

Minutes from the Meeting of West Allen Parish Council
Thursday 5 December 2024 at 19:00 – Ninebanks Church and Community Hall

Present: David Adams (Stand in Chair), Rowland Hull, Helen Adams, Lee Sutterby & Fiona McIlroy (Clerk)

Apologies: Stephen Agar

In Attendance: Helen Manson & Jane Braybrook

1. Minutes of last meeting on 5 September 2024

The minutes were reviewed and approved.

2. Matters arising

- a) Priorities for NCC Local Transport Plan 2025/26 have been submitted
- b) A local landowner had contacted the Parish Council about the proposed public footpaths and bridleways – see 7 below.
- c) A draft Information Leaflet was presented and a request for £40 to cover cost of paper and printing ink. This cost was discussed and Rowland Hull agreed to print off copies as and when required. The clerk agreed to upload to the website when finalised.

3. WAPC Resilience Group

It was agreed that an email would be sent by the clerk to those of the email list reminding people that the hubs were now kitted out if required and giving the contact details of the relevant person in charge of each hub.

The clerk will update the page about the resilience group on the website.

Helen Manson confirmed that no further information about the hall roof is available at this time.

4. Precept 2025/26

The current precept stands at £1,029. It was discussed whether this should be increased. Lee Sutterby suggested it should go up by the rate of inflation and David Adams suggested due to the cost of living crisis that it should be left at the same amount.

Jane Braybrook mentioned that elections were next year and may need to be held if there was someone new who wanted to stand as a councillor. The clerk will investigate what is the maximum number of councillors permitted by law. However it was decided that the precept could not be drastically increased to cover a potential election.

It was therefore agreed to leave the amount the same as 2024/25.

5. Correspondence

There had been 2 requests for donations and it was agreed to make a £100 donation to the Great North Air ambulance.

Lee Sutterby asked for the email regarding giving feedback on the NCC planning portal to be forwarded to him

It was agreed that the request re the assessment of local pharmacies could be uploaded to the website.

6. Planning

Local planning applications were discussed and the Council did not wish to make any submission to the Planning Department in regard to the pending application.

7. Any other business

John Blackett-Ord had contacted the Parish Council about his concerns about the proposed new footpaths and bridleways which had been discussed at the September meeting. He has employed a researcher to investigate the historical rights. The clerk had sent an email to NCC supporting his submissions.

David Adams raised his local Red Squirrel project again and said he wants to approach it in a more structured way to get locals involved and his intention was to hold a further local meeting. Lee Sutterby confirmed he had seen a red squirrel locally.

8. Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 13th March 2025 at 19:00 at Carrshield Village Hall