

Matfen Parish Council

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in Matfen Village Hall on Monday 28th September 2015 at 7.00pm

Present: Mr Robin Douglass, Chairman of the Council together with Mr Frank Robson, Mrs Ann Gregory-Smith, Mr Stuart Mills, Mr Keith Irving and Mr John Telford.

In Attendance: Mrs Mandy Senior (Clerk)

0664. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Mrs Veronica Jones, County Councillor

0665. DECLARATION OF INTEREST. None

0666. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27th July 2015. It was proposed by Cllr J Telford, seconded by Mr Frank Robson and AGREED to accept the minutes as an accurate record.

0667. RESIDENTS present raised a number of matters and where relevant they are listed together with the actions that will be taken, if required. In due course if necessary, reports will be made back to Council.

- a) **RYAL.** Mr & Mrs Kelly attended the meeting to discuss the various outstanding issues in Ryal. It was noted that Northumberland County Council as the Commons Registration Authority should be maintaining the village green without encroachment. Cllrs R B Douglass and J Telford had attended a meeting with Matfen Estates and Northumberland CC officers in August however the notes from this meeting were still not available. At this meeting various options had been discussed re access to the cottage owned by Matfen Estates and the re-instatement of the track. Matfen Estates had suggested laying matting across the illegal track to allow grass to grow through. Richard Powell was to provide costs. Cllr R B Douglass is awaiting contact from Richard Powell who will provide an update.

0668. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT. County Councillor Mrs V Jones was unable to attend the meeting.

0669. MATTERS ARISING

- a) **DEFIBRILLATOR.** Minute 654g refers. It was noted that the Table Tennis club would be willing to contribute towards the purchase of a Public Access Defibrillator and Cllr Mrs A Gregory-Smith is to approach the Village Hall Committee. **Action: Mrs Senior to contact David Wilson from the Stephen Carey fund and ask him to give a presentation at the November meeting.**
- b) **BRIDGE.** Minute 654b refers. **Action: Cllr R B Douglass is to contact NWL.**
- c) **MATFEN VILLAGE HALL.** Minute 654c refers. The Village Hall committee are obtaining further quotes to replace the windows and will provide copies to the Parish Council.
- d) **MOOTLAW QUARRY.** Minute 654f refers. An update will be requested from the planning officer Joe Nugent. **Action: Mrs Senior to contact Joe Nugent, NCC.**
- e) **REPAIRS TO BUS SHELTER/PLAY AREAS/NOTICE BOARDS.** Minute 661c. The repairs to the bus shelter in Ingoe had been completed and all the work on the notice boards completed. The repairs to the play area are yet to be completed. **Action: Cllr R B Douglass to provide Cllr K Irving with a list of outstanding work and Cllr K Irving to arrange the repairs.**
- f) **BROADBAND.** Minute 653a refers. A public meeting was held on Tuesday 15th September 2015 in Matfen Village Hall. Fay Cooper from NCC and Simon Robeson from BT were both in attendance to give more information on what will be happening and when. It was confirmed that Matfen village itself will receive fibre services, expected to be completed between October - December 2016. An interactive map will be made available in the next few weeks for people to see more detail on what areas are likely to benefit from the upgraded Matfen cabinet. A link to the website will be published here when available. If people have house specific enquires, these can be addressed to info@northumberland.org.uk.

Fay Copper also explained that NCC are working with Newcastle City Council and the Go Digital programme to deliver a super connected voucher scheme to businesses - more details are available at: <http://www.godigitalnewcastle.co.uk/connection-voucher-scheme> . Funds within this scheme are running out rapidly so we would urge any businesses to apply soon or ring the Go Digital team for more information.

Where people need more immediate solutions one answer might be to use satellite services. NCC currently partner with Avonline for this - more details are available at <http://www.northumberland.org.uk/satellite/>

Finally, NCC will also be looking at the possibility of including the Fenwick cabinet as part of the Phase 2 delivery.

0670. FINANCE

- a) **RISK ASSESSMENT.** The risk assessment circulated to Councillors was noted and the recommendations made therein to cover the Council were proposed by Cllr Mrs A Gregory-Smith, seconded by Cllr J Telford and AGREED.

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- b) **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.** It was proposed by Mrs A Gregory-Smith, seconded by Mr John Telford and AGREED accounts on the list attached be paid.
- c) **ACCOUNTS AND BUDGET REPORT UP TO 31 AUGUST 2015.** It was proposed by Mrs A Gregory-Smith, seconded by Mr J Telford and AGREED to accept the accounts and budget report up to 31 August 2015.
- d) **TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015.** It was proposed by Cllr Mrs A Gregory-Smith, seconded by Cllr Mr J Telford and AGREED to accept and approve the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2015. BDO LLP had produced an issues arising report regarding the level of reserves held by the Parish Council. It was noted that the Parish Council reserves would be vastly reduced due to the purchase of play area equipment and the contribution to the Village Hall.

Payee	Detail	Cheque Issued	VAT	Net of VAT	Cheque Number
Mrs A Senior	Clerical Services	287.27		287.27	100860
H M Revenue & Customs	PAYE	71.80		71.80	100861
Mel's Cleaning	Public toilets	32.00		32.00	100862
Mel's Cleaning	Public toilets	32.00		32.00	100863
Mrs A Senior	Expenses (Postages, telephone, travel)	49.75		49.75	100864
Mrs A Senior	Play area inspections	75.00		75.00	100865
Mel's Cleaning	Public toilets	32.00		32.00	100866
Mel's Cleaning	Public toilets	32.00		32.00	100867
Matfen Village Hall	Hire of village hall	20.00		20.00	100868
Viking Direct	Public toilet supplies	28.52	4.75	23.77	100869
Income					
Northumberland CC	Precept	5150.00		5150.00	15.09.15

0671. **CORRESPONDENCE.** All correspondence received since the meeting held on 27th July 2015 had been listed on the agenda and circulated to all councillors.
0672. **SUBSIDISED NO 74 BUS SERVICE.** The tenders had been finalised for the No 74 bus services and Northumberland CC is proposing to remove the subsidy from both the evening services and the Sunday service. It was felt that the revised timetable would only be suitable for commuters and by slightly altering the route it could make the service more viable. A meeting had been arranged with the three affected Parish Councils and NCC officers on Friday 2nd October at 3.00pm to discuss the options.
0673. **PLAY EQUIPMENT REQUEST.** A letter had been received from 3 young people in the parish requesting play equipment for older children (i.e. 8-12 years). It was agreed in principle to set aside a £8000/£9000 budget to provide additional pieces of equipment of the sports ground. This would need to be agreed with Matfen Estates. Cllr Mrs A Gregory-Smith to write to the young people advising of the plans for Ingoe village green.
Action: AGS to reply to the letter.
0674. **NORTHUMBERLAND LOCAL PLAN CORE STRATEGY.** Drop in sessions have been arranged in each of the Main Towns and Service Centres. These sessions will consist of a small exhibition with staff involved in preparing the pre-submission draft to answer questions and provide advice on how to respond to the consultation.
0675. **INFORMATION ITEMS.**
- CAN eNews – July 2015, August 2015
 - NALC eNews – August 2015 – Issue 42
 - Clerks and Councils Direct – September 2015 Issue 101
 - Northumberland County Council – Household Waste Centres: Electronic Permit and Pay As You Throw leaflets
0676. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**
All outstanding planning applications are listed on each agenda.

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Reference No	Location	Description	Decision
14/03900/MRV EIA	Mootlaw Quarry Matfen	Review of Old Minerals Permissions (ROMP) under the provision of the Environment Act 1995 in respect of application C/91/D/514 (Proposed extension to existing limestone quarry with restoration to agriculture woodland and wildlife areas on 152 ha of land.	Decision awaited
15/01417/REN E	Land west off Harrogate Hill, Matfen	Erection of single Tozzi Nord Victory 24-60 (60kw) wind turbine off 34m to blade tip and associated infrastructure	Decision awaited
15/02318/FUL	1 High House Cottages	Construction of two storey rear extension (porch) and change of use of agricultural field to create parking and garden space	GRANTED
15/02319/FUL	3 High House Cottages	Single storey side and rear extension (porch) and change of use of agricultural field to create parking and garden space	GRANTED
15/02004/OUT	Field south of Fell Pasture	Outline application: Change of use to residential (C3 use) by the erection of 1 dwelling house	REFUSED

0677. VILLAGE ISSUES

- a) **PARKING.** Cars continue to park on the Ryal road, outside School House and The Black Bull, obstructing the pavement. PC Lee Davison will be advised.
- b) **20MPH SPEED LIMIT IN INGOE.** A petition had been lodged with Northumberland CC by the residents in Ingoe requesting a 20mph through the village. .
- c) **PLAY AREA – INGOE.** Mrs Ann Gregory Smith had met with several parents in Ingoe and the Area Manager from play equipment company, Kompan and a proposed plan agreed. All equipment is to be installed at the bottom end of the village green, parallel to the current swings. A quote of £11958 +VAT had been received. It was AGREED to accept the quote and Cllr Mrs A Gregory Smith will contact Kompan to go ahead with the scheme. **Action: AGS to contact Kompan.**
- d) **INGOE GRASS VERGES AND VILLAGE GREEN.** Email received requesting protection of the vulnerable corners on the village green and also the fork on the road in the middle of Ingoe due to the number of delivery vehicles churning up the grass. **Action: RD to contact the resident involved.**

0678. RESIGNATION OF CLERK. A resident had expressed an interest in taking over from the clerk. Mrs Senior is to meet with them to discuss what is involved. An advert is to be placed on the notice boards and in the Hexham Courant advertising the vacancy. Closing date for applications will be 31st October 2015.

0679. DATE OF NEXT MEETING. The next meeting is to be held on Monday 30th November 2015 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Signed as an accurate record _____ Chairman