

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

Present: Cllr L Boylan (Chair) Cllr C Reynolds, Cllr Forsyth, Cllr Hutt, Cllr Merridew, Cllr Parker, one member of the public

1. Apologies for absence

C Miller (Clerk), County Cllr V Jones

2. Meeting with Community Action Northumberland Energy Advisor

Brian Watson Community Energy Advisor from Community Action Northumberland (CAN) in attendance. CAN energy advisors have a wide remit providing signposting, advice and finance to support energy efficiency measures and renewables to both community groups such as village halls, and also individuals. They act as a conduit for filtering down grants and funding from both the County Council (e.g. discretionary payments to off-grid households) and work with the charitable arm of energy companies to bid into funds via the Community Based Energy Fund. BW stressed the importance of CAN being an impartial charity-based route to receiving up to date information & advice. Their website Energy Advice in Rural Northumberland provides advice, links and access to their in-house publication, the Cosy CAN brochure. BW to forward electronic and hard copies of the next publication in due course.

3. Co-Option Vacancy

No applications had been received for the co-option vacancy.

4. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 6th October 2022

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 6th October 2022 be accepted as a true record

5. Planning Matters

Planning Applications received

No planning applications had been received.

Approval of Planning Application received

- 22/02867/LBC: Low Cross House, 14 Southside – installation of stair lift
- 22/03757/LBC & 22/03756/FUL: 3 North Side, demolition and rebuilding new extension

Notice of withdrawal of Planning application

22/00754/FUL Dodley Farm, detached garage and garden store

Notice of planning application approved at planning committee 11/11/22

- 22/02904/FUL: La Luna Farm, Mill Lane, Heugh – Installation of concrete hardstandings and pathways to accommodate a horse walker.

Parishioner spoke about the La Luna Farm development, with the intention of providing the Parish Council with thoughts and perspectives from himself and other residents of Mill Lane who share concerns about the development at the La Luna Farm site. He provided an overview of the history of applications for the site and expressed concerns about potential future applications including a likely application for a permanent residence on site. Matters of concern included the creeping development; destruction of land with Green Belt

designation and categorised as being of High Landscape Value; development of the various aspects of the site pre-empting planning approval; running a building site during lockdown; strong and ongoing opposition from a significant number of local residents against development on the site; the negative impact and damage to the historic access lane; the lack of justification for a person to be resident on site to keep horses; the lack of demonstrable proof of 'exceptional need' for the development in this location (open agricultural land) and of the business case underlying it. Parishioner had been in contact with County Cllr Jones and Rob Murfin Head of Planning at the County Council and would be taking further planning advice on the matter. Cllr Merridew raised the issue of the site providing a precedent in the area for anyone wishing to develop on Green Belt land, and had concerns over the lack of response from the County Council regarding enquiries about the site. Cllr Boylan thanked parishioner for their input and expressed a shared concern with development on the site.

It was agreed the Parish Council would seek further advice on effectively responding to planning applications, especially those of a contentious nature.

To consider a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish

It was agreed a Neighbourhood Plan was a possible avenue of interest to explore further. Cllr Merridew to contact the County Council to seek further advice/possible visit from a Planning Officer. The advantages and potential pitfalls to be considered and clarity required regarding the difference between a Village Plan and a Neighbourhood Plan, and how these would work together.

6. Financial Matters:

Payments to authorise:

- Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal – Remembrance Day Wreath - £50
- Mijan - £25 (replacement cheque due to original being made out to £30 in error)
- AJS Landscaping – grasscutting to play areas and path to playing fields – £100. Confirmation to be sought from L Miller of AJS Landscaping that he would be willing to continue maintenance from Spring 2023.
- Stamfordham Village Hall – Rent of meeting room - £24 – Cllr Boylan to query increase in price.

To consider budget and precept requirements for 2023-2024

To be deferred until next meeting.

To receive update on new bank signatories and on-line banking

Cllr's Reynolds and Hutt confirmed as bank signatories.

Acknowledgement of grant had been received from Sport Tynedale.

Acknowledgement of grant noted.

7. County Councillor Report

County Councillor not present.

8.To consider action that can be taken to address Climate Change

Further action to be considered through CAN (detailed under agenda item 2). Cllr Hutt to consider a 2023 plan for grass-cutting.

9.Trees - County Council free trees; playground trees

County Council had forwarded a Notice of Revocation of Tree Preservation Order for Bridge End as the subject of the order is no longer present on the site.

Cllr Boylan had secured a further ten native trees via the County Council to be planted alongside the footpath, and reported the school had also applied for trees. Eight of the trees planted in the last tranche appear to have survived. The County Council had advised the playground trees be topped to prevent the spread of roots, and the branches should be trimmed on the tree nearest to the village hall. With regard to insurance it was noted that if a tree is damaging drains it generally means there is pre-existing damage to the drain.

10.To consider issues relating to Bay Horse and receive update on fence repair

The fence had been repaired but there had been some further damage, possibly by a vehicle hitting a post and dislodging a rail. It was suspected there had been vandalism during the repair period with the works taking longer than anticipated and which would lead to greater costs to the Parish Council. Clerk to forward letter of thanks to Capheaton Estates for their assistance.

Cllr Reynolds noted the deterioration of the Bay Horse, particularly on the gable to the west where cracks had appeared. It was agreed that although the County Council surveyor reported no urgent concerns following a site visit, there was a need to monitor the situation. Cllr Boylan to take photographs of the current state of the building and contact County Cllr.

11.To consider repairs/replacement of parish litter bins

Cllr Reynolds reported on the condition of the 8 bins and 3 dog waste bins in the village as either in need of repair or replacement, would speak to the contractor to identify bins in most need of repair, and continue to research suitable replacements for those in the worst condition. The bin inside the bus shelter on Northside would be removed and replaced with a larger external bin.

12. To consider Crisis Management

Cllr Boylan circulated the newly created Stamfordham Community Plan, with Cllrs to review the document. A follow up meeting to be held 29/11/22 with the Reverend who had assisted in producing the document, and who was to provide further details on finance etc.

13. To consider a Warm hub

The Village Hall Committee had been making good progress, however volunteer requirements were an issue of concern.

14.To consider parishioner concerns regarding vehicles exceeding the 20mph limit, including cyclists near to Surgery

Parishioner had written with concern regarding the above. It was noted that speeding cyclists from the Heugh can be a problem, however speed limits do not apply to cyclists. Cllr Boylan to contact County Cllr regarding the failure of speed lights on the bank. General concerns about road safety raised – especially with regard to parking around the school – on double yellow lines, bus stop and pavement. It was agreed the situation required monitoring, with Cllr Forsyth to contact the Headteacher.

15.Urgent business/items for next agenda

Cllr Parker requested public footpaths be added to the next agenda. An audit of the current state of footpaths and stiles was required to identify problem sites. Cllr Hutt to contact County Council Footpaths Officer, and in the meantime Cllrs to photograph any evidence so location and issues can be logged formally.

16.To confirm the date of the next meeting

The next meeting of Stamfordham Parish Council will be held on Thursday 19th January 2023 commencing 730pm in Stamfordham Village Hall.

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