

Minutes of ordinary meeting of Stamfordham Parish Council held on Thursday 17th March 2022 commencing at 730pm in Stamfordham Village Hall

Those Present Cllr E Trevelyan, Chairman
Cllrs Boylan, Reynolds
County Cllr V Jones, C Miller (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Lawson

2. Co-Option Vacancies

There had been no applications for the co-option vacancies.

3. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 20th January 2022

It was resolved the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th November 2021 be accepted as a true record.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes, not otherwise on the Agenda

Free trees had been received, with further discussion on location required with County Council.

5. Planning Matters

Applications received

- 21/03473/FUL: Orana, Hawkwell – proposed first floor extension to existing property – no objections
- 22/00398/COU: Land North of Harlow Hill Farm – Change of use of agricultural building to B8 Storage – Parishioners had contacted E Trevelyan and Clerk with objections due to the prospect of an increase in heavy goods vehicles, with the road already cause for concern. It was therefore resolved to amend the Parish Council comments to state the PC understand the road entrances are not conducive for HGV's to access, and if the planned storage facilities were to be used by HGV's, the Parish Council would object strongly, due to the narrow entrance.
- 22/00613/LBC: 2 North Side – Listed Building Consent for refurbishment of attic rooms – no objections.
- 22/00745/FUL: Dodley Farm, Stamfordham – new detached double garage and garden store with room in roofspace for home office – no objections.

Applications approved

21/03473/FUL: Orana, Hawkwell, first floor extension to existing property.

6. Cycling Events within the parish

Nothing to discuss.

7. Grasscutting issues

County Council had suggested a site meeting to discuss the part of land to be left for rewilding, however nothing had yet been arranged. County Cllr Jones to contact Neighbourhood Service Area Manager P Lowes to arrange meeting.

8. Financial Matters:

Payments to authorise: Northumberland County Council – additional grasscutting - £991.57; C Miller – six monthly salary/expenses - £596.43; HMRC – PAYE - £124; Stamfordham Village Hall – rent of meeting room - £15 – It was resolved to approve the payments.

Additional bank signatory

There had been errors on the mandate form with Clerk having amended, and identification documents were required for Cllr Lawson - Cllr Boylan to liaise with Cllr Lawson.

To consider requests for grant from Citizens Advice Northumberland, and Northumberland Age UK

It was resolved no grants would be given.

9. To approve contribution to costs for fence repair at village green

Capheaton Estates had confirmed they could install a replacement fence at an approximate cost of £1200 to £1500 and as all materials would be supplied by their sawmill and labour carried out by the Estates Staff, a contribution to the costs was requested. The work could be actioned around April, however this should not be seen as a commitment to do so in the future. It was resolved the PC would contribute 50%, subject to the repair being like for like.

10. County Councillor Report

Northumberland Local Plan to be finalised 30/3/22. Independent governance review to be carried out at County Hall. Covid cases rising. Additional funding had been earmarked for improvements to U and C roads.

Concerns continue with road outside of Bells garage, and condition of footpath. County Cllr to attempt to arrange site visit with County Council Officer.

11. Speeding traffic concerns through Harlow Hill/installation of interactive speed camera

Petition had been heard by County Council Petitions Committee, who had requested additional surveys.

12. Climate Action in the parish

Parishioner had organised climate change awareness event in the village last Saturday morning. A household battery bank would be of use in the parish, with County Cllr to make enquiries. A trial is planned for collection of food waste in the County. Central government are to provide funding towards recycling issues, which County Council could access.

13. To consider issues relating to Bay Horse

County Cllr to chase up, however falling into disrepair means a building is dangerous, not an eyesore. The surrounding metal fence also of concern.

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, with the addition of four extra waste bins. There was a bin in disrepair, and which would be considered further at next meeting.

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 £20615.58; 3 seats £2473.59; Play area equipment £25,000. Standard Parish Council cover being Employers and Public liability £10m; loss of non-negotiable money £250K; libel & slander £100K; Fidelity Guarantee £25K. It was resolved cover was sufficient for the present needs of the Parish Council.

19.NALC – The Armed Forces Covenant

NALC – The Armed Forces Covenant - NCC made a commitment to support the Armed Forces Community by signing the Armed Forces Covenant in 2012 and renewing their commitment in 2020. The Covenant is a promise from the nation that those who serve or have served, and their families, are treated fairly. NALC had arranged electronic training event, with Clerk to provide update at next meeting.

20.Other business admitted by the Chairman as urgent

Hall Committee were arranging a Jubilee Platinum celebration, and had asked if the Parish Council could contribute financially. Item to be added to next agenda.

Election of Parish Widdrington Trust Parish Council representative to be added to next agenda.

21.To confirm the date of the next meeting

The Annual meeting of Stamfordham Parish Council will be held on Thursday 19th May 2022 commencing 730pm. The Annual Meeting of the Parish will commence at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 820pm.