**Minutes of electronic meeting of Stamfordham Parish Council held on Thursday 18th March 2021 commencing at 730pm**

**Those Present** Cllr E Trevelyan, Chairman

CllrsBoylan, Miller, Scratcherd, Wilson

C Miller (Clerk), County Cllr V Jones, two members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence**

Cllr Bushby

1. **To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 21st January 2021**

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st January 2021 be accepted as a true record.

1. **Matters arising from the Minutes, not otherwise on the Agenda**

There were no matters arising

1. **Planning Matters:**

**Applications received**

* 20/0444/LBC: Hawkwell House, Listed Building Consent to install electric stair lift from ground floor to first floor level – no objections.
* 20/03714/FUL: 10 the Oval, Construction of lean-to single storey extension to the rear and side – no objections.
* 21/00299/VARYCO: Oakfield Lodge Eachwick – Removal of condition 5 on CM/99/D/69 in order to remove the agricultural tie from the property – no objections.
* 21/00169/FUL: Land South West of Joiners Workshop, Dark Lane – Conversion of existing building to single dwelling – no objections.
* 21/00154/FUL: La Luna Farm, Mill Lane Heugh – proposed menage and retrospective planning permission for septic tank – County Council had not contested the applicants successful appeal for planning permission for the chalet, and to which the retrospective septic tank was for. The open air menage proposal could lead to an arena with flood lighting, and at the very least there should be a condition to prevent this. It was resolved therefore to object to the proposals to the menage, as per Parish Council objections to the numerous other planning applications submitted for the site.
* 21/00489/FUL: 3 Widdrington Drive, Construction of rear two storey extension, replace flat roof with pitched to link, conversion of outbuilding to study – no objections.
* 21/00241/FUL: Oakfield Lodge, Eachwick, proposed rear two storey extension creating a lounge, additional 2 bedrooms, chimney and balcony, single storey gym extension, dormer window to front and rear – no objections.

**Cricket Club advertisement**

Complaints had been received regarding an oversized advertisement placed on the verge near to the playing field, with Clerk having reported this to the County Council.

**Notice of Appeal, Town and Country Planning Act 1980 Appeal under Section 78:**

* Land West of Brewery Close, construction of five new build two storey detached dwellings with three detached garages and associated access**.**
* The Coop Eachwick, proposed alterations to site layout with parking changes, secure tool (and nursery materials) store position, hardstanding and size amended, new security gates and polytunnel amended.

1. **Parish Benches**

Due to illness, contractor had not as yet removed the second seat.

1. **Parish trees – tree in need of removal near to Village Hall**

County Council had advised the tree would be removed by Christmas 2020, with County Cllr awaiting response from the officer in charge as to when the works would now be actioned.

1. **Grasscutting within the parish**  
   Cllr S Wilson to speak to parishioner who had requested a piece of grass be left uncut. County Council had advised they were happy to cut alongside the footpath the width of the grass cutter, and leave the rest to grow.
2. **Cycling Events within the parish**

Event scheduled for the first Saturday in July, however the organisers had not informed the Parish Council of the proposed date. Cllr Boylan in touch with British Cycling and had asked who had placed an article in The Communicator, as it should not have been permitted without the writer being identified. Steve Tunmore to attend the May Parish Council meeting and is insistent the village should be more involved in events to take advantage of the influx of people. It was agreed proposed dates should be discussed prior to organising an event, however the Parish Council do not seem to have much authority, with the Village Hall Committee having greater involvement. It was resolved to contact British Cycling to state pre-arranged dates were not good enough, permission should be sought well in advance, and the proposed date in July is too near to the possible re-opening up after Covid-19 restrictions are scheduled to be lifted. However the Parish Council had no authority to refuse the event.

1. **Financial Matters: Payments to authorise;**

C Miller – six monthly salary & expenses - £488.46; HMRC – PAYE - £119.00; Northumberland County Council – additional grasscutting - £962.69;

It was resolved to approve the payments

**to consider request for donation from Citizens Advice Northumberland –** no grant authorised.

1. **County Councillor Report**

Vaccinations for over 50s underway with some people having had their second injection. The infection rate per 100,00 in Ponteland West is currently zero. Climate Change Action Group going well. Traffic calming measures at Harlow Hill were due to commence 1/2/21, however adverse weather conditions had led to delays. Police currently have limited numbers to carry out speed gun patrols, and County Cllr had received further speeding related complaints. Historic England comments regarding Interactive speeding signage were still outstanding. The pavement at the end of the bridge is becoming more dangerous, however County Council insist it is not their responsibility. County Cllr had received a request for 30mph through Eachwick, which would not be easy to justify, however it could be requested through the Local Transport Plan 2021-2022.

1. **Parish signposts – village signs at Bridge End, West end and by the Jail**

Metalwork rusted away, chipboard rotten, with request from parishioner for Parish Council to replace structures.

**12.Speeding traffic concerns through Harlow Hill/installation of interactive speed camera/speeding at Cheeseburn**

Police were responsible for fixed speed cameras, and which could only be installed at the site of fatal accidents,

13**.Correspondence**

No correspondence had been received.

**14.Review of Internal Auditor**

It was resolved to re-engage A Winter to carry out the internal audit for year ending 31/3/21.

**15. Review of internal Controls**

It was resolved that the current system of internal control was sufficient for the present needs of the Parish Council.

**16 Review of Asset Register**

It was resolved the register was a true value of the assets held by the Parish Council.

**17 Review of Risk Assessment**

It was resolved the Risk Assessment was sufficient for the present needs of the Parish Council.

**18 Review of Insurance Policy**

Bus shelters current valued at £20015; 2 litter bins £402.35; 3 dog waste bins £1147.77; 3 seats £2401.54; Employers and Public liability £10m; loss of non-negotiable money £250K; libel & slander £100K; Fidelity Guarantee £25K – it was resolved to remove the bins from the policy and add play area equipment at £24,000.

**19 Review of Bank Signatories**

It was resolved the bank signatories, with three persons, and two having two to authorise payments, was sufficient for the present needs of the Parish Council.

**20. Review of Standing Orders**

It was resolved the Standing Orders were sufficient for the present needs of the Parish Council.

**21. May 2021 Parish Council Elections**

Nomination forms to be completed and delivered by hand to County Hall, with appointments having to be made for this.

**22.Other business admitted by the Chairman as urgent**

Email had been received asking if the Parish Council were to buy the village phone booth from British Telecom, and if so, would they consider renting it to run a business from, being a takeaway café selling hot drinks and pastries, to trade for six months during the Summer. However the Parish Council had objected to the possible closure of the phone box, as there was insufficient mobile coverage in the parish, and would not wish to see the service removed.

**23.To confirm the date of the next meeting**

The next meeting of Stamfordham Parish Council will be held on Thursday 20th May 2021 commencing 730pm

The meeting closed at 830pm.