

Stannington Parish Council

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Minutes of Meeting **9 September 2015** **Stannington Village Hall – 6.30pm**

Attendance:

Councillor K Carins – in the chair
Councillor P Smith
Councillor H Brown
Councillor D Strachan
Councillor S Dickinson
Councillor R Philipson

D Hall – Clerk

Councillor Armstrong – Northumberland County Council
PC Andrea Teasdale – Northumbria Police
Residents from Station Road
Mr Legard
Mr Stone
Mr Stanton

30. Apologies

Councillor B Smiles

31. Public session

Mr Stone raised a concern about the use of the grassed area outside the front of his property and the fact that it was used regularly by members of the public to walk their dogs which fouled the area. He was concerned about the impact on small children. Councillor Armstrong agreed to raise this with Northumberland County Council.

Mr Stanton who was a councillor from Belford attended the meeting and asked the council for a view on the value of liaison groups. His own council were looking to establish one in relation to transport and development. The Chair advised on how opencast liaison works and suggested he may wish to attend a future meeting as an observer.

Mr Legard gave a further update on Red Squirrels. **The council agreed to fund feed for the months of October to March at a cost of £70/month (max cost £420).**

Mr Legard also gave an update on the production of a book for the commemoration of the 227 men of the parish who served in WW1 which is to be produced for the centenary in 2018. The cost of production is £2,000 and it is expected that books will retail at £40 each. Any profits will go to the parish church. **The council agreed to cash flow the production and that repayment of this be**

made once books had been sold. The council will fund up to £500 costs in the financial year 2015/16 and the remainder in 2016/17.

PC Teasdale commented on the ongoing issues with car sales in the Ridley Arms car park. This is not illegal as cars are taxed and this has been passed to Northumberland County Council trading standards. The landowner could however take this up with the offenders. In addition she advised of major issues with the dog show at Whitehouse Farm and the parking and traffic issues associated with this.

PC Teasdale is also dealing with issues surrounding a disused water tower at Tranwell and trespass.

In terms of crime there has been a low level of crime in the area although some offences have occurred at A1 Kennels where criminals tampered with cars, horse boxes etc.

32. Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved that: the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th July 2015 be approved as a true record.

33. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

Noted that Councillor Smith and Councillor Smiles would undertake a village walk about with representatives of Northumberland County Council to attempt to resolve ongoing issues in the Village and that Councillor Strachan would forward some concerns regarding Clifton. A prime concern is the ongoing issues with parking on Green Close.

34. Reports from around the parish/outside bodies

REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

Author: Councillor Brown

Date: September 2015

Purpose of report: to update the Council on matters arising in Glororum

Commentary: Councillor Brown has sent many emails over the summer to the Highways Dept at NCC regarding the poor state of repair of the signage at the Clifton junction some of which had been damaged for well over a year and have been reported previously. Councillor Brown had also asked for reasoning behind sending additional traffic onto the route through tourist signage for St Mary's Inn.

The route was closed for 2 days at the end of July to enable a team to fill most of the potholes. Closing the route while work was carried out has enabled the tarmac to 'set' before vehicles have driven over the route and so have been much more successful than previously.

On Saturday 15th August a Dog Show was held at The White House Farm. Councillor Brown and fellow residents of Glororum were not informed of this event, nor were other surrounding residents. Police had to help with the huge amount of traffic on the Glororum route – bumper to bumper for over 5 hours – over 3500 cars. Residents experienced many vehicles trying to park on their private land, in their driveways and gardens. Mr Brown, Glororum Farm, was unable to carry out his farm business as he wished to move hay bales into his farm sheds but was advised by the Police not to

attempt to drive his tractor on the route – this could have been a disastrous situation if the weather has turned wet, and would have had a huge financial impact.

The residents would happily support any local business but they experienced a truly awful day. Mr Brown collected a truck full of dog 'poo' bags from the roadside – dog poo is toxic to sheep in nearby fields.

Vehicles were grid locked on the route and cars were literally abandoned as people and dogs, prams and wheelchairs made their way on foot to the event. The Transport Police deployed the Police Helicopter to assess the situation so that when the event closed, cars could be directed out safely.

Councillor Brown has received no further update from Dale Rumney at NCC regarding details of the planned resurfacing work or any indication what if any action is going to be undertaken to reinstate the roadside ditches and the verge edges that have been dangerously eroded by the wagon wheels of the construction traffic.

Councillor Brown has been requested by the residents to ask again regarding the ambiguous signage at the Clifton junction directing the Bellway/Hargreaves traffic onto the 'oneway system'. It could easily be seen as directing traffic up the Glororum route rather than on through Clifton.

Actions requested:

- SPC to note the report
- Request NCC to advise if any repair or replacement signage is due at the Clifton junction.
- Request further clarification from NCC on the resurfacing work on the Glororum route.
- Request NCC to investigate 'one way' signage
- Advice to Dog Show event organisation if event is to be held in 2016.

REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

Author: Councillor Carins

Date: September 2015

Purpose of reports: Eg. To update on matters relating to

1. Stannington Station
2. Northumberlandia
3. Brenkley Liaison meeting
4. New School building
5. Village Hall
6. History WW1 book project meeting
7. Remembrance Sunday
8. Maurice's report

Commentary

a) Stannington Station

Councillor Strachan, Councillor Dickinson, Councillor Carins and the clerk attended an informal evening on the 7th September in the Ridley Arms with 4 residents of Station Rd. The purpose of the meeting was to give guidance, allay fears and give assurances over concerns surrounding the Neighbourhood Plan, The Core Strategy- treatment of settlements within the proposed extension of

the Green Belt. The outcome of the meeting is that a representative of the residents will attend the NP steering group meetings and keep Station Rd residents informed about the progression of the plan.

b) Northumberlandia

Minutes circulated. One issue is the lack of connectivity between cycle paths and the C2C.

c) Brenkley Liaison Committee

Minutes circulated. Next meeting is the 22nd September and will be chaired by Councillor Eileen Armstrong.

d) New School Building

Minutes circulated.

e) Village Hall

Minutes circulated. Councillors noted that the solar roof panels were not in operation. The clerk explained the legal context and relationship between the council, committee, charities commission and Blagdon Estate.

f) History WW1 book project meeting

Councillor Carins attended a meeting at St May's Church on the 28th August to discuss the History book project. A copy of the press release for the project is attached. Mark Legard, Richard Tolson and Reverend Catherine Pickford attended. The project will be launched at the Village Show.

g) Remembrance Sunday

Councillor Carins has organised two wreaths for the Remembrance Day Service. A cheque for £80 was paid to Mr Pringle who will order the wreaths. Mr Pringle has plenty of the small wooden crosses for the parish to use.

REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

Author: Councillor Strachan

Date: September 2015

Purpose of report: To update the Council on matters affecting Clifton

Commentary

The planters have been replenished & an account has been received by Councillor Strachan for the attention of the Clerk. The 30mph speed sign has been sited at the North end of Clifton. There are overhanging branches on the footpath into Morpeth which need to be addressed by Highways maintenance. The drain on the A197 just before the slip road to the A1 Southbound was not cleared by the Highways but rather by a local resident. Highways should ensure the drain is cleared to prevent repeat flooding.

Councillor Brown & Councillor Strachan witnessed chaotic parking & traffic congestion on the Glororum Road & on the road leading down to Whitehouse Farm on the day of the Dog Show. Cars were being left at the roadside which narrowed the road causing traffic queues back to the Clifton junction. If the show is repeated next year then arrangements for the parking & traffic flow have to be made with the local Police & Highways.

The Shotton Liaison meeting will be held on 15/ 9/15. Councillor Strachan will attend.

Actions requested:

To note the report.

Contact Highways concerning hedging & drains – to be addressed on the walkabout with Northumberland County Council

35. Play area

The council noted that a grant of £4482 had been received from Hargreaves and the Well Hill Community Fund. Other grants available from the Village Show and other sources meant that possible funds of £12,000 are available to upgrade the play area. The clerk to seek new designs for consideration when setting the precept.

36. Public transport

Councillors expressed concern at the changes to the bus service to and from Morpeth and Newcastle early in the morning and after 3pm. The clerk read out an email from Northumberland County Council outlining the changes and specifically the fact that this is a commercial service. Councillors agreed that further information should be sought and that Northumberland County Council and Arriva should be pressed to look at options which may include the St Mary's service.

37. Neighbourhood plan

An open day was planned for 21st September from 2pm-7pm in the Village Hall. Exhibition stands would be prepared to showcase the vision, proposed policies and greenbelt proposals (if available). The intention is to seek the views of residents on the proposed vision and policy statements and a questionnaire has been prepared to collect this information. The closing date for returns will be 1 November 2015 following which Northumberland County Council will undertake an analysis. Post cards advertising the event have been sent to every household and business in the parish.

Northumberland County Council officials and J Ludman will be available on the day and members of the neighbourhood plan steering group as well as councillors will man the event.

Councillor Smith asked if the event could be re-run as he is on leave. It was agreed that the outcome of the event would be reported at the next meeting and analysis of the questionnaires be sent to all councillors when available. The possibility of a web survey was discussed but no agreement reached.

38. Finance

The following income accounts were approved:

Income

Interest:

July £1.07

August £0.98

The following payments were approved:

Chq	Payee	Details	Amount
1006	Cancelled chq		N/A
1007	J Ludman	Planning consultancy	605.00
1008	The national leaflet co	Postcard delivery for NP	496.92
1009	M Stewart	Handyman services	160.00
1010	N'land Scoiety	Subs	25.00
1011	K Clark	Repairs	1600.00
DD	BT	BT line	51.45

39. Development Control

Application	Address	Detail	Decision
15/02474	Shotton OCCS.	Variation to restoration scheme	No objection. (Councillor Dickinson and Councillor Philipson declared an interest and left the meeting during the debate and decision on this item).
15/02576	26 Station Road	Reserved matters	No objection
15/02649	19 Green Close	Orangery	No objection. (Councillor Smith left the meeting during the debate and decision on this item).
15/02692	South of New Kennels	Cable replacement incl poles	No objection
15/02776	Netherton Park, Kyoie House	Step down unit and training venue	The parish council wishes to object to this application. It would appear that the proposed 'step down unit' is in fact an open unit by another name and this replaces the open unit just recently closed. The residents of Netherton Park and the parish have faced many years of disturbance, vandalism, trespass, theft, damage, criminal behaviour and distress and the unit has failed to act on this with hundreds of hours of police time taken in addressing these issues. In addition this unit is too near to houses and residential areas
15/02391	69 Station Road	Agricultural building	No objection
15/02297	56 Station Road	Outline planning for 5 dwellings	The council wishes to object to this application on the basis that this sets a dangerous precedent for development on the eastern side of the main railway line which creates a street style development not already present in this area. The site is currently a single dwelling and personal riding and stables. The 5 dwellings are too dense and not on brownfield and are too dense for the

			site and the location. (Councillor Carins and Councillor Armstrong declared an interest and left the meeting during the debate and decision on this item).
15/02858	Moor Farm, Station Road.	Construction of a single dwelling.	The council wishes to object to this application on the grounds that the access as proposed introduces another access within close proximity of the main line level crossing. The council has long lobbied about the speed and volume of traffic on this road and an access in this location will only serve to exacerbate this situation further. (Councillors Carins, Armstrong, Wilson and Dickinson declared an interest and left the meeting during the debate and decision on this item).

Notices of appeal
Notices of enquiry

Internal Audit Report – Typographical errors need correction in minutes

- 21. Cheque for £145.40 not £145.20
- 31. Cheque 957 value is £350
Cheque 956 is for PCC £200

No other items to report.

40. Correspondence

Noted unless otherwise indicated:

- Hargreeaves – grant letter
- NCC – electronic permit leaflet
- Air Ambulance – letter of thanks
- AON – Insurance confirmation
- NCC – footpath diversion
- NCC – buses in Stannington
- NCC – speed restriction to be imposed outside Stannington 1st School
- NCC – core strategy notice of forthcoming consultation
- NCC retirement of B Rowland
- Un signed FOI – noted

41. Any Other Business

- The church is to obtain a faculty to install the ornate chair recovered from Nethwrton Park.
- A grave stone needs repair – in hand.
- Works to the fountain and hedges in the cemetery planned.

- Councillor Smith raised the issue of a collection box in the Ridly Arms car park which was an obstruction. The owners will be asked to relocate this.
- The key to the notice board on Station Road is to be replaced.
- Councillor Wilson asked if the council would consider a defibrillator in the village. The council were receptive and Councillor Wilson agreed to investigate further and seek costs.

42. Date of next meeting

Members agreed that the next meeting be held on 11th September at 6.30pm in Stannington First School community building.

Signed

Chairman

Date