

WALLINGTON DEMESNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held at 730pm on Monday 27th January 2025 at Middleton Village Hall

Those Present: J Ballantine (Chairman), D Thompson, D Dexter, S Pattison

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

2025/01 Apologies for absence

M Seth, A Robson, G Sanderson (County Cllr)

2025/02 Declarations of Members Interests

J Ballantine declared an interest in Agenda Item **2025/08/01, payments for authorisation.**

2025/03 Opportunity for members of the public to raise any matter

There were no matters raised by members of the public.

2025/04 Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 25th November 2024

RESOLVED:

Members agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 25th November 2024 were a true record.

2025/05 Members to receive County Cllr Report

County Council had a budget shortfall of around £2.5 million. The Council is no different to other rural councils with large road networks and a large amount of C and U roads, many constructed for 1950s traffic, which struggle with the amount and weight of modern traffic.

The Leader of the Council is to formally invite the Secretary of State to a meeting to hear the concerns of farmers.

2024/06 Gateway Signage, Middleton. Members to receive update on installation.

Signage to be installed by 31/3/25. Reason for refusal to lower the speed limit awaited.

2025/07 Members to receive report on National Trust matters.

Nothing to report.

2025/08 Financial Matters

2025/08/01 The following payments require authorisation:

Payable to	Detail	Net	VAT	Gross
J Ballantine	Scots Gap planter	£84.00	NIL	
C Miller	November, December Salary Expenses	£398.21 £36.95	NIL	
Cambo Village Hall	Meeting room rent November 2024	£9.00	NIL	
J G Ballantine	Works to cemetery	£515.92	NIL	

Middleton & Todridge Village Hall	Meeting room rent January 2025	£20.00	NIL	
HMRC (Retrospective, Direct Debit 23/1/25	PAYE	£112.80	NIL	

2025/08/02 Budget 2025-2026. Members to approve budget 2025-2026

RESOLVED:

Members approved the budget 2025-2026.

2025/08/03 Precept 2025-2026. Members to approve precept 2025-2026

RESOLVED:

Members approved the precept requirements of £3,500.00, 2025-2026

2024/08/04 Great North Air Ambulance. Members to consider grant request

Members considered the grant request.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed to award a grant of £200.

2025/09 Planning

2025/09/01 Planning Applications received

- 24/04236/FUL: Land North West of Greenside Grange, Hartburn – retrospective permission for agricultural building – Parish Council had no objections to the proposal.

2025/09/02 Planning Applications approved

- 24/02983/FUL: 1 Oakford, Scots Gap – Replacement garage with dual pitched roof

2025/10 Neighbourhood Management - To report/update on action regarding issues within the parish

2025/10/01 Members to consider footpath issues. Members to receive update on audit of footpaths within the parish

No issues to consider.

2025/10/02 Members to receive update on grit bin installation at Willow Park

Grit bin had been installed.

2025/10/03 Byeways Open to All Traffic. Members to receive update on closure of BOATS within the parish

County Council had visited sites. BOATS closed until May 2025, pending further action.

2025/10/04 Flooding at Middleton. Members to discuss concerns

Restoration works were required, with County Council to visit site.

2025/10/05 Parish drains. Members to consider outstanding works

Blocked drain just south of Cambo had been reported via Fix My Street.

2025/10/06 Trees at Middleton bank top. Members to receive update via Fix My Street

Tree works had been reported via Fix My Street.

2025/10/07 Graffiti on road signage, Payne's Bridge. Members to consider issue.

The Clerk had received a report via Fix My Street advising the graffiti had been removed.

2025/10/08 Fly tipping at bottle bank, Scots Gap Mart. Members to consider issue,

County Council had inspected the site and were to remove the bin that is accumulating waste and attracting dumping and fly tipping. Increased signage to be placed on the glass bins to deter illegal waste dumping and to make it clearer the remaining bins are solely for glass. The installation of a formal sign on a pole could be considered at a later date if considered necessary.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed they did not believe the actions would be effective.

2025/11 B4RN/B4NTR Broadband matters. Members to receive update.

Kirkwhelpington cabinet had gone live.

2025/12 Ray Wind Farm Community Interest Company. Members to receive update.

Nothing to report.

2025/13 Cambo Burial Ground.

1.Members to receive update on headstone repairs

Further notices to be placed on headstones in need of repair.

2.Replacement signage for burial ground

Signage required replacement, no further information had been received from County Council.

3.Emergency work due to storm damage

J Ballantine declared an interest.

Further to adverse weather, urgent tree/fencing works were required.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed the works would be actioned as soon as possible.

2025/14 Scots Gap Sewage Treatment Works. Members to discuss problems with overflow.

No further update.

2025/15 Public bus service. Members to discuss public transport requirements in the parish.

The Ray Wind Farm Committee had indicated they could finance a weekly Adapt bus service to include the parish, with negotiations ongoing with the organisation.

2025/16 Dog Fouling at Cambo. Members to receive update on request for ban on dogs using Cambo village green

The Clerk had received no feedback from the National Trust, further to the resident request for a ban on dogs using Cambo village green.

2025/17 Middleton & Todridge Village Hall Committee. Members to consider election of Parish Cllr to Committee

Item deferred until next meeting.

2025/18 Review of Internal Auditor. Members to consider internal audit arrangements year ending 31/3/25

The Clerk advised M Ackroyd was prepared to carry out the internal audit year ending 31/3/25, at the cost of £25/hour.

RESOLVED:

Members approved the engagement of M Ackroyd as internal auditor year ending 31/3/25.

2025/19 Clerk to advise members of Councillor resignation

The Clerk advised Cllr Brown had resigned. As it was less than six months until the ordinary elections, the vacancy did not need to be filled.

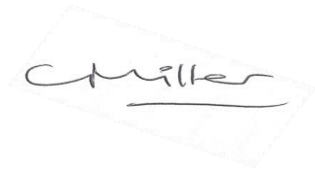
2025/20 Urgent Business/Items for next agenda

Belsay Parish Council were looking at possibly arranging defibrillator training. `

2025/21 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Wallington Demense Parish Council will be held on Monday 24th March 2025 commencing 730pm in Cambo Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 815pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Miller', is written over a faint, rectangular grid pattern.

Claire Miller
Parish Clerk