

Shilbottle Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Shilbottle Parish Council held on
Wednesday 10 September 2025 at 18.30
In The Haven Community Room

Public Speaking

- 1.1. J. Wall introduced herself to the meeting and asked to attend and understand the meeting having recently moved to the village.

2. Welcome by Chair

- 2.1. The Chair welcomed all the attendees.
- 2.2. The chair introduced a recent application by Mr Alex Brewis for one of our vacant positions. This was reviewed by the attendees and a proposal to co-opt was tabled. Proposed by Cllr H. Smith and seconded by Cllr Douglas vote passed unanimously.
- 2.3. Cllr Brewis and was sworn in and welcomed to the council.
- 2.4. The Chair hoped that everyone had a good summer break and welcomed our new councillors, Cllr's Brewis and Anderson this being their first meeting following co-option.
- 2.5. The Chair presented some proposals for the coming year and expanded upon her proposals to the meeting providing context to the points listed. These have been appended to these minutes.
- 2.6. Dispute about the upkeep of cemetery path from Percy Road to the cemetery. Cllr Thorne took an action to raise with The Northumberland Estates on whose land the path crosses.
- 2.7. Letting of council houses – Reports of properties at the “Keyhole” are known to be waterlogged and some unlet for up to 5 years. Cllr Thorne has raised at group meeting today highlighting this issue at the Keyhole. Cllr Horncastle will look into this. Clerk actioned to raise this with Cllr Horncastle via email advising further details.
- 2.8. Welfare field. Chair to liaise with youth leader to discuss more ways to partner with to maximise use our village amenities.
- 2.9. Chair identified need for formulating and issuing a newsletter for the village. Proposed Cllr Smith, seconded Cllr Douglas vote unanimous.

3. Those Present

- 3.1. Councillors Y. Douglas, H Smith, J. Hallal, R. Anderson, A Brewis and The Chair Cllr Mrs Haddow. Clerk P. Burns and County Cllr Trevor Thorne.

4. Apologies for Absence

Councillors, H. Mills, S. Elliott, K. McCann.

5. Minutes of meeting held 16 July 2025

- 5.1. The Minutes were presented for approval.
- 5.2. Minutes were discussed with updates on various points raised since last meeting.

5.3. Minutes proposed Cllr H. Smith and seconded by Cllr Douglas. Unanimously approved.

6. **Matters arising for discussion**

6.1. Chair updated the meeting regarding the installation of retaining walls within the new site development at Grange Road. A meeting was held earlier this afternoon with a Wynyard representative. This was valuable in that residents' concerns were raised and understood. Wynyard advised that these measures were necessary and that the introduction of these walls had been part of an amendment to drawings for the site by the development engineers.

An invitation to walk the site was given and it will be undertaken before the next meeting in October by the Clerk and Wynyard representative.

7. **Declaration of interest**

7.1. None.

8. **Correspondence**

- 8.1. Storey and Son – Welfare Roundabout
- 8.2. Shilbottle Community Hall – Evacuation Point
- 8.3. NCC - National telecare campaign partner toolkit
- 8.4. NCC - Entrance to Shilbottle at Village Coquet View
- 8.5. NALC - Website Move
- 8.6. NCC - Consultation on Street Naming Request
- 8.7. NCC S106 Enforcement - "Public Open Space" adjacent to No 1 Farriers Rise
- 8.8. NCC – Local Transport Plan
- 8.9. NCC - Comments for Planning Application 25/01332/FUL
- 8.10. NCC - Shilbottle Glass Bring Site - Clerk actioned to ascertain precisely what the "Health and Safety issues" are from NCC and report back at next meeting.
- 8.11. NCC – Leader of the Council invitation letter
- 8.12. Wynyard Homes – Dog poo bin relocation Grange Road
- 8.13. GMS – Welfare Field Grass Cutting
- 8.14. Councilor – Resignation
- 8.15. The Northumberland Estates – Path beside cemetery.
- 8.16. Northumbria Police – Monthly report

9. **Finance (for July and August 2025)**

OUTGOINGS (for July 2025)

Storey and Son Landscape Gardening	Service Level Agreement	£1,755.00
Storey and Son Landscape Gardening	Play Area Maintenance (Hampeth)	£1,740.00
Greaves Grindle Chartered Accountants	Audit fees	£720.00

SPC Clerk	Maintenance (Dog bin purchase Leatherland Road)	£294.55
NCC	Maintenance	£558.54
Shilbottle Community Hall Charity	Membership fees	£15.00
Kidd Garden Design	Play Area Maintenance	£120.00
SPC Clerk	Expenses	£112.90
HP Instant Ink	Inks	£13.49
Lloyds Bank	Bank charges	£7.75
SPC Clerk	Wages	£735.00

INCOMINGS (for July 2025)

NIL	£0.00
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OUTGOINGS (for August 2025)

Storey and Son Landscape Gardening	Service Level Agreement	£1,740.00
Greaves Grindle Chartered Accountants	PAYE Bureau	£120.00
Kidd Garden Design	Play Area Maintenance	£120.00
Lloyds Bank	Bank charges	£6.25
SPC Clerk	Wages	£735.00

INCOMINGS (for August 2025)

NIL	£0.00
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9.1. Finance for month of July and August 2025 was offered for acceptance. Proposed Cllr Douglas, seconded Cllr Brewis. Accepted unanimously.

10. **Planning** – Clerk advised the following feedback over month:

- 10.1. Planning Consultation 25/01332/FUL Whittle Colliery Hampeth – Clerk has registered our objection and receipt of objection has been received from NCC.
- 10.2. Farriers Rise Development A/2001/0096 – Pant at St James Road/Farne Road– Section 106 Agreement.
 - 10.2.1. Following representations by Cllr Thorne and the Parish Council, Northumberland County Council (NCC) Planning has confirmed that an Enforcement Case has been opened. Formal Enforcement letters have been issued to both the owner of No. 1 Farriers Rise and The Northumberland Estates, requiring the removal of all unauthorised features and the reinstatement of the area to its original condition as designated Public Open

Space (POS) under the Farriers Rise Section 106 Agreement. The deadline for compliance was set for 05 September 2025.

- 10.2.2. However, during an inspection conducted today ahead of our Parish Council meeting, it was observed that the site remains in use as a private allotment. Rather than seeing any signs of compliance, a new chicken run has been installed since the last inspection in July 2025. Ongoing development of the allotment was also clearly visible.
- 10.2.3. This continued activity demonstrates a clear and deliberate disregard for the instructions issued by NCC Planning Enforcement. It also represents a blatant breach of the Section 106 Agreement, under which The Northumberland Estates had no authority to unilaterally lease public open space to a private individual.
- 10.2.4. Both The Northumberland Estates and Northumberland County Council have, to date, failed in their duty to uphold the terms of the Agreement and to protect the interests of the local community. The Parish Council, along with our County Councillor, remains fully committed to maintaining pressure on both parties to act responsibly and in accordance with their legal and moral obligations.
- 10.2.5. Legislation does not allow for POS to be “sold off” unless a set procedure is undertaken. This has not been adhered to and as such The Northumberland Estates and NCC are compromised here.
- 10.2.6. Moving forward, NCC must ensure that the land is maintained in accordance with the Section 106 Agreement, just as Alnwick District Council did prior to its dissolution. Furthermore, The Northumberland Estates must take full responsibility for its unlawful letting of public land and ensure it is fully restored to its original state, including but not limited to the replacement of any trees felled during the creation of the allotment.

11. **Feedback on play areas - Councillors Haddow, Hallal**

- 11.1. Welfare Field Grass Cutting. GMS have issued an invoice for the grass cutting of the field. Councillors have noted that the quote was requested for the whole field but many areas have failed to be cut. GMS have said that the cutter could not cut some areas. Photos have been taken by councillors showing that swathes of grass had not been cut. Proposed for Clerk to go back to GMS to obtain a pro rata reduction for areas failed to be cut. Proposed Cllr Smith, seconded Cllr Hallal vote unanimous.

12. **Liaison with NCC** County Councillor Thorne/ Councillor Haddow

- 12.1. Councillor Thorne provided feedback on letting issues (see section 2 earlier).

13. **Liaison with Police - Councillors Douglas, H. Smith.**

- 13.1. Report received this month from the Police and distributed to the meeting. No issues advised.

14. **Bus Shelters** - Councillor Elliott.
 - 14.1. Nothing reported this month.
15. **Dog fouling/Litter** - Update by all Councillors for designated areas
 - 15.1. Clerk has purchased replacement dog litter bin for Leatherland Road and has been installed.
16. **NCC Housing and Public Protection** - Councillors Haddow and Hallal
 - 16.1. See section 2 above.
17. **Environment & Sustainability** - Councillor (To be assigned following Cllr L. Smith resignation)
 - 17.1. No feedback this month.
18. **Liaising with School and Church** - Councillor McCann and Douglas
 - 18.1. Mrs Weaver and Cllr Douglas have had a discussion today to discuss ways to liaise with the church.
19. **Traffic Northside** - Councillor Haddow
 - 19.1. Northside speeding – It has been recognised that near the chicane at the west end of Northside speeding remains an issue. It is another area requiring speed signs but since the budget for 2025/26 has been set. An action to include in the 2026/27 budget was proposed. Clerk to include in next financial year's review.
20. **Village walkabout with County Councillor** - Councillor Haddow
 - 20.1. Walkabout with The Northumberland Estates (TNE) took place on 18 July 2025 with Cllr Thorne, Haddow, H Smith, Elliott and TNE representative A. Robson.
21. **Co-option Councillors** - Councillor Haddow
 - 21.1. Welcome to Cllr Anderson and Brewis.
22. **Retaining walls and general layout of Wynyard Estate** - Councillor Haddow
 - 22.1. The Clerk was actioned to review the original planning flood risk assessment and associated documents and contact NCC Planning to understand how these new features may impact the flood assessments which were extensively design reviewed by NCC and Jasper Kerr the consulting engineers who undertook the assessment on behalf of The Northumberland Estates.

23. **Emptying and virtually derelict bungalows in Shilbottle** - Councillor Haddow

23.1. See earlier section 2.7

24. **Surgery update** - Councillor Haddow

24.1. The Chair intends to go back to surgery about those patients not IT literate and effectively being ostracised from gaining access to surgery services as a result. Failure to have taken any concerns on board with not promised feedback materialising.

25. **Further items at discretion of the Chair**

25.1. Empty Garages Lee Avenue – Cllr Thorne to raise at County Hall.

25.2. No additional comments from attendees.

26. **Date of next meeting:**

26.1. The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 08 October 2025 at 18:30 in The Haven Community Room

26.2. Meeting ended 20:10

APPENDIX

SHILBOTTLE PARISH COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 2025 CHAIRMANS PROPOSALS

- 1 Holding NCC to account with regard to
 - a. Public Open Space at Farriers Rise
 - b. Maintaining cemetery path from Percy Road
 - c. Parity for funding for cemeteries
 - d. Unoccupied houses i.e. The Keyhole
 - e. Demolition of unsightly garages at Lee Avenue
- 2 Getting Welfare field into greater use and liaising with Youth Leader.
- 3 Getting school involved in designs for P.O.S
- 4 Preparing a plan for village improvements for 2025/26
- 5 Opening up Haven as Community Hub,
- 6 Establishing a monthly or bi-monthly open meeting for villagers to meet their Councillors.
- 7 Immediate plan to produce a newsletter, listing all new Councillors, inviting villagers to unveiling of new sign at Old Pit, inviting people to an open day at The Haven.
- 8 Liaise with Bob Bain for Remembrance Sunday.

Ideas from Councillors for this list.