

**MELDON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON**  
**WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025**  
**AT 7.30PM IN DYKE NEUK, MELDON**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** G Sanger (Chairman)  
J Garnett  
A Frankland  
T Garnick  
A Driver  
A Taylor

**Clerk:** Miss D Smith

**Apologies:** A Lloyd

63. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed everyone present.

The Chairman and members paid their respects to Cllr Heath Waddington who sadly passed away earlier this year.

64. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations on this occasion.

65. **Public Participation Time**

There were no public present or public questions on this occasion.

66. **Police Update**

There was no update on this occasion.

67. **Report from the County Councillor**

The Clerk advised members of the following:

- The budget went through and there are no front-line service cutbacks;
- Building 3 new schools in Northumberland;



- A new theatre/cinema is being built at Berwick;
- An Environmental Policy has been introduced and the council will be putting more money into country parks and green spaces;
- There will be an increase in roadside verge clean ups;
- Covert cameras to be installed in Ashington and Blyth to help tackle fly tipping. Fines have been increased from £200 to £1000;
- Looking at the Mitford road closure planned for later this year;
- Northumberland Line opened at Christmas 2024. To date there has been over 100k journeys. The next station will open middle of March 2025.

68. Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Members were asked to approve the draft minutes of the above meeting.

**RESOLVED**

That the above minutes, a copy of which has been previously circulated to each member, be approved and signed as correct by the Chairman with the following amendment:

*Remove 'Mitford Steads' from minute number 59 - Highways*

69. Matters Arising from previous Council meetings

Min 61 – Power Interruptions in Molesden

The Clerk advised that no response has been received regarding a representative for Northern Powergrid attending a meeting.

**RESOLVED**

To monitor the situation and if it worsens, to request again a representative to attend a meeting.

70. Town and Country Planning Act 1990

There were no planning applications to consider on this occasion.

71. Financial Matters

Members were provided, for information, with a payments and receipts list and budget report up to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

**RESOLVED**

To note and approve the above financial reports.

72. Policies – Year End Procedures

Members were asked to consider for approval the following year end policies and procedures:

- Draft Financial Regulations;
- Draft Internal Audit Policy;
- Draft Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit;
- Draft Financial Risk Assessment.

**RESOLVED**

To approve all of the above.

73. Highways

a. Meldon road

Members reported that the planned road resurfacing works and road closure on the Meldon road has not taken place.

b. Drainage

Northumberland County Council has dug the ditch out at Newton Redhouse and reconnected the old drains to make them usable. The area has not flooded since this work has been carried out.

c. New Bus Service

Cllr Garnick advised members that a new 419 Morpeth to Wallington Hall and Scots Gap bus service is being launched on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025. This is a Saturday only service and has been introduced to restore links for both residents and visitors to the western parishes of Morpeth and Morpeth Town Centre.

The service will operate in a clockwise loop in the morning and then an anti-clockwise loop on the afternoon journey, which will give customers approximately 4hrs in Morpeth.

d. Mitford Road Closure

Concerns were raised about the upcoming Mitford road closure planned for July 2025, for up to 6 months. Northumberland County Council has advised that during this time, there is no way to keep a single lane open because both carriageways will be worked on at the same time.

During the recent closure, the Dyke Neuk reported a significant drop in people using the pub and revenue. Under the Highways Act, they may be able to apply for a rate reduction when the summer work is carried out, but they cannot claim compensation. Members suggested that all Parish Councils in the area should lobby Northumberland County Council.

**RESOLVED**

- a. Information duly noted.
- b. To write to Northumberland County Council expressing concerns about the planned Mitford road closure and the effect that will have on local businesses.

74. Environment & Climate Change Issues

There were no issues to discuss on this occasion.

75. Any Other Urgent Business

The Clerk gave an update on the upcoming County and Parish elections in Northumberland.

76. Date & Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025

The meeting concluded at 8.10pm.