

# Stamfordham Parish Council

**Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023 commencing at 730pm in Stamfordham Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllr L Boylan (Chair), Cllr C Reynolds, Cllr T Merridew, Cllr D Hutt, Cllr S Parker, C Miller (Clerk), Sarah Brannigan and Mark Harrison (County Council), one member of the public

**1. Apologies for absence**

Cllr P Forsyth

**2. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 be accepted as a true record.

**3. Meeting with County Council to consider a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish**

Mark Harrison and Sarah Brannigan present from County Council Neighbourhood Planning team. The law requires that planning decisions are made in line with the County Council development plan. Twenty plans had been adopted in the county and currently being used to determine planning applications in their areas. The benefits set out requirements in advance for new development in an area, inform and guide decisions on planning applications and ensure that the multitude of individual decisions add up to something coherent for the area as a whole. A NP can cover new housing, conversions, design, local green space, heritage assets, settlement boundaries, landscape, community facilities and village centre. The process is as follows: County Council designate the neighbourhood plan area, engagement with community, identifying issues, developing vision and objectives, building evidence, drafting policies, screening for environmental impacts and carrying out environmental impact assessments if required, consultation on draft plan/re-draft plan before submitting to the County Council, publicising of draft plan and inviting comments, independent examination of plan, local referendum, and making the plan. County Council provide a dedicated Link Officer, attendance at relevant meetings and events, support with creation of consultation material and key supporting documents, advice, guidance and assistance on creating a useable and legal Neighbourhood Plan. A National design code can make a development more local or site specific, such as density, roof lines, to take into account conservation areas. Local green space would give the same level of protection as green belt. The Parish Council could link up with a neighbouring parish to produce a joint plan. The levelling up Act is currently at the last stage, going through the house of lords which is to include legislation and secondary regulations, including the role of Neighbourhood Plans and contributing to an adaptation to climate change. The bill also states all Local authorities have to produce their own design guides. Funding for Neighbourhood Plans is through government via locality, with grants of up to £10K available, which is usually used to engage the services of a planning consultant. The plan has to be assessed for environmental impacts. Further technical support available. Stamfordham isn't allocated any housing specifically, the delivery numbers in the Northumberland Plan have in some cases already been met. The M.P. should be made aware of a Neighbourhood Plan via the County Council.

MH and SB then left the meeting.

#### **4. Co-Option Vacancy**

It was resolved Clerk would contact the two prospective applicants who had attended the March 2023 Council meeting and ascertain whether they were still interested in the vacancy.

#### **5. Planning Matters**

##### **Planning Applications received:**

- 23/01502/LBC: Heugh House, Heugh – Listed Building Consent for replacement of 6 sash windows – no objections
- 23/02390/FUL: Well House, Hawkwell – Extension to existing double garage to provide study/recreational room as well as additional storage to rear and outdoor terraced space – it was resolved to object to the proposals, although it is a minor application, it is adjacent to a river or stream which will clearly be affected by the application.

##### **Planning Application refused:**

- 23/01514/FUL: South Barn, Harlow Hill - proposed oak framed porch to south (front) elevation.

#### **6. Financial Matters:**

##### **Payments to authorise:**

- Graham Hurford – waste bin installation - £845
- St Maty's Church – photocopying - £4.50
- RoSPA (Playsafety Ltd) – annual play area inspection report - £115.20
- Mijan – annual accounts package - £60
- Northumberland County Council – rent in respect of land at First School - £120
- L Miller – grasscutting - £100

It was resolved to approve the payments.

**To consider request for grant from Citizens Advice Northumberland** It was resolved no grant would be given.

#### **7. County Councillor Report** County Councillor not present.

#### **8. To consider action that can be taken to address Climate Change** A Neighbourhood Plan could assist with addressing climate change.

#### **9. To consider issues relating to Bay Horse**

The run-down building continues to cause health and safety concerns. Up-to-date photographic evidence to be forwarded to County Council Enforcement Control.

#### **10. To consider Crises Management**

Crises Management information to be forwarded to all properties in the parish.

#### **11.To consider audit of parish footpaths**

Cllr's D Hutt and S Parker had commenced the inspection of parish footpaths.

#### **12.To receive update on governance review to de-ward the parish**

County Council aware of the request, but no further progress report had been received.

**13. To consider effects of parking on land adjacent to the Brewery Yard, Grange Road**  
Matter to be removed from agenda.

**14. To consider Local Transport Plan Requests 2024-2025, requests for 2023-2024 being resurfacing through Eachwick; speed reduction at Harlow Hill; reinstatement of pavement on the Pont bridge**

It was resolved to retain the requests as follows: 1.Resurfacing through Eachwick; 2.Speed reduction at Harlow Hill; 3.Reinstatement on pavement on the Pont bridge.

**15. To consider annual RoSPA play area inspection report**

There were no issues arising from the RoSPA play area inspection report.

**16.To consider waste bin installation and logos**

It was resolved to approve the quotation for bin logos at £12.75/per 10, with 20 to be ordered.

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

It had previously been agreed that the path to the playing field would be cut with Cllr L Boylan to speak to contractor. The grant for a generator connection point for use during crises management ongoing. Cllr L Boylan had attempted to contact police regarding their speedwatch scheme. Some overgrown verges in the parish were impeding vision. Possible planting of coronation tree to be added to next agenda.

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

The next meeting of Stamfordham Parish Council will be held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023 commencing 730pm in Stamfordham Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 920pm.