

Minutes of ordinary meeting of Stamfordham Parish Council held on Thursday 21st March 2024 commencing at 730pm in Stamfordham Village Hall

Those Present: Cllr L Boylan (Chair), Cllr T Merridew, Cllr C Reynolds, Cllr S Parker, Cllr D Hutt, C Miller (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr R Williams

2. Co-option vacancy

There had been no applications for the co-option vacancy.

3. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 18th January 2024

RESOLVED:

Members agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18th January 2024 were a true record, further to deletion of Cllr P Forsyth as being in attendance.

4. Planning Matters

Planning Applications received

- 24/00342/FUL: Roman Well, 2 Harlow Hill – proposed first floor single storey extension above existing kitchen to create an additional bedroom and bathroom on the first floor – no objections.
- 24/00135/FUL: Land North West of Chatsworth and Holmfoot Bridge End – Change of use of agricultural land to residential garden land, proposed boundary fence and re-position of tank – Parish Council concern had been submitted as the land known as the Telephone Exchange is not part of the old school curtilage.
- 24/00437/FUL: 4 Grange Road – pointing of brickwork on front wall - **APPLICATION WITHDRAWN**
- 23/03549/FUL: Retrospective (amended description) – Enlargement of existing annex and change of use to holiday let – Parish Council objection had been submitted to County Council due to application contravening previous planning approval.

Planning Application approved

- Pens Close, Stamfordham - Construction of extension to North, East and West to form kitchen, plantroom/ utility and garage, and an additional bedroom to the first floor.

Planning Application withdrawn

- 23/02390/FUL: Well House, Hawkwell – Extension to existing double garage to provide study/recreation room and additional storage to rear and outdoor terraced space

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – Appeal Under Section 78

- Land at East of La Luna Farm, Mill Lane, Heugh – proposed rural works dwelling, consisting of retention and extension to dwelling located on site – Parish Council had submitted further objections to the appeal.

5. Financial Matters

Payments to authorise

- C Miller – six monthly salary & expenses – £742.75
- Stamfordham PFVH – rent of meeting room - £30

RESOLVED:

Members approved the payments.

To receive acknowledgement of grant from Great North Air Ambulance

Acknowledgement noted.

6. County Councillor Report; to consider interactive signage

County Cllr reported grants available to village halls via Fore organisation; road closure scheduled Fenwick to Matfen; traffic wardens had visited the parish, warning signage now insitu; investigation had been carried out at bridge (over med burn) and funding bid submitted, although structure currently safe; County Cllr could provide funding for replacement weather vane for the village cross; **RESOLVED:** Members supported interactive signage sited B6309 East, and outside of Stamfordham Village Hall.

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

RESOLVED: Members agreed to meet 18/4/24 or 9/5/24 730pm, to agree Working Group membership.

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

Land owner(s) interested in improving wetland area. Environment Agency had visited site and were to provide proposals and initiate survey work. Proposed cycle repair station could assist climate change. **RESOLVED:** Cllr Parker to seek quote(s) for cycle repair station.

9. To consider issues relating to Bay Horse

Nothing to report.

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

Generator had been secured. Item to be removed from agenda.

11.To consider audit of parish footpaths

Audit to be carried out by Cllr's Parker and Hutt.

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

County Council had confirmed the parish had been de-warded. Item to be removed from agenda.

13. To consider issues with Japanese knotwood

Knotwood had not yet appeared.

14.To consider quotations received for grasscutting contract

RESOLVED: Members agreed to accept the quotation from R Hindmarsh.

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

Nothing to report.

16.To consider Footpath to playing field

Contractor had been asked to provide quotation to create footpath.

17.To consider issues regarding narrow bridge on Medburn

Discussed earlier.

18.To consider condition of Black and white Stamfordham signage

Both signs were rusted and require repair which would preserve them for a little longer. Sign at Village Hall requires new post. Resident complaints had been received against removal of the signage, with some residents in favour of

removal. **RESOLVED:** Members agreed to seek professional opinion on the condition of the signage, Cllr Parker to speak to contractor.

19.To consider any tree matters - to receive revocation of the Borough of Castle Morpeth (Dalton) Tree Preservation Order 2000

Northern Powergrid had requested permission to trim trees, however they were not the remit of the Parish Council. Revocation of TPO noted.

20.To consider possible bike track repair station

Discussed earlier.

21.Review of Internal Auditor

RESOLVED: Members agreed to re engage A Winter as internal auditor y.e. 31/3/24

22. Review of internal Controls

RESOLVED: Members agreed the current internal control system was adequate.

23. Review of Asset Register

RESOLVED:

Members agreed the Asset Register was a true record.

24. Review of Risk Assessment

RESOLVED:

Members agreed the Risk Assessment was adequate.

25. Review of Insurance Policy

RESOLVED:

Members agreed the levels of insurance were sufficient, as follows: Contents £23K; playground equipment £63,500 (subject to single article limit of £10K); Public Liability £12m; Employers Liability £10m; Libel and Slander £100K; Fidelity Guarantee £250K; Loss of non-negotiable money £250K

26.Review of Bank Signatories, NS&I Investment Account

RESOLVED: Cllr's Boylan, Reynolds and Hutt to become signatories.

27.To consider comments raised via Community Breakfast

Comments had been received relating to the state of Bay Horse, parking at Bay Horse, improvements required to mobile phone reception, due to analogue system being switched off in the future; EV charging points; overgrown hedges leading to highway issues; parking next to Brewery Close; **RESOLVED:** Cllr Boylan to contact Cheeseburn Estate.

Further comments related to mini bus parking in school layby; parking on village green; parking on North Side, with suggestion area be tarmacked and retaining wall erected. Further comments to be considered at next Parish Council meeting.

28. To consider correspondence from Elections Office, County Council, regarding review of parliamentary polling districts and polling places

County Council were obliged to carry out a review of polling places every five years.

RESOLVED: Members agreed the present polling facilities in the parish were sufficient.

29.Urgent business/items for next agenda

There was no urgent business/items for next agenda.

30.To confirm the date of the next meeting

The Annual meeting of Stamfordham Parish Council will be held on Thursday 16th May 2024 commencing 730pm

The Annual meeting of Stamfordham Parish will commence at 7pm

The meeting closed at 920pm.

DRAFT