

Minutes of ordinary meeting of Stamfordham Parish Council held on Thursday 16th March 2023 commencing at 730pm in Stamfordham Village Hall

Present: Cllr L Boylan (Chair) Cllr C Reynolds, Cllr Forsyth, Cllr Hutt, Cllr Merridew, Cllr Parker, C Miller (Clerk), two members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Co-Option Vacancy

Two prospective candidates interested in becoming co-opted were in attendance. There was one further applicant who would be attending the next Parish Council meeting, therefore the decision to co-opt would be deferred until a later date.

3. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 19th January 2023

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 19th January 2023 be accepted as a true record.

4. Planning Matters

Planning Applications received

23/00519/COU: Land North of Harlow Hill – Change of use of agricultural building to B8 Storage – Parish Council objection had been submitted as follows: The change of use to this building and site involves ingress and egress from/to the B6318 which is a busy east/west route with a mandatory speed limit of 40 mph on this section. This in itself is a cause of concern given the line of sight from the west and the position of the Oatens Bank junction and junction to the site relating to the application. We are concerned about the potential increase in traffic and would like to see further information on expected vehicle use of the site, including types of vehicles that are likely to result from the change of use. The term "Storage" is ambiguous and leaves endless room for interpretation. Until the type of goods to be stored are identified an accurate estimation of access frequency and vehicle type cannot be calculated. Currently the planning statement lacks any detail in this respect. We would suggest vehicles above 7.5 tonnes would not be appropriate. There are nearby agricultural buildings which have had a change of use increasing the number of domestic dwellings and associated footfall and domestic traffic. This area is now residential and safety and disturbance of residents needs to be taken into account. The report also lacks details on matters such as ecology, in that, while no structural change is expected a change in patterns and intensity of use of a building could have impacts on species such as bats or barn owls, should they be present. The fact that large agricultural equipment and machinery has historically used this site does not automatically conclude that this is appropriate. The historical agricultural use has seen the considerable increase in the size of equipment and machinery over time without any relevant access increase suitable to accommodate it. The quantity of journeys for agriculture would be at a minimum compared to that for storage and or distribution anticipated relating to the size of this building.

Refusal of Planning Application received

- 22/04124/FUL: Land East of Oakfield Lodge, Eachwick – Erection of stables, tackroom and associated horse paddock

Approval of Planning Application received

- 22/04418/LBC: Church House, 30 Southside – Listed Building Consent to replace partition wall with traditional wooden balustrades
- 22/04576/FUL: Close House, Dalton – Rear extension, refurbishment of existing windows and amendments to side elevations
- 22/03757/LBC and 22/03756/FUL: 3 North Side – Listed Building Consent for proposed demolition of existing offshoot and rebuilding new extension

To consider a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish

County Council Officer Rob Naples was unable to attend tonight’s Parish Council meeting to advise on the Neighbourhood Plan process, and would be invited to the May Parish Council meeting.

5. Financial Matters

Payments to authorise

C Miller – six monthly salary & expenses - £644.74
 HMRC – PAYE - £145

It was resolved to approve the payments.

To receive update on Santander account signatories

Bank signatories had now been updated.

To consider submitting complaint to Santander

£250 had been received from Santander in way of compensation for the long delay with adding the new signatories.

6. County Councillor Report

County Councillor not present.

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

Application had been submitted for the installation of an EV chargepoint in the Village Hall car park, with outcome awaited. County Council were holding electronic climate change information session 20/3/23.

8.Trees - County Council free trees; playground trees

County Council free trees to be removed from agenda. There was a lot of debris and branches dropping from four trees near to Northside, however recent tree works had been carried out. There were mature trees in the centre, but no young species in the main part of the village. Twenty trees had been placed at Bridge End. Trees opposite Bells garage would be problematic in the future and replacements on the bank would be beneficial. A tree to celebrate the Coronation suggested, and it was resolved to contact Capheaton Estates to request permission for tree planting on the village greens. Reports of four trees of concern to be forwarded to County Council, Cllr Boylan to forward photographic evidence to Clerk.

9.To consider issues relating to Bay Horse

Photographic evidence had been forwarded to Enforcement Control at County Council, with Clerk to chase up and request a response.

10.To consider repairs/replacement of parish litter bins

There were currently thirteen litter bins within Stamfordham village, 3 being dedicated dog muck bins. It was resolved to purchase ten Leafield 70litre Environmental black bins, with the possibility of adding "Stamfordham Parish Council," to the receptacles. The current state of litter bins in Dalton to be clarified.

11.To consider Crises Management

Contact information leaflet for use in times of crises approved and which would be circulated to all parishioners. There were problems gaining an estimate for a generator power point at the Village Hall. County Cllr had offered funding of £2000 towards the works, and Northern Powergrid could provide a generator during a crises.

12.To consider vehicles exceeding the 20mph limit; To consider community speedwatch

Northumbria Police can arrange a speed van to visit the parish. Cllr Boylan to enquire about the volunteer community speedwatch scheme. There were continuing problems with parking at the school, with Cllr Forsyth to liaise with school.

13.To consider audit of parish footpaths

Cllr Parker had been taking photographic evidence of footpath problems, with evidence to be forwarded to County Council in due course.

14. Grasscutting: To consider grasscutting schedule 2023

Grasscutting had commenced, which would be the last additional cut for year ending 31.3.23.

15.Review of Internal Auditor

It was resolved to re-engage A Winter for internal audit y/e 31.3.23.

16. Review of internal Controls

It was resolved the current internal controls were sufficient.

17. Review of Asset Register

It was resolved the register was a true record of the Council assets, further to amendment of litter bins to ten (dog waste bins three).

18. Review of Risk Assessment

It was resolved the risk assessment was sufficient for the current needs of the Council. Due to a trip hazard, L Miller to be asked to remove the planters at the bus stop and planters at the seat at Bridge End.

19. Review of Insurance Policy

It was resolved the insurance levels were sufficient for the current needs of the Council, as follows:
Public liability £10m; Employers liability £10m; Libel £100K; Fidelity £25K; Bus shelters £21234.05; Seats £2547.80; Play area £25750.

20.To consider governance review to de-ward the parish

It was resolved to request a governance review via the County Council to de-ward Stamfordham parish.

21.To consider celebrations for King's Coronation

Parish Council had submitted grant application to County Council Coronation fund for £500. Lunch on the Green event to be held 7/5/23.

22.To consider community speedwatch

Discussed earlier.

23.Urgent business/items for next agenda

Request for commemorative seating on land at Harlow Hill to be added to next agenda.

Proof of resident cards for parishioners of Northside and Southside during Beaumont cup cycle race day to be added to next agenda.

24.To confirm the date of the next meeting

The next meeting of Stamfordham Parish Council will be held on 18th May 2023 commencing 730pm.

The meeting closed at 930pm.

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