

# WALLINGTON DEMESNE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held at 730pm on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at Cambo Village Hall**

**Those Present:** J Ballantine (Chairman), D Thompson, D Dexter, S Pattison, A Robson, M Seth

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

**2025/22 Apologies for absence**

Cllr Roberson, G Sanderson (County Cllr)

**2025/23 Declarations of Members Interests**

Cllr Ballantine declared an interest in Agenda Item NO 2025/29/01 - Items for Payment.

**2025/24 Opportunity for members of the public to raise any matter**

There were no matters raised by members of the public.

**2025/25 Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**RESOLVED:**

Members agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 were a true record.

**2025/26 Members to receive County Cllr Report**

Local roads had been improved, along with pavement work in Scots Gap. The County Council budget had been approved with the main drivers being the protection of front line services, free town centre car parking and continuation of delivery of the three new schools in Seaton Valley, Amble and Berwick. The new Data Centre Campus had been approved, one of the largest in Europe. As part of the deal, NCC had negotiated a new fund of £110 million, to be ringfenced for business growth and jobs across the County. The new Northumberland Line opened December 2024, and a further station last week. It had proved a worthwhile project with 250,000 journeys taken so far. Additional bus services to be implemented, including a service from Cambo to Morpeth, which could become a daily service if it proves popular.

**2024/27 Gateway Signage, Middleton. Members to receive update on installation.**

Gateway signage outstanding.

**2025/28 Members to receive report on National Trust matters.**

Cllr Thompson had met with National Trust Officers Dan Bird and Phil Knowles (new Community and Volunteering manager). Topics discussed included:

1.Newbiggin Plantation - gate had been repaired. All temporary gates to be checked, more permanent pedestrian access gates to be delivered. Temporary explanatory notices had been defaced and removed. Installation of further signage under review. Mowing of concessionary footpaths being arranged.

2.Footpaths – roadside paths between Scots Gap and Cambo, and Cambo towards Wallington had been partially cleared. National Trust had actioned the woodland piece above Newbiggin farm gateway.

3.Broadband – Wayleaves had been granted for the B4RN route through farmland but not yet through Cambo village, with great consideration being given to the historic attributes of the village.

## **2025/29 Financial Matters**

### **2025/29, Nat/01 The following payments require authorisation:**

<b>Payable to</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Gross</b>
Great North Air Ambulance	Grant awarded 27/1/25 (retrospective)	£200	NIL	
C Miller	January, February Salary Expenses	£398.41 £36.95	NIL	
Northumberland County Council	Contribution to speed camera	£1638.00	NIL	
J Ballantine	Snow clearance/tree works, Cambo cemetery	£477.92	NIL	

### **RESOLVED:**

Members approved the payments.

### **2025/29/02 Members to receive acknowledgement of grant from Great North Air Ambulance**

Members noted the acknowledgement of grant.

## **2025/30 Planning**

### **2025/30/01 Planning Applications received**

- 25/00257/LBC: Two Queens, Front Row, Cambo – Listed Building Consent: Installation of an EV charger to the rear of the property – Parish Council had no comments to make.
- 25/000464/LBC: 2-6 Front Row Cambo - Listed Building Consent for repairs inc replacement cast iron guttering
- reinstatement flat roofs, introduction extractor fan grilles, removal of render – Parish Council had no comments to make.

### **2025/30/02 Planning Applications approved**

- 24/04265/FUL: Wallington Hall – erection of timber wildlife hide with board walk across
- 24/04236/FUL: Land North West of Greenside Grange Hartburn – retrospective permission for agricultural building

**2025/31 Neighbourhood Management - To report/update on action regarding issues within the parish**

**2025/31/01 Members to consider footpath issues. Members to receive update on audit of footpaths within the parish**

Footpaths discussed earlier.

**2025/31/02 Byeways Open to All Traffic. Members to receive update on closure of BOATS within the parish**

Footpaths remain closed.

**2025/31/03 Flooding at Middleton. Members to discuss concerns**

The partial dam repaired had proved effective during Storm Babet 2023. Following a site visit by the Environment Agency and County Council to ponds West of the Scots Gap to Middleton road, the council proposed a scheme to further enhance the measures, with work currently under way. Cllr's Roberson and Thompson had assisted with a half day session with chain saws to allow works to proceed. There were further improvements north of Middleton to restrict run off from fields into the burn, and ponds East of the Scots Gap road to divert water in times of high flow.

**RESOLVED:**

The Clerk to write letter of thanks to David Green County Council Officer, for pushing the measures through.

**2025/31/04 Parish drains. Members to consider outstanding works**

Several drains in the parish requiring maintenance and reported via Fix My Street remain outstanding.

**2025/31/05 Trees at Middleton bank top. Members to receive update via Fix My Street**

Trees reported via Fix My Street outstanding.

**2025/31/06 Fly tipping at bottle bank, Scots Gap Mart. Members to consider issue,**

Details of person's fly tipping had been forwarded to Northumbria Police.

**2025/32 B4RN/B4NTR Broadband matters. Members to receive update.**

Ten residents of the parish had been connected to the broadband service. Take up in Scots Gap was poor, and a further 7 residents were required to be signed up in order for the service to progress.

**2025/33 Ray Wind Farm Community Interest Company. Members to receive update.**

Funding to be provided for a weekly ADAPT bus service in the parish to Morpeth, however there were issues with securing a driver. County Council were to commence a Saturday bus service between Cambo and Morpeth.

**2025/34 Cambo Burial Ground.**

**1.Members to receive update on headstone repairs**

**RESOLVED:**

Cllr Ballantine to carry out inspection of burial ground and confirm which headstones had / had not been repaired.

**2.Members to receive update on replacement signage for burial ground**

Signage had not been replaced by County Council.

**RESOLVED:**

Parish Council to organise replacement signage.

**2025/35 Scots Gap Sewage Treatment Works. Members to discuss problems with overflow.**

Water companies were required to monitor all storm overflows from their sewage systems in response to national concerns about pollution. The number of spillages from Scots Gap sewage works was much higher than expected (128 incidents totalling 1900 hours in 2023). Heavy rainfall was raising the level of sludge in the treatment tanks causing it to spill from the overflow. Northumbrian Water had implemented changes, with tanks being emptied more frequently, keeping sludge at as low a level as possible. This should reduce pollution from any spillages. The Parish Council to have further discussions with Northumbrian Water to understand whether it will also reduce the total number of overflows.

**2025/36 Public bus service. Members to discuss public transport requirements in the parish.**

Discussed earlier.

**2025/37 Dog Fouling at Cambo. Members to receive update on request for ban on dogs using Cambo village green**

No response had been received from National Trust in relation to request for ban on dogs using Cambo village green.

**2025/38 Middleton & Todridge Village Hall Committee. Members to consider election of Parish Cllr to Committee**

Matter deferred until May meeting.

**2025/39 Review of Internal Controls**

Members considered the statement of internal control.

**RESOLVED:**

1. Members agreed the current internal controls were adequate.
2. Members agreed payments to HMRC would continue to be made via Direct Debit.

**2025/40 Review of Standing Orders. Members to approve amendment relating to Standing Order NO 5.5.2**

*A resolution of the Council will nominate at least two members to be authorised by the Council to sign cheques. All payments are reported to the Council for authorisation, two members of the Council must sign each payment request. One cheque signatory of the Council can arrange BACS payment.*

Members considered the amendment.

**RESOLVED:**

Members approved the amendment.

**2025/41            Review of Risk Assessment**

Members considered the Risk Assessment document.

**RESOLVED:**

Members agreed the Risk Assessment was adequate.

**2025/42            Review of Asset Register**

Members considered the Asset Register.

**RESOLVED:**

Members agreed the Asset Register was a true record.

**2025/43            Review of Insurance policy**

Members reviewed the insurance policy.

**RESOLVED:**

The Clerk advised current insurance cover as follows. 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.

Internal bus shelter window had been damaged.

**RESOLVED:**

Cllr Robson to inspect shelter for clarification of repair required.

**2025/44            British Telecom, Digital Voice. Members to note public meeting 10am to 4pm 15 & 16/4/25, Morrisons, Morpeth**

Public meetings were being held in relation to land-line switch off.

**2025/45            Local Elections 2025. Clerk to give verbal report on process**

The Clerk advised nomination papers must be delivered by hand to County Hall by 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025.

**2025/46            Urgent Business/Items for next agenda**

There was no urgent business / items for next agenda

**2025/47            Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Wallington Demesne Parish Council will be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025 commencing 730pm in Cambo Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 830pm

C. Miller

Claire Miller, Parish Clerk

DRAFT