.00

2024/118/04 Budget 2025-2026. Members to consider first draft of budget 2025-2026

Members considered first draft of budget 2025-2026, to be confirmed January 2025

2024/118/05 Precept 2025-2026. Members to consider first draft of precept 2025-2026

Members considered first draft of precept 2025-2026, to be confirmed January 2025.

2024/119 Planning

2024/119/01 Planning Applications received

- 24/03263/PRUTPO: 11 Willow Park, Scots Gap – Tree Preservation Order – T1 Sycamore, T2 Birch and T3 Goat Willow – crown thinning up to 30%, crown reduction by 2m and crown lifting to 4m – Parish Council had no objection to the proposals.

2024/119/02 Planning Applications approved

- 23/04412/FUL: Club House, Scots Gap – Demolition of existing clubhouse and construction of replacement building to provide new club house with associated parking area (amended location plan and description).

2024/120 **Neighbourhood Management - To report/update on action regarding issues within the parish**
County Council Officers Tim Fish and Adam Musk had met with D Thompson and National Trust staff at Wallington Hall 9/10/24. Officers had explained the legal position of their work, including that related to stock in fields with footpaths. They had provided a copy of the 'Definitive Map' for the Parish which details all by-ways by number, and a set of four maps which had kindly been laminated by the National Trust. Further communication and progress expected during 2025.

2024/120/01 **Members to consider footpath issues. Members to receive update on audit of footpaths within the parish**

S Pattison advised despite reports via Fix My Street, footpath and drainage issues at Cambo remained outstanding. As an individual he had contacted County Council who had repeatedly advised planning of works was taking place.

2024/120/02 **Members to receive update on grit bin installation at Willow Park**

Placement of grit bin at Willow Park remained outstanding.

RESOLVED:

Clerk to re-contact County Council.

2024/120/03 **Road resurfacing. Members to receive update on programmed works.**

Road works approved via the Local Transport Plan requests 2024-2025 actioned. Middleton bridge to Grange Moor road had been resurfaced, however Wallington bridge to Kirkharle crossroads had only been partly done, leaving a very dangerous stretch past Old Deanham in particular.

2024/120/04 **Byeways Open to All Traffic. Members to receive update on closure of BOATS within the parish**

The three BOATs in the Parish were formally closed to all motorised vehicles May 2024 for a period of 6 months, citing various safety reasons, although this does not stop illegal travellers. Site visit with County Council Officer Ben Gallagher had not materialised, however signage for a six month extension had been put in place. Sources suggest a proposal is being put together to repair all ten river crossings in the county at a cost of £1.6m which, if rejected may put the onus of responsibility further up the chain.

2024/120/05 **Flooding at Middleton. Members to discuss concerns**

Meeting had been held with Environment Agency and County Council. The area is NCC responsibility, who had thoughts for improvements. There is a scheme local people can register with to receive detailed weather forecasts. Existing flood measures are working.

2024/120/06 **Parish drains. Members to consider outstanding works**

Drainage works reported via County Council Fix My Street outstanding.

2024/120/07 **Trees at Middleton bank top. Members to receive update via Fix My Street**

M Seth to report via County Council Fix My Street.

2024/121 **B4RN/B4NTR Broadband matters. Members to receive update.**

Good progress had been made. Kirkwhelpington cabinet now had power and ducting, with some main route fibre installed to most of the main route up to Kirkwhelpington, and spur 106 Kirkharle to Highlaws. Some house kits had also been fitted along 106 and in Kirkwhelpington village. Expected date of live connections early January 2025. Some wayleaves still to confirm on routes in Wallington Demense parish, including National Trust, but there were no major snags envisaged.

2024/122 **Christmas Tree. Members to consider arrangements for 2024 tree.**

Price for tree had been retained as per last year at the cost of £250. Cambo school were organising tree decorations. M Seth to arrange collection of battery/lights from L Brown.

RESOLVED:

Clerk to clarify delivery date of tree with L Brown.

2024/123 Ray Wind Farm Community Interest Company. Members to receive update.

M Seth had registered interest in sitting on the Committee May 2024. However due to the length of time for a decision to be made, he had since withdrawn his application.

2024/124 Cambo Burial Ground.

1.Members to receive update on headstone repairs.

One repair had been carried out. Clerk advised leaving notices on headstones for a few more months in order to notify relatives of repairs.

2.Replacement signage for burial ground.

Clerk reported the County Council may be able to organise replacement signage.

2024/125 Scots Gap Sewage Treatment Works. Members to discuss problems with overflow.

S Roberson had contacted Northumbrian Water who were to arrange a site meeting.

2024/126 Public bus service. Members to discuss public transport requirements in the parish.

D Dexter reported a North East improvement plan from 2023, which refers to rural transport. Kirkwhelpington Parish Council share concerns with the weekly Adapt service to Morpeth being withdrawn. The North East Combined Authority Mayor, Kim McGuinness, is currently running a consultation on public transport, with Clerk advising all to complete.

RESOLVED:

Clerk to contact relevant Parish Council's on route that had been withdrawn, to consider future options for a bus service.

2024/127 Dog Fouling at Cambo. Members to consider parishioner request for ban on dogs using Cambo village green

The land was the responsibility of the National Trust.

RESOLVED:

Members were in agreement with parishioner request to ban dogs using the green. Clerk to contact National Trust.

2024/128 Groundwork project. Members to consider invite personnel presence at future meeting to give update on the Wansbeck project

Members agreed this was not necessary.

2024/129 Middleton & Todridge Village Hall Committee. Members to consider election of Parish Cllr to Committee

In due course, S Roberson would sit on committee. Matter to be considered further at next meeting.

2024/130 Urgent Business/Items for next agenda

Scots Gap planters discussed. It was clarified that funds had been earmarked for bedding plants May 2025.

2024/131 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Wallington Demesne Parish Council will be held on Monday 27th January 2024 commencing 730pm in Middleton Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 845pm

Claire Miller, Parish Clerk

DRAFT