

Minutes of the Annual meeting of Stamfordham Parish Council held on Thursday 19th May 2022 commencing at 730pm in Stamfordham Village Hall

Those Present Cllr E Trevelyan, Chairman
Cllrs Boylan, Reynolds, Merridew, Hutt
C Miller (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr I Lawson

2. Election of Chairman

Cllr E Trevelyan proposed and seconded as Chairman and duly elected.

3. Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr L Boylan proposed and seconded as Vice Chairman and duly elected.

4. Election of representative on Widdrington Trust

Cllr Lawson proposed and seconded as representative on Widdrington Trust and duly elected

5. Co-Option Vacancies

There had been three applications for the vacancies and it was resolved to co-opt Duncan Hutt and Tanya Merridew who were present at the meeting, and able to join the Council immediately. Third applicant to attend next PC meeting on 21/7/22.

6. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 17th March 2022

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th March 2022 be accepted as a true record.

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

After four years of reporting, the entrance to Bells garage had been repaired by the County Council. Repair on bridge footpath still outstanding. Capheaton Estates were yet to carry out reinstatement of fencing near to Bay Horse.

8. Planning Matters

Applications received

- 22/01177/FUL: Westburn House, Stamfordham – proposed garden room, store and workshop to replace existing sheds and storage buildings. Applicant had advised the statement “the proposed development affects the public right of way” was untrue. They had queried this with the County Council who had advised site constraints were picked up automatically at validation, despite whether they have a material impact on the right of way itself. The Footpaths Officer had no objection to the proposals, on the condition the path is protected throughout and no action should be taken to disturb the path surface without prior consent from the Highway Authority – the Parish Council had no objections to the proposals.

Approval of Planning Application

- 22/00613/LBC: 2 North Side – Listed Building Consent for refurbishment of existing attic rooms and associated work.

Notice of application withdrawal

- 22/00398/COU: Land North of Harlow Hill Farm – change of use of agricultural building to B8 Storage.

9. Grasscutting issues

Lack of grasscutting at play area discussed, with gardener to be asked to carry out cutting every two weeks – with quote having been accepted at £300/per annum for play area and path. Cllr L Boylan to speak to gardener, with annual fee to be revised if necessary. Permission to plant trees had been received from County Council and who were leaving part of the verges uncut. Cllr D Hutt believed too much grass was being cut in the parish, however sightlines were necessary. Cllr L Boylan had advised County Council of the Platinum Celebrations 4/6/22 to be held on the village green.

10. Financial Matters:

Payments to authorise: Stamfordham Village Hall - £15.00; L Miller - grasscutting - £100; NALC Annual Subscription - £200.44; Zurich – annual insurance premium - £840.85 – second year of 3 year long term contract.

It was resolved to approve the payments.

Additional bank signatory: Cllr I Lawson had been added as a bank signatory.

11. To approve financial contribution to Village Hall Committee Jubilee Platinum Celebrations

Costs as follows: £89 for insurance; £21 for event licence; £150 for Hexham Steel Band and raffle prizes required. It was resolved to approve £300 to the Village Hall Committee. If there were surplus monies from the event they would be dispersed to community groups.

12. County Councillor Report

County Councillor not present.

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

No further information received.

15. To receive update on tree planting within the parish

Discussed earlier.

16. To consider Climate Change action in the parish

County Council Climate Change Team had offered guidance and had funds available to carry out feasibility studies, with funds also available through Northern Powergrid. A study would cover areas such as energy efficiency, solar panels and car charging points – County Council were to implement car charging points in the county over the next few years. Action involving community energy efficiency, tree planting, biodiversity, wildlife. community composting and recycling could all be furthered, with energy efficiency and tree planting to be initially actioned.

17. To consider issues relating to Bay Horse

The building was slowly deteriorating. There was a new Government initiative to bring to task landlords of business premises and pubs that were neglected. Clerk to contact County Councillor for an update, and who had been liaising with Planning Enforcement regarding the neglected condition of the site.

18. Audit of Accounts year ending 31/3/22

18/01 To consider and agree any actions arising from the report of the internal auditor

There were no issues arising from the report of the internal auditor.

18/02 To approve the Governance Statement

It was resolved to approve the Governance Statement.

18/03 To approve the draft annual accounts for 2021/2022

It was resolved to approve the draft annual accounts for 2021/2022.

18/04 To approve the Accounting Statement and explanation of variances

It was resolved to approve the Accounting Statement and explanation of variances.

18/05 To approve the Exemption Certificate

It was resolved to approve the Exemption Certificate.

18/06 To approve the public right of inspection dates

It was resolved to approve the public rights of inspection dates from 13 June to 22 July 2022.

19. Northumberland Association of Local Councils – The Armed Forces Covenant

Local Authorities were encouraged to sign The Armed Forces Covenant, particularly in respect of employing ex Armed Forces personnel, however at the present time it wasn't considered an area the Parish Council could assist in.

20. Other business admitted by the Chairman as urgent

Correspondence had been received from Will Wearmouth, employee of M.P. Guy Opperman, and who wished to be informed of big issues affecting the community.

21. Parish Litter bins

Clr Reynolds had produced a map of bins in the parish and carried out a bin survey, with several being in poor condition. There were eight different types of bins of varying sizes, plus dog waste bins, and two bins in the bus shelters. Most liners were corroded and which could be replaced. After consideration it was initially resolved to order one liner and to refurbish one bin.

22. To confirm the date of the next meeting

The next meeting of Stamfordham Parish Council will be held on Thursday 21st July 2022 commencing 730pm in Stamfordham Village Hall

The meeting closed at 820pm.