

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in Matfen Village Hall on Tuesday 26th July 2022 at 7.00pm in Matfen Village Hall.

Present: Mr Keith Mavin, Chairman of the Council together with Mr Frank Robson, James Barber and Justin Dempsey

In attendance: Mrs Mandy Senior (Clerk)
 County Councillor Mrs Veronica Jones
 1 resident

0722.01 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None

0722.02 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs S Greaves and Cllr K George.

0722.03 **COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT.** Cllr Mrs V Jones gave her verbal report on matters relating to Matfen Parish and Northumberland County Council.

- a) **Verge cutting.** The verge cutting machine had broken down and therefore work was behind.
- b) **Chevron Sign.** The chevron sign at Standing Stone had been removed to be repaired.
- c) **Ash Die Back.** Many of the Ash Trees on the verges within Matfen Parish are suffering from Ash Die Back.
- d) **Northumberland Communities Together** have a school uniform recycling initiative in place.
- e) **Pavement from West End to Great Whittington Junction** is in poor condition. Cllr Mrs Jones will pursue NCC for maintenance on this stretch of pavement.
- f) **Ryal Road.** It had been reported that large vehicles had 'squashed' the drains on the Ryal Road. The highways inspector had been out to investigate.

0722.04 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 31ST MAY 2022.** It was proposed by Cllr F Robson, seconded by Cllr J Barber and AGREED to accept the minutes as an accurate record.

0722.05 **ACTIONS TAKEN FOLLOWING THE MEETINGS HELD ON 31ST MAY 2022.**

- g) **Planning Application 22/01722/FUL, Sports Ground, Matfen.** Minute 0522.07a refers. It was noted that a refund of £807 had been received from the planning department relating to the overpaid planning application fee for the replacement of the existing cricket nets and erection of storage shed.
- h) **Dog Fouling.** Minute 0522.09c refers. Dog fouling continues to be a problem, in and around Matfen. A post will be put on the Parish Council website and on the Village Facebook page asking residents to report all incidents of dog fouling.
- i) **Weed spraying.** It was noted, Northumberland County Council weed spray all adopted roads in the County. It is their responsibility to carry out the weed spraying and any areas not covered should be reported to them.
- j) **Community Plan.** Minute 0522.09b refers. The Community Plan has not been distributed. Cllr K Mavin is meeting with Neil Fisher, Northumberland Communities Together to discuss the possibility of the fitting of a generator at the Village Hall which would be funded by NCC. The plan will be distributed following this meeting.
- k) **Meeting with Paul Lowes, Neighbourhood Services, Northumberland County Council.** Cllrs K Mavin and S Greaves had met with Paul Lowes to discuss the various issues around the Parish. This was a very positive meeting. Paul Lowes had provided a map showing NCC's grass cutting responsibility around the Parish.

0722.06 **FINANCE**

- a) **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.** It was proposed by Cllr F Robson, seconded by Cllr J Dempsey and AGREED accounts on the list attached be paid.

| Payee | Detail | Cheque Issued | VAT | Net of VAT | Cheque Number |
|-------------------------|--|---------------|-----|------------|---------------|
| Mrs A Senior | Clerical services | 478.40 | | 478.40 | BACS |
| H M Revenue & Customs | PAYE | 119.60 | | 119.60 | BACS |
| Mrs A Senior | Play area inspections | 75.00 | | 75.00 | BACS |
| Unity Trust Bank | Bank account charges | 18.00 | | 18.00 | DD |
| Tynedale Vermin Control | Grass cutting | 120.00 | | 120.00 | BACS |
| Mrs A Senior | Expenses – postages/stationery/travel | 52.38 | | 52.38 | BACS |
| L Paterson | Public toilet cleaning – May 22 | 50.00 | | 50.00 | BACS |
| L Paterson | Public toilet cleaning – Jun 22 | 37.50 | | 37.50 | BACS |

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

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|----------|
| Matfen Village Hall | Rent – July 2022 | 15.00 | | 15.00 | BACS |
| Tynedale Vermin Control | Grass cutting | 120.00 | | 120.00 | BACS |
| Wel Medical | Replacement battery for defibrillator | 204.00 | 34.00 | 170.00 | BACS |
| Income | | | | | |
| Unity Trust Bank | Bank account interest | 8.64 | | 8.64 | 30.06.22 |
| Planning Portal | Planning appln fee refund | 807.00 | | 807.00 | 25.07.22 |

0722.07 **CORRESPONDENCE.** All correspondence received since the May meeting had been listed on the agenda and circulated to all councillors.

- a) Northumberland County Council – Climate Action Northumberland Newsletter – June 2022
- b) NALC – weekly eNews
- c) National Association of Local Councils – Chief Executive’s Monthly Bulletins
- d) Community Action Northumberland – monthly CAN eNews
- e) Northern Powergrid – Response to BEIS and Ofgem Storm Reviews
- f) Northumberland Assoc of Local Councils – AGM 8th October 2022 in Felton Village Hall

0722.08 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

| Reference Number | Address | Description |
|------------------|---|---|
| 22/01192/VARYCO | Land West of Rose Cottage, Kearsley Farm, Ingoe | Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on approved application 21/00677/FUL in order substitute proposed site layout drawing no 213091-2-C for 3001 which includes the addition of an area of photovoltaic panels in the amenity areas to the north side GRANTED |
| 22/01722/FUL | Cricket Pavilion, Matfen | Replacement of existing cricket nets with new cricket nets in new location and erection of steel clad storage shed. |
| 22/01928/FUL | 3 North side, Ryal | Porch to front of dwelling – No objection from PC |

0722.09 **VILLAGE ISSUES AND HIGHWAYS MATTERS.**

- a) To receive reports from councillors on village issues/highways matter which require attention.
 - **Broken seat.** The seat outside the Village Hall is in poor condition and needs to be replaced. It was agreed to purchase a seat similar to the seats on the village green. The old seat will need to be removed.
 - **Village Hall.** The Village Hall committee had been obtaining quotes to upgrade the bathrooms and install showers. This would be part of the initiative to create a Community Hub during periods of power outage or similar.
- b) **To consider actions following the Annual Play Area Inspection Report.** The annual play area inspection report had been received and highlighted a number of actions for the Parish Council to take which included:
 - Replacement of the swings in Ingoe – already in hand.
 - Remove broken seat in Ingoe – to be arranged.
 - Worn areas around play equipment due to NCC weed spraying. NCC contacted and asked not to weed spray in the play areas.
- c) **Update on Jubilee Garden.** The Jubilee Garden has been cleared of weed killed detritus and wood thanks to 5 volunteers. The area now needs to be covered with woodchip to act as a weed suppressant and base for each year’s leaf fall. The area measures approx. 150m². A log pile has been created in the far corner for hibernating creatures. Autumn planting of the new hedge line to leave a wild corridor adjacent to the water course. /gravel. A quote of £383.34 ex VAT had been received from MKM Hexham for the woodchip and gravelled area. It was AGREED to go ahead and ordered the woodchip and gravel. A request for volunteers will be posted in due course.

0722.10 **LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRAMME 2023-2024.** The following priorities will be submitted to NCC for consideration to be included in the LTP 2023-2024.

- a) Road improvements from West End, Matfen to Standing Stones
- b) 30mph speed restriction through Fenwick.
- c) Pavement resurfacing from West End, Matfen to Great Whittington Junction.

0722.11 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday 27th September 2022 at 7.00pm in Matfen Village Hall.