

WALLINGTON DEMESNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held at 730pm on Monday 23rd September 2024 at Middleton Village Hall

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

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

2024/87 Apologies for absence

Parish Cllr's L Brown, D Thompson, S Roberson, G Sanderson (County Cllr)

2024/88 Declarations of Members interests

There were no Declaration of Members Interests.

2024/89 To consider applications for Co-option Vacancy

No applications had been received for the co-option vacancy.

2024/90 Opportunity for members of the public to raise any matter

No members of the public were present.

2024/91 Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 22nd July 2024

RESOLVED:

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

2024/92 Petition to lower speed limit at Middleton. Members to receive update.

White lining and additional signage had been considered at site meeting held with Glen Sanderson, Robin McCartney and the Parish Council. It was extremely unlikely that the petition at the Council Area Committee meeting (delayed until 18/11/24) would be successful. Further speed control measures at both ends of the village were discussed, with speed test equipment placed in the middle of the village 7th to 21st September, unfortunately coinciding with the road south of Grange Moor being closed for long-awaited repair.

2024/93 Interactive speeding signage at Scots Gap. Members to receive update.

Glen Sanderson had advised the interactive signage would be put in place 25/9/24.

2024/94 Members to receive County Cllr Report

Road works continuing. An allocation of £800,000 had been made to deal with gullies and road drainage.

2024/95 Members to receive report on National Trust matters.

M Seth and D Thompson had attended meeting with Daniel Bird, National Trust. There were no issues with wayleaves relating to the B4RN project. Volunteers had been clearing footpaths, with volunteers sought for hedge cutting via the County Council. A new boardwalk to be placed at Wannie Line. Tree planting to commence from November, with volunteers to be sought. The depository for green waste at Cambo was proving problematic due to other debris being dumped. Pedestrian gates would be placed at Newbiggin farm plantation. County Council Public Rights of Way consultation had been forwarded to National Trust.

2024/96 Financial Matters

2024/96/01 The following payments require authorisation:

Payable to	Detail	Net	VAT	Gross
A Roberts, Elsdon Memorials (retrospective)	Headstone repairs	£900	NIL	£900
C Miller	July, August Salary Expenses	£380.77 £75.34	NIL	
Spanglefish	Annual Website fee	£78.00	£30.00	£108.00
Cambo Village Hall	Rent of meeting room 22/7/24	£12.00	NIL	

RESOLVED:

Members approved the payments.

2024/97 Planning

2024/97/01 Planning Applications received

No planning applications had been received.

2024/97/02 Planning Applications approved

- 24/01733/FUL: Wallington Hall – installation of new balancing tank
- 24/02119/VARYCO: Todridge Farm – Variation of Condition 2 on 23/00238/FUL to allow for design changes, including to the internal plans and subsequently window positions (amended description)
- 24/01400/VARYCO: Workshop, Todridge Farm – Variation of Condition 2 and discharge of Condition 14 on 23/011489/VARYCO to allow concrete tiled roof covering rather than metal sheeting to roof

2024/98 Neighbourhood Management - To report/update on action regarding issues within the parish

2024/98/01 Members to consider footpath issues. Members to receive update on audit of footpaths within the parish

D Thompsom and Helen McDonald, Head Ranger at Wallington had met with NCC's Area Countryside Officers Tim Fish and Adam Musk at County Hall on July 30th to discuss methodology of studying the parish footpaths and instigating repair where needed. A follow up meeting (at Wallington) had been suggested Wednesday October 9th, further details to be circulated when available, should Cllrs wish to attend.

2024/98/02 Members to receive update on grit bin installation at Willow Park

County Council to install bin when grit available.

2024/98/03 Analogue telephone system. Members to consider implication of system switch off.

Mobile telephone signage had improved in the parish. B4RN could provide battery back up system during electricity cuts – further information reported under Agenda item **2024/99B4RN/B4NTR Broadband matters**

2024/98/04 Scots Gap planters. Members to receive update on maintenance and planting of tubs.

Planting had been carried out. New planter to be purchased Spring 2025.

2024/98/05 Byeways Open to All Traffic. Members to receive update on closure of BOATS within the parish

NCC official had not responded further to offer of site visit to the three BOATs currently closed.

2024/98/06 Flooding at Middleton. Members to discuss concerns.

S Roberson had written to the Environment Agency who had contacted Northumberland County Council flood risk team due to Middleton Burn being their responsibility. However EA were staying involved, proposed site meeting to discuss the concerns between EA & NCC likely early October, with Parish Council members invited to attend.

2024/98/07 Graffiti on Payne's Bridge signage. Members to consider issue.

RESOLVED:

S Robson to report via Fix My Street.

2024/98/08 Damaged and raised dividing slabs at entrance to Willow Park. Members to consider issues.

Two slabs were raised which could cause damage.

RESOLVED:

S Robson to report via Fix My Street.

2024/99 B4RN/B4NTR Broadband matters. Members to receive update.

B4RN had provided a statement as follows: "The B4RN network is unaffected by the BT PSTN switch off as the network is completely independent of the BT Openreach exchanges. B4RN does offer a battery backup solution which offers 3+ hours of service during power cuts. This can be purchased by contacting our customer engagement team. As with the BT offering, for our VoIP customers that are landline dependent, we offer a free solution. VoIP customers must have a corded phone plugged into the router as the phone will need to be powered from the B4RN router during power cuts. B4RN also work to identify customers with care alarms to ensure they have an IP enabled device prior to ceasing their existing phone service. Customers with care alarms are also offered a free battery backup."

The essential communications centre cabinet had been positioned in Kirkwhelpington and digging started on relaying the fibre from the connection site at Hallington reservoir, where the Barrasford project had already reached. Many properties on the route will be able to go 'Live' as soon as the cabinet gets electrical supply and the fibre arrives – this should be by the end of the year.

2024/100 Christmas Tree. Members to consider arrangements for 2024 tree.

RESOLVED:

Clerk reported an annual license was required to place the tree on National Trust land. NT had advised this would not be a problem. The County Council do not provide specific funding for Christmas lighting/electricity connection(s), this would have to be via the County Cllr members scheme for projects over £2,000.

RESOLVED:

Clerk to contact L Brown for an update on 2024 Christmas tree arrangements.

2024/101 Ray Wind Farm Community Interest Company. Members to receive update.

M Seth had been nominated by the Parish Council to become a Ray Wind Farm Community Interest Company director, further to the Board advising there could be vacancies. The Board had since advised the vacancies(s) were to be advertised on a wider scale.

2024/102 Cambo Burial Ground.

2024/102/01 Members to accept quotation approve repairs to further headstones

Further to notices being placed on gravestones, three families had come forward to arrange repairs.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed the signage would continue to be displayed to inform relatives repairs were the headstone owner(s) responsibility.

2024/102/02 Replacement signage for burial ground

RESOLVED:

Clerk to contact County Council regarding replacement signage.

2024/102/03 Rules and Regulations. Members to consider updated policy.

Policy had been amended to include section relating to headstone repairs.

RESOLVED:

Members approved the amended rules and regulations.

2024/103 Scots Gap Sewage Treatment Works. Members to discuss problems with overflow.

Environment Agency were to follow concerns up at proposed site meeting. S Robison had been monitoring the Northumbrian Water interactive map on storm overflows. It does seem to operate whenever there is any substantial rainfall, but well short of what S Robison would consider storm levels. Scots Gap works are the only overflow on the whole Wansbeck catchment above Morpeth, so it could have a much bigger environmental impact than would be apparent. Northumbrian Water publish their plan for environmental improvements for future years, which currently advised the Scots Gap overflow is operating within the limits of their permit so no action is planned. However this depends on sampling by the EA which may have missed any pollution through timing.

2024/104 Public bus service. Members to discuss public transport requirements in the parish.

Adapt bus service to Morpeth was no longer running. As the Scots Gap shop had closed this was of greater importance to those in the parish who do not have access to transport.

RESOLVED:

Clerk to contact County Cllr to seek guidance of options for future public transport.

2024/105 Town and Parish Council Conference, County Hall, 3/10/24. Members to receive invite.

RESOLVED:

D Dexter agreed to attend the conference.

2024/106 Northumberland County Council. Members to consider consultation Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

Document had been circulated to Cllrs.

RESOLVED:

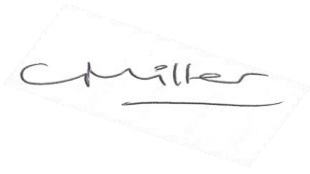
Members to consider completing survey as individuals.

2024/107 Urgent Business/Items for next agenda

D Thompson would welcome any Parish Councillor contributions for future Chimes issues. Blocked drains in the parish remain outstanding. Overhanging tree branches on Middleton Top Bank to be reported via Fix My Street – Cllr Seth to action.

2024/108 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Wallington Demesne Parish Council will be held on Monday 25th November 2024 commencing 730pm in Cambo Village Hall.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C. Miller", is enclosed in a light blue rectangular stamp with a dashed border.

Claire Miller
Parish Clerk

The meeting closed at 820pm

DRAFT