

Stamfordham Parish Council

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

Those Present: Cllr L Boylan (Chair), Cllr C Reynolds, Cllr S Parker, Cllr D Hutt, Cllr R Williams, V Jones (County Cllr), C Miller (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr T Merridew, Cllr P Forsyth

2. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 20th September 2023

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 20th September 2023 be accepted as a true record.

3. Co-Option Vacancy

It was resolved to co-opt Richard Williams to the Parish Council.

4. Planning Matters

Planning Applications received:

- 23/03586/LBC: West End Cottage, 34 North Side – Listed Building Consent for thermal upgrade of existing link extension and installation of mezzanine floor – no objections.
- 23/03549/FUL Retrospective: Change of use of existing annexe to holiday let Location The Chapel Harlow Hill – no objections.
- 23/03200/FUL: Silver Hill House Dalton, Remove cat slide side extension and creating a new modern extension – no objections.

Planning Permission Granted:

- 23/02842/FUL: Whittle Dene Treatment Works, Harlow Hill – erection of kiosk and fence.

Planning Application Refused:

- 23/02839/FUL: La Luna Farm, Mill Lane, Heugh – Proposed rural works dwelling, consisting of retention and extension to dwelling located on site.

5. Financial Matters:

Payments to authorise:

Stamfordham Playing Field & Village Hall - £90

It was resolved to approve the payment.

Further to problems with Santander, an application to open a current account/on-line access had been made to Lloyds Bank.

To consider budget requirements 2024-2025

First draft of budget requirements 2024-2025 considered, to be confirmed at January 2024 meeting.

To consider precept requirements 2024-2025

First draft of precept requirements 2024-2025 considered, to be confirmed at January 2024 meeting.

6. County Councillor Report

County Council were to provide limited services during the bus strike, with two buses a day leaving Stamfordham, 729am and 932am to Ponteland; and to leave Ponteland 302pm and 602pm - County Cllr to request the bus also stops at Callerton. Surface dressing to Kiln House complete; 30mph limit at Fenwick included in Local Transport Plan, currently at the design stage; interactive signage had now been installed at Harlow Hill;

C Reynolds reported problems with camper vans parking on double yellow lines in the school layby. Traffic warden presence at school times requested, with County Cllr to liaise with County Council. Clerk to also report problems to County Council. County Council can implement yellow lines/speed limits, but speeding/parking offences are a police issue. Eachwick gateway signage to slow traffic to be implemented.

L Boylan had reported longstanding path repair via Fix My Street, with assurances it would be actioned within 14 days.

Creation of footpath to playing field would need to be added to LTP 2025-2026. D Hutt to provide approximate costings for a path.

County Cllr reported County Council Fix my Street database collects masses of data and is leading to issues such as resurfacing being actioned. County Cllr had funding available via capital project scheme, with replacement interactive signage outside of village hall and interactive signage at Bridge End requested. Poles that had been installed to move signage around the parish should be removed – County Cllr to contact County Council Highways.

7. To consider Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, Vision, Objectives and Community Actions

A Working Group would need created and terms of reference created. WG to consist of all Parish Cllr's, and willing parishioners, to meet separately from the Parish Council meetings. Initial meeting to be held Thursday 7/12/23, 730pm.

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

Free trees to be collected 7/12/23 and planted within the parish. One parishioner had suggested tree planting in the field between Stamfordham and Hawkwell, however this is privately owned, but could be a potential site for the future. Environment Agency to speak to Parish Council in due course regarding project on fenland.

9. To consider issues relating to Bay Horse

Slates coming off the back of the building. L Boylan had contacted English Heritage with no reply. Further inspection required by County Council. County Cllr to liaise with County Council.

10.To consider Crises Management; to receive update regarding generator point

Generator point not yet secured. County Cllr to liaise with County Council.

11.To consider audit of parish footpaths

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report.

13.To consider areas for coronation commemorative tree and free trees via County Council

Discussed earlier.

14.To consider any other tree issues

Tree Officer was to carry out assessment on tree at Hawkwell.

15. To consider issues with Japanese knotweed

D Hutt to advise on options.

16.To consider grasscutting contract 2024

Students may be available to action grasscutting during 2024. Play area required fortnightly cutting, and pathway to pavilion monthly. L Boylan to arrange article seeking quotes to be placed in communicator.

17.To consider issues with garden rubbish being dumped into Howe Burn

C Reynolds to report issue to Environment Agency.

18.To consider clothes bin for the parish

It was resolved a clothes bin was not required for the parish.

19.Town & PC Conference

The conference to be held on a six monthly basis. County Council Highway Officers had been available to speak to prior to the conference.

20.Footpath to playing field

Discussed earlier.

21.Urgent business/items for next agenda

Possible bike repair station for the parish to be added to next agenda. Narrow bridge on Medburn falling into river. Black and white Stamfordham signs looking tired.

22.To confirm the date of the next meeting

The next meeting of Stamfordham Parish Council will be held on Thursday 18th January 2024 commencing at 730pm in Stamfordham Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 915pm