

# WALLINGTON DEMESNE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the annual meeting of the Parish Council held at 730pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at Middleton Village Hall.**

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

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

**2025/48            Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2025/49            Election of Chairman**

**RESOLVED:**

Cllr Ballantine proposed and seconded as Chairman and duly elected.

**2025/50            Election of Vice Chairman**

**RESOLVED:**

Cllr Robson proposed and seconded as Vice Chairman and duly elected.

**2025/51            To receive Declarations of Acceptance of Office**

Declaration of Acceptance of Office received.

**2025/52            Declarations of Members Interests**

There were no Declaration of Members Interests.

**2025/53            Co-Option Vacancies**

Further to the uncontested election, two co-option vacancies had arisen. Clerk advised these were to be publicised via Chimes magazine, noticeboard and website.

**2025/54            Opportunity for members of the public to raise any matter**

No members of the public were present.

**2025/55            Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**RESOLVED:**

Members agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025 were a true record.

D Thompson confirmed attendance at public consultation in relation to digital switchover.

**2025/56            Members to receive County Cllr Report**

Item to be removed from agenda.

**2024/57            Gateway Signage, Middleton. Members to receive update on installation.**

Gateway improvements promised Spring 2025, and confirmation of why the 30mph request for Middleton had been rejected, however improvement / information awaited.

**2025/58 Members to receive report on National Trust matters**

Informal meeting held with D Thompson. NT Officer had offered to attend Parish Council meetings, or be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Dog fouling at Cambo village green - Item to be removed from agenda.

Listed Building Consent for dwellings in Cambo queried (relating to B4RN project).

Resident queries relating to National Trust flattening road to Newbiggin Farm received – item to be raised with N.T.

**2025/59 Financial Matters****2025/59/01 The following payments require authorisation:**

Payable to	Detail	Net	VAT	Gross
HMRC	PAYE (retrospective), 24/4/25, Direct Debit	£199.00	NIL	
Cambo Village Hall	Rent of meeting room, March 24 <sup>th</sup>	£12.00	NIL	
C Miller	March, April Salary Expenses	£398.41 £40.85	NIL	
Northumberland Association of Local Councils	Annual subscription	£108.11	NIL	
Mijan	Annual subscription accounts package	£60	NIL	
Zurich	Annual insurance premium	£214	NIL	
Middleton Village Hall	Rent of meeting room 19/5/25	£20	NIL	
M Ackroyd	Internal audit fee	£130	NIL	

**RESOLVED:**

Members approved the payments.

**2025/59/02 Members to receive acknowledgement of grant from Great North Air Ambulance**

Members noted acknowledgement of grant.

**2025/60 Planning****2025/60/01 Planning Applications received**

The following planning application had been received since the agenda had been circulated:

- 25/01697/LBC: Wallington Hall – Listed Building Consent for internal electric works to No 6 Wallington Courtyard – the Parish Council had no comments to make.

**2025/60/02 Planning Applications approved**

- 25/00464/LBC: 2-6 Front Row Cambo – Listed Building Consent for repairs

**2025/61 Neighbourhood Management - To report/update on action regarding issues within the parish**

**2025/61/01      Members to consider footpath issues. Members to receive update on audit of footpaths within the parish**

Footbridge to South Witton required repair, County Council had advised they had a duty of care to repair this.

**2025/61/02      Byeways Open to All Traffic. Members to receive update on closure of BOATS within the parish**

BOATS officially closed until 25<sup>th</sup> May, but had not been repaired.

**2025/61/03      Flooding at Middleton. Members to discuss concerns**

The Environment Agency had actioned recent flooding preventative measures.

**RESOLVED:**

S Roberson to contact EA and request summary of works.

**2025/61/04      Parish drains. Members to consider outstanding works**

Problems had been reported via County Council Fix My Street, but not yet actioned.

**2025/61/05      Trees at Middleton bank top. Members to receive update via Fix My Street**

Problems had been reported via County Council Fix My Street, but not yet actioned.

**2025/61/06      Fly tipping at bottle bank, Scots Gap Mart. Members to consider issue,**

Problems resolved. Item to be removed from agenda.

**2025/61/07      Litter picking. Members to consider resident email**

Resident had requested the Parish Council purchase litter picking equipment in order for them to carry out verge tidying works.

**RESOLVED:**

The Clerk to ask resident to confirm problem areas, with the possibility of the Parish Council arranging a community litter pick.

**2025/62              B4RN/B4NTR Broadband matters. Members to receive update.**

Properties being connected to B4RN service. Further resident sign ups required in Scots Gap for service to be available in the parish.

**2025/63              Ray Wind Farm Community Interest Company. Members to receive update.**

Nothing to report.

**2025/64              Cambo Burial Ground.**

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

Replacement notices had been placed on headstones requiring repairs.

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

Parish Council to organise replacement signage.

**RESOLVED:**

Cllr's Ballantine and Pattison to arrange.

**2025/65              Scots Gap Sewage Treatment Works. Members to discuss problems with overflow.**

Site meeting to be organised with Northumbrian Water. Management of the site had improved.

**2025/66 Public bus service. Members to discuss public transport requirements in the parish.**  
Saturday bus service running which leaves sufficient time for users visiting Morpeth, but is unable to pick up at Morrisons.  
Adapt service may have restarted.

**2025/67 Middleton & Todridge Village Hall Committee. Members to consider election of Parish Cllr to Committee**

**RESOLVED:**

Members elected Cllr Roberson to the Village Hall Committee.

**2025/68 Audit of Accounts year ending 31/3/25**

**2025/68/01 Members to consider and agree any matters arising from the report of the internal auditor**  
Members noted the following recommendations.

1. To show the power under which any grant has been made.
2. To check that all minute pages have been signed by the Chairman.
3. To continue to monitor the level of Reserves in light of the Council's continuing healthy balances.
4. To note comments re making a grant to Wallington Football Club to address any shortfall in the rent paid to the National Trust, and recovered in part from the underlease granted by the Council to the Club.

**2025/68/02 Members to approve the Governance Statement**

**RESOLVED:**

Members approved the governance statement.

**2025/68/03 Members to approve the draft annual accounts year ending 31/3/25**

**RESOLVED:**

Members approved the draft annual accounts year ending 31/3/25

**2025/68/04 Members to approve the accounting statements and explanation of variances**

**RESOLVED:**

Members approved the accounting statements and explanation of variances.

**2025/68/05 Members to approve the exemption certificate**

**RESOLVED:**

Members approved the exemption certificate.

**2025/68/06 Members to approve the public right of inspection dates 2nd June until 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

**RESOLVED:**

Members approved the public right of inspection dates 2<sup>nd</sup> June until 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

**2025/69 Urgent Business/Items for next agenda**

The Parish Council had previously agreed a budget of £100 for the purchase of tubs at Scots Gap.

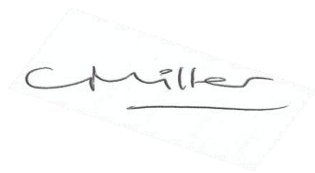
**RESOLVED:**

M Seth to arrange purchase of tubs.

**2025/70          Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Wallington Demense Parish Council will be held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025 commencing 730pm in Cambo Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

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

Claire Miller  
Parish Clerk