

Matfen Parish Council  
Ward 1 – Fenwick, Ingoe, Ryal. Ward 2 – Matfen

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in Matfen Village Hall on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 7.00pm.

**Present:** Mr Stuart Mills, Chairman of the Council together with Mr Frank Robson, Mrs Ann Gregory-Smith & Mr Keith Irving

**In Attendance:** Jo Bramley (Clerk) and County Councillor Mrs V Jones  
Charles Kelly (Ryal resident)

- 0761. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Chris Austin (holiday)
- 0762. DECLARATION OF INTEREST.** None.
- 0763. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016.** It was proposed by Cllr S Mills, seconded by Mrs A Gregory-Smith and AGREED to accept the minutes as an accurate record.
- 0764. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT.** County Cllr Mrs V Jones gave a verbal update on matters relating to Northumberland County Council.
- CORE STRATEGY.** No more information, it is being re-done.
  - TALL SHIPS.** It was a great success.
  - COUNTY HALL.** Sale is going ahead and building work for Ashington has gone out to tenders.
  - INGOE.** Speed limit change is going ahead.
  - FLOODING IN INGOE.** Two incidents have occurred and have been rectified.
  - LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN.** Cllr V Jones put down Burnside Road and Bingfield resurfacing as her priorities.
- 0765. MATTERS ARISING**
- MATFEN VILLAGE HALL.** Minute 686a refers. Decision deferred to the next meeting.
  - MAPS.** Minute 753a refers. **Action: Clerk to make sure we receive the map requested.**
  - COUNCILLORS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** All the declarations of interest are as it should be.
  - VACANT POSITION FOR COUNCILLOR.** There is still a vacant position for a Parish Councillor. Stuart Mills mentioned that Hugh Murphy has shown an interest in this role. **Action: S Mills to invite Mr Murphy to attend November meeting.**
  - GRASS CUTTING.** It has been noticed that after the grass has been cut the grass is being collected. It makes a huge difference to the areas and look really neat and tidy. **Action: Clerk to thank the grass cutters on behalf of the Parish council.**
- 0766. FINANCE**
- ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.** It was proposed by Mr S Mills, seconded by Mrs A Gregory Smith and AGREED accounts on the list attached be paid.
  - CLERKS HOURS.** Minute 754b refers. **Action: S Mills to discuss with Clerk before November meeting.**

Payee	Detail	Cheque Issued	VAT	Net of VAT	Cheque Number
Matfen PCC	Donation	200.00		200.00	100910
Tynedale Vermin Control	Mole trapping	130.00		130.00	100911
Viking	Stationery & stamps	94.55	4.39	88.18	100912
Miss J M Bramley	Expenses	90.69		90.69	100913
Matfen Village Hall	Rental – August 2016	10.00		10.00	100914
Matfen Village Hall	Rental – September 2016	10.00		10.00	100915
Miss J M Bramley	Clerical Services	359.07		359.07	100916
Mel's Cleaning	Public Toilets – August 2016	33.00		33.00	100917
Mel's Cleaning	Public Toilets – Sept 2016	49.50		49.50	100918
Came & Company	Insurance Renewal 2016/17	457.09		457.09	100919
Air Ambulance	Donation	200.00		200.00	100920
Community Action Northumberland	Donation	25.00		25.00	100921

**0767. CORRESPONDENCE.** All correspondence received since the July 2016 meeting had been listed on the agenda and circulated to all councillors.

**0768. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**  
All outstanding planning applications are listed on each agenda.

Planning Application Reports	
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Reference	Applicant	Address	Description	Decision
16/01423/FUL	Mr Jonathan Goodfellow	Land East of Lynup Hill Byres, Ingoe	Construction of a shed to house 16,000 free range laying hens	GRANTED
16/02513/FUL	Mr Ken Pickering	Fairspring, Ryal	Proposed erection of a single storey conservatory to the front of the main house	GRANTED
16/02369/FUL	Matfen Hall LLP	Land west of Tilehouse Plantation, Millers Lane, Matfen	Erection of 30 holiday lodges with associated access & landscaping, creation of passing places on Miller's Lane, and construction of underpass below C342	Pending

**0769. VILLAGE ISSUES**

**a) ONGOING RYAL ISSUES.**

- i. Charles Kelly is very happy with the grown of the grass coming through the mesh on the green and the hard core on the diagonal strip.
- ii. Update regarding two large mounds in the field on the horizon that are caused by the dumping of waste material and enlarging the surrounding area. Cllr Veronica Jones has contacted Joe Turner at the NCC who is the new Environmental Enforcement Officer, Joe Turner and we don't know if she has received a response as yet. Mr Turner has visited the site and agreed it was totally unacceptable and said he would write a letter to resident in question sending a copy to Mr Kelly. Charles Kelly has also emailed Joe Turner on 27<sup>th</sup> August asking if he has sent the letter to which he has no response. Charles Kelly is not happy that they never respond to these issues. **Action: Cllr Veronica Jones to make contact with Joe Turner again.**
- iii. Charles Kelly also raised the issue of two dogs being allowed to roam around the village and come into people's garden to defecate. It is highly dangerous to allow dogs to roam across the roads and in general. The owners of the dogs work for Les. **Action: Clerk to contact the dog warden.**

- b) **PLAY AREA – INGOE.** There may be a slight rejig of the layout of the play area to move it away from the overhanging trees. Worst case is we may have to lose a piece of equipment. Work is due to commence in November or December hopefully.
- c) **HIGH HOUSE FARM BREWERY.** Minute 758c refers. **Action: Clerk to remind NCC.**
- d) **DEFIBRILLATOR.** Installation to take place 30 September.
- e) **MATFEN HALL LLP.** Plans were made available to residents. The application is now pending a decision.
- f) **PUBLIC TOILETS.** The public toilets are not in good condition and don't look very clean. The cleaning company we are currently using are based in North Shields and they don't seem to be cleaning to high standards. **Action: Clerk to contact Mandy Linny to find out if she would be interested in taking on the contract for looking after the toilets.**
- g) **PUBLIC TOILETS.** It was also pointed out that there are two signs on the door of the toilet which is unnecessary that informs people not to park. The toilet door also could do with painting. The sink taps also don't work so visitors cannot not wash their hands. **Action: K Irving to organise a plumber.**
- h) **FIBRE BROADBAND.** Hopefully to be installed by the end of October.

**0771. ANY URGENT BUSINESS.**

- a) TLW Solicitors have requested a copy of the Parish Council minutes from July 2008 to July 2010 due to see if flooding has been a problem in the past on the Military Road. There was a fatal accident there in July 2009. **Action: Clerk to locate minutes requested and send a copy to them.**
- b) **MATFEN BONFIRE NIGHT.** K Irving disappointed to read that the Bonfire was to be cancelled. A Gregory-Smith informed us of the lack of volunteers to help and it is a huge task for 4 people to organise and run alone. We will as a Parish Council do what they can to support this event.

**0770. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** The next meeting is to be held on **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 7.00pm** in the Village Hall.

Signed as an accurate record \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman