

WALLINGTON DEMESNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual meeting of the Parish Council held at 730pm on Monday 18th May 2026 at Middleton Village Hall

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

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

2026/49 Apologies for absence
S Pattison

2026/50 Declarations of Members Interests
Members are invited to disclose any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or other personal interests they may have in any of the items of business on the agenda in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

There were no declaration of members interests.

2026/51 Election of Chairman
Cllr Ballantine proposed and seconded as Chairman and duly elected.

2026/52 Election of Vice Chairman
Cllr Robson proposed and seconded as Vice Chairman and duly elected.

2026/53 Co-Option Vacancies. Members to consider applications
There had been no applications for the co-option vacancies.

2026/54 Opportunity for members of the public to raise any matter
No members of the public were present.

2026/55 Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 23rd March 2026

RESOLVED:
Members agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 23rd March 2026 were a true record.

2024/56 Gateway Signage, Middleton. Members to receive update on installation.
Gateway signage had been installed.

RESOLVED
The Clerk to thank NCC, and ask for the legal reasons why the speed limit cannot be reduced to 30mph (D Thompson to provide officer contact details).

2026/57 Members to receive report on National Trust matters.
Some items had been actioned to improve the small bridge, however some items had been ignored.

2026/58 Financial Matters
2026/58/01 The following payments require authorisation:

Payable to	Detail	Net	VAT	Gross
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Lloyds Bank	Monthly bank charges, retrospective, paid by direct debit,	£8.50	NIL	£8.50
HMRC	PAYE, retrospective, April 2026, paid by direct debit	£234.42	NIL	£234.42
C Miller	March, April Salary	£411.16	NIL	£411.16
	Expenses	£107.44		£107.44
Cambo Village Hall	Rent of meeting room March 2026	£12.00	NIL	£12.00
Mijan	Easy accounts	£60.00	NIL	£60.00
S Bertram	Internal auditing	£100.00	NIL	£100.00
NALC	Annual membership	£107.01	NIL	£107.01
Zurich	Annual insurance premium	£214.00	NIL	£214.00
Middleton & Todridge Village Hall	Meeting room 18/5/26	£20.00	NIL	£20.00
M Seth	Bedding plants	£71.00	£7.68	£59.23

RESOLVED:

Members approved the payments.

2026/59 Planning

2026/59/01 Planning Applications received

- 26/01065/VARYCO: Land East of Greenside Grange Track from B6343 to Greenside, Hartburn – variation of condition 5 on 23/03811/FUL in order to amend the red line site boundary access, to incorporate minimum 6m area of taracadam finish hardstanding, together with an aco drain which will drain into a proposed gravel land drain – the Parish Council had no comments to make.
- 26/01069/HEGRMN: Todridge Farm – Hedgerow removal notice: Removal of two sections of hedgerow totalling 637m – no consensus had been reached by the Parish Council, therefore no submission had been made.
- 26/01149/FUL: West Grange Hall, West Grange Drive, Scots Gap – Retrospective – use stable as a livery for horses – the Parish Council had no comments to make.

2026/59/02 Planning Application approval has been received for the following:

- 25/04473/FUL: The Garden House, Wallington – repairs and internal alterations to existing Grade II Listed Building. Proposals for new lilypond and single storey greenhouse within curtilage
- 26/01069/HEGRMN: Todridge Farm – Hedgerow removal notice: Removal of two sections of hedgerow totalling 637m

2026/60 Neighbourhood Management - To report/update on action regarding issues within the parish

2026/60/01 Members to consider footpath issues within the parish

Nothing to report.

2026/60/02 Byeways Open to All Traffic. Members to receive update on closure of BOATS within the parish

Nothing to report.

2026/60/03 Parish drains. Members to consider outstanding works

A gulley at Scots Gap remains outstanding. An area in Middleton of concern, although it is anticipated improvements will be carried out.

2026/60/04 Trees at Middleton bank top. Members to receive update via Fix My Street

Tree works remain outstanding.

2026/61 BARN/B4NTR Broadband matters. Members to receive update

Item to be removed from agenda.

2026/62 Cambo Burial Ground. Members to consider matters relating to burial ground

The Clerk and Chairman had carried out an inspection of the burial ground. Several headstones required repair, with relatives to be traced.

2026/63 Scots Gap bus shelter

2026/63/01 Members to consider damage / repairs to shelter

Repair outstanding. Cllr's Ballantine and Robson to action.

2026/63/02 Members to consider replacement stone structure

M Seth proposed replacing the current bus shelter with a stone structure. In the first instance it was agreed to contact Ray Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund to enquire whether funding would be available for such a project.

RESOLVED:

The Clerk to contact RWFCBF.

2026/64 River Wansbeck Action Group. Members to receive update

Nothing to report.

2026/65 Resident questionnaire. Members to receive update

Questionnaires to be distributed during May.

2026/66 County Council Recycling bins, Scots Gap mart. Members to consider issues with reduction in number

Problems had eased, however flytipping was occurring.

2026/67 Middleton flood works. Members to receive update

The Environment Agency had visited site, and works were now complete.

2026/68 Audit of Accounts year ending 31/3/26

2026/68/01 Members to consider and agree any matters arising from the report of the internal auditor

Members considered the report from the internal auditor. There was one recommendation relating to dual authorisation of payments.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed to continue with the current system in relation to electronic payments.

2026/68/02 Members to approve the Governance Statement

RESOLVED:

Members approved the governance statement.

2026/68/03 Members to approve the draft annual accounts year ending 31/3/26

RESOLVED:

Members approved the draft annual accounts year ending 31/3/26.

2026/68/04 Members to approve the accounting statements and explanation of variances

RESOLVED:

Members approved the accounting statements and explanation of variances.

2026/68/05 Members to approve the exemption certificate

RESOLVED:

Members approved the exemption certificate.

2026/68/06 Members to approve the public right of inspection dates 3rd June until 14th July 2026

RESOLVED:

Members approved the public right of inspection dates 3rd June until 14th July 2026.

2026/68 Review of Council Documents

Members reviewed the current Council documents.

2026/68/01 Standing Orders – members are asked to include the following addition:

12.4 The Clerk has delegated authority to respond to Planning Applications following consultation with all Parish Councillors, if the time for a response is before a scheduled meeting of the Council.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed the Standing Orders should be revised to include the above.

2026/60/02 Data Protection – Privacy Notice; Document Retention Policy; Information Data Protection Policy; I.T. Policy;

RESOLVED:

Members approved the data protection policies.

2026/60/03 Publication Scheme

RESOLVED:

Members approved the publication scheme.

2026/60/04 Code of Conduct

RESOLVED:

Members approved the Code of Conduct.

2026/69 Ray Wind Farm Steering Group. Members to consider current membership vacancies

The Parish Council did not have an automatic right to sit on the committee, however there were some vacancies coming up. Any interested Cllr or resident would be able to apply.

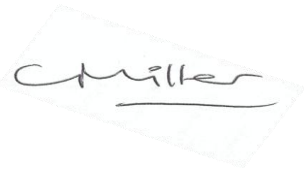
2026/70 Urgent Business/Items for next agenda

There was no urgent business / items for next agenda.

2026/71 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Wallington Demesne Parish Council will be held on Monday 27th July 2026 commencing 730pm in Cambo Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 830pm

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

Claire Miller, Parish Clerk