

Stamfordham Parish Council

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 20th March 2025 commencing at 730pm in Stamfordham Village Hall

Those Present: Cllr L Boylan (Chairman), Cllr S Parker, Cllr C Reynolds, Cllr T Merridew, Cllr M Lloyd

In Attendance: C Miller (Clerk), V Jones (County Cllr)

2025/14 Apologies for absence

Cllr R Williams, Cllr D Hutt

2025/15 Members to confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 16th January 2025

RESOLVED:

Members agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 16th January 2025 were a true record.

2025/16 Public Questions

There were no Public Questions.

2025/17 Planning Matters

2025/17/01 Planning Applications received. Members to consider applications.

- 25/00707/PRUTPO: Hawkwell Close – TPO: T11 Beech – Reduce by 4-5m. Large cavity on south side of stem from base to 4m. T12 – Beech – Remove lowest eastern branch (decayed). Slight asymmetrical form. Lowest eastern branch decayed (overhangs garden) – members had no comments to make on the proposals.

2025/17/02 Planning Application approved. Members to note approvals.

- 24/04192/FUL: Close House, 7 Brewery Close – Timber Conservatory

2025/17/03 Planning Application NO 23/03549/FUL, Annexe at Harlow Hill. Members to receive update on Stage 2 Complaint response.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed to make a submission to the Ombudsman.

2025/18 Neighbourhood Plan

1.Members to receive update from Working/Steering Group

Cllr Boylan had attended a Space for Nature meeting at Swarland. An offer from a professional to speak to the Council in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan had been forthcoming.

2.Members to receive update on purchase of I.T. equipment to aid Neighbourhood Plan

No update available.

2025/19 Financial Matters

2024/19/01 Payments. Members to authorise the following payment

PAYABLE TO	DETAIL	NET	VAT	GROSS
Great North Air Ambulance	Grant, approved 16/1/25	£200	NIL	
C Miller	Six monthly salary Six monthly expenses	£674.32 £64.80		
Stamfordham Playing Field & Village Hall	Meeting room rent, 12/11/24 Meeting room rent 16/1/25 Meeting room rent 20/3/25	£30.00 £30.00 £30.00	NIL	
Morgan Lloyd	Costs relating to play area maintenance	£41.30	£34.42	£6.88
L Boylan (Via Scott's of Whittington)	Gate repair	£22.00	£4.40	£26.40

RESOLVED:

1. Members approved the payments.
2. Cllr Lloyd to move spring to outside of gate at play area.

2024/19/02 Village Fayre Committee. Members to consider grant request for £500

Members considered grant request from Village Fayre Committee.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed not to award a grant.

2024/19/03 Members to receive acknowledgement of grant to Great North Air Ambulance

Members noted the acknowledgement of grant from Great North Air Ambulance.

2025/20 County Councillor Report

The draft Local Transport Plan 2025-2026 included resurfacing at Oaten Bank, Harlow Hill. Works to be carried out on road at Heugh Mill bridge. County Cllr had received a request for passing places on back road to Ponteland, and was to possibly fund dropped kerb(s) in the parish.

Cllr Boylan reported shrubbery is causing vision problems for vehicles at Fenwick (where tree was removed).

2025/21 Climate Change

2025/21/01 Bike repair station. Members to receive update on proposal

The Clerk advised County Cllr contribution of £1799 had been paid into the Parish Council bank account.

RESOLVED:

Back repair station to be installed. Contractor to invoice Parish Council.

2025/22 Parish Maintenance and related issues

2025/22/01 Bay horse. Members to consider Health & Safety issues

The listed building continues to deteriorate, and which the Parish Council consider to be dangerous.

RESOLVED:

County Cllr to continue to lobby County Council with concerns.

2025/22/02 Parish footpaths. Members to receive update

County Council had repaired the bridge over Howe Burn.

2025/22/03 Possible footpath to playing field. Members to consider costs

Further landscape gardeners to submit quotations.

2025/22/04 Parish Signage. Members to consider quotation for repairs/refurbishment of Black and white Stamfordham signage. Members to consider quotation for repairs/refurbishment road sign at Bridge end.

Quotation for repairs to signage had been received, at a total cost of £1800. The Council had striven to gain additional quotes to no avail.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed to accept the quotation from Rusty Restorations.

2025/22/05 Parking within the parish. Members to consider issues

Abandoned car had been reported to County Council.

County Councillor had received a parking request for the verge at Bridge end.

2025/22/06 Parish trees. Members to consider any tree issues in the parish

Item to be removed from agenda.

2025/22/07 Dog fouling in the parish. Members to consider ongoing problems

Item to be removed from agenda.

2025/22/08 Play area maintenance. Members to consider any issues

1. Condition of paths and soft surface areas

Soft surface area requires cleansing.

RESOLVED:

Cllr Boylan to contact grasscutting contractor to see if they could action.

2025/23 Generator Point at Village Hall. Members to receive update

Item to be removed from agenda.

2025/24 Noticeboards.

1.Members to consider request for noticeboard at Harlow Hill

A tall slim structure could be placed next to the post box, however costs were prohibitive.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed to carry out further investigations for a suitable location and structure.

2.Members to receive update on display of notices at old coalhouse doors

Item to be removed from agenda.

2025/25 Review of internal controls

Members considered the Statement of Internal Control

RESOLVED:

- 1.Members agreed the current internal controls were adequate.
- 2.Members agreed the current direct debit to HMRC would continue.

2025/26 Review of internal auditor

The Clerk advised Mrs A Winter was prepared to continue as the internal auditor.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed to re-engage Mrs A Winter as internal auditor year ending 31.3.25.

2025/27 Review of insurance policy

The Clerk advised of the current covers 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.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed the levels of insurance were sufficient

2025/28 Review of Asset Register

Members considered the Asset Register.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed that the Asset Register was an accurate record.

2025/29 Review of Risk Assessment

Members considered the Risk Assessment.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed the Risk Assessment was adequate.

2025/30 Governance Review. Members to receive official order relating to community governance review

The Clerk advised Northumberland County Council had forwarded the official order relating to the community governance review.

2025/31 Ultrafast broadband. Members to receive update on project

Alncom representatives had attended Pop up Café events.

2025/32 Defibrillator, Harlow Hill. Members to consider resident request for defibrillator

The Clerk had been contacted by a resident of Harlow Hill regarding a possible defibrillator to be located at Harlow Hill. Members considered locations and agreed a defibrillator could not be placed on private land.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed there was no suitable location for a defibrillator at Harlow Hill.

2025/33 British Telecom, Digital Voice. Members to note public meeting 10am to 4pm 15 & 16/4/25, Morrisons, Morpeth

Members noted the public meeting in relation to telephone digital switchover 2027.

2025/34 Local Elections 2025. Clerk to give verbal report on process

The Notice of Election published on Thursday 20th March officially opens the election period and from Friday 21st March to Wednesday 2nd April the Returning Officer can accept nomination forms. Nomination papers must be delivered by hand to County Hall or Hexham.

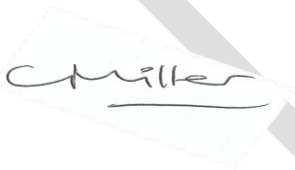
2025/35 Urgent business/items for next agenda

There was no urgent business / items for next agenda.

2025/36 To confirm the date of the next meeting

The next meeting of Stamfordham Parish Council will be held on Thursday 15th May 2025 commencing 730pm in Stamfordham Village Hall.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish will commence at 7pm



The meeting closed at 910pm

Claire Miller, Clerk/RFO