

**Minutes of ordinary meeting of Stamfordham Parish Council held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 commencing at 730pm in Stamfordham Village Hall**

**Those Present** Cllr Boylan, Chairman  
Cllrs Reynolds, Hutt, Forsyth, Parker  
County Cllr V Jones, C Miller (Clerk)

**1. Apologies for absence**

Cllr Merridew

**2. Election of Chairman**

Cllr Boylan proposed and seconded as Chairman and duly elected.

**3. Election of Vice Chairman**

Cllr Reynolds proposed and seconded as Vice Chairman and duly elected.

**4. Election of Village Hall representative**

Cllr Reynolds proposed and seconded as Parish Council Village Hall representative and duly elected.

**5. Election of Widdrington Trust representative**

Cllr Boylan proposed and seconded as Parish Council Widdrington Trust representative and duly elected.

**6. Co-Option Vacancies**

There had been one application for the co-option vacancy and it was resolved to Co-Opt Simon Parker.

**7. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022**

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022 be accepted as a true record.

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

There were no matters arising from the Minutes, not otherwise on the Agenda.

**9. Planning Matters**

**Planning Applications received**

- 22/02522/LBC: Church House, 40 Southside - Listed Building Consent: Removal of section of plaster at least 30-40cm in height along length of first-floor wall – no objections
- 22/02867/LBC: Low Cross House, 14 Southside, install stair lift – no objections
- 22/02904/FUL: La Luna Farm, Mill Lane, Heugh – Installation of concrete hardstandings and pathways to accommodate a horse walker. Applicant present who explained the circumstances of the historic planning applications. The pre-application plan was never going to happen in its entirety but submitted on the advice of the applicants planning advisor. The initial aim had been to receive planning permission for two glamping pods with proposals for visitors who have limited resources to use. The horsewalker and concrete hardstanding application is to tidy the yard up and required to progress the business. The main interest of the applicant is to protect the green belt. Cllr Boylan stated the initial parishioner objections were understood, as access through two single track lanes would always be problematic. Applicant advised bees had been nesting along with a wide range of additional wildlife, she was attempting to make the place presentable and make the business work. It was not planned to be a large enterprise and cause upset to parishioners. The application for the horsewalker is for business use, with

stallions and young horses to be exercised, and would not be visible from the road. Planning permission had already been received for the business, and the sheds were not large enough to accommodate a horsewalker. As the business expands there may be a further application, and there was to be a submission for a permanent dwelling. Applicant stressed the proposals would not be a creeping development. The initial aim had been to help children who had never seen a green belt or farm. Applicant thanked for coming to the meeting and explaining the circumstances.

Parish Council considered the most planning application and had no reason to object to the proposals.

#### **Approval of Planning Application received**

- 220/2377/FUL: 2 Hawkwell – rear extension to form extended kitchen, shower room and bedroom
- 22/01177/FUL: Westburn House, Stamfordham – proposed garden room, store and workshop to replace existing sheds and storage buildings.

#### **Notice of withdrawal of Planning application**

- 22/01264/FUL: Oakfield Lodge, Eachwick – Erection stables, tackroom and associated horse paddock – Parish Council objections relating to accessibility, impact on green belt, visual appearance, lack of screening, and impact on neighbouring properties had been submitted to County Council

#### **To consider a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish**

Cllr Hutt had produced plans of the parish boundaries. Extending the Communicator newsletter to Albemarle Barracks may attract interest in the Parish Council from this area of the parish. The process for adopting a Neighbourhood Plan had been shortened and it could be achieved within two years. Cllr Forsyth willing to lobby parishioners to see if they wish to receive an email distribution of the Communicator. Cllr Hutt to contact County Council regarding the possibility of securing an O.S. map for the parish.

#### **10. Grasscutting issues**

There were no grasscutting issues at the present time and item would be removed from agenda.

#### **11. Financial Matters:**

**Payments to authorise:** AJS Landscaping - grasscutting - £100; Village Hall – rent of meeting room - £15.00; C Miller – six monthly salary and expenses - £682.89; HMRC PAYE - £124.00; Spanglefish – annual web-site fee - £103.

It was resolved to approve the payments

#### **To consider Request for grant from Sport Tynedale**

It was resolved to grant £50 to Sport Tynedale.

#### **To approve additional bank signatories and application for on-line banking**

It was resolved to add Cllr Hutt and Reynolds to the bank mandate and apply for on-line banking.

#### **To consider computerised financial package at the cost of £60/annum**

It was resolved to sign up to a computerised financial package at the cost of £60/annum, with £30 payable to Mijan Ltd tonight for the six month period until 31/3/23.

#### **12. County Councillor Report**

Funding towards energy bills is available for those who must use calor gas, as opposed to mains gas. The price of coal had virtually doubled, and there is funding support available via County Council. County Cllr had financed signage relating to the narrow bridge, along with other signage such as Slow Down at Eachwick, and a speed survey is being carried out. Road Safety Officer to arrange site visit at Dark Lane.

Cllr Boylan reported providing a warm hub had been discussed at the Stamfordham Village Hall Committee meeting. Community Action Northumberland could provide advice on providing a hub in the parish, which would entail volunteers. Northernpower Grid had set up a Resilience funding grant scheme to cover measures such as being equipped for a generator, further to problems encountered during Storm Arwen. For Crises Management, a plan and volunteer committee would need to be created, and during times of crises, contact numbers of those willing to assist in times of emergencies could be displayed in the Communicator. Cllr Boylan to speak to Matfen Parish Council who had put resilience measures in place.

### **13.Speeding traffic concerns through Harlow Hill/installation of interactive speed camera**

Email had been received from a livery yard owner regarding the B6309 which some people appear to be using as a drag strip. The livery yard must use a part of the road to access bridleways, and in July there had been two accidents in one week where riders came off their horses on the road and the horses bolted off, both incidents caused by drivers simply driving too fast and not able to slow down in time when they saw the horses. The livery yard is desperate for some sort of warning signage. Clerk had advised the livery owner to report the incidents to the County Council and County Cllr. The police and County Council were working together, and the road safety scheme did include interactive speed signage which was still in theory in the plan, however County Cllr did not believe these signs would appear, due to the road being the Hadrian's Wall path.

### **14.To consider action that can be taken to address Climate Change**

A meeting in the parish had been held to consider climate change, with energy efficiency, car charging, tree planting and other issues discussed. A surveyor and energy assessor had been contacted for advice, however there were problems with the high number of listed buildings in the village. An article in the communicator with links to energy efficiency would be useful. Grant funding could be available towards energy efficiency and advising residents would be a first step. Energy efficiency in community buildings a further issue, such as installation of solar panels, however funding would likely be through a loan for this type of expenditure. An electric community car could potentially reduce the number of cars in the village. Cllr Forsyth to contact energy advisor via Community Action Northumberland for further advice.

Grasscutting considered, areas currently cut could be reduced. A parish plan of grasscutting and who is responsible would be beneficial.

### **15.Trees - County Council free trees; playground trees**

Cllr Boylan to apply for further trees and which could be planted where grass is left longer, along with flowers. Trees were growing in the playground hedge outside of the fence and required removal. Trees were possibly causing drainage problems to the Village Hall. A site visit during daylight hours would be arranged, and drainage issues ascertained.

### **16.To consider issues relating to Bay Horse and receive update on fence repair**

Capheaton Estates had confirmed the fence repair would be actioned late Autumn. County Council had no authority regarding the current state of the building. Cllr Forsyth suggested a parish petition be forwarded to the landowner.

### **17.Parish litter bins**

No further action, Cllr Reynolds to speak to contractor.

**18.To consider dedicated Parish Cllr email addresses**

It was agreed Parish Cllr's would look to set up dedicated email addresses for Parish Council business.

**19.To consider acknowledging E C T Trevelyan's long service as a Parish Cllr**

It was resolved to forward letter of acknowledgement to E C Trevelyan for his long service as a Parish Cllr.

**20.To consider cyclone event**

Cllr Boylan had forwarded the three area timetables and contact number for the Cyclone Event to Stamfordham Matters.

**21.Urgent business/items for next agenda**

Parish Council Remembrance Day Wreath to be laid during church service on Armistice Day.

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

The next meeting of Stamfordham Parish Council will be held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 commencing 730pm in Stamfordham Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 945pm

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