

# Stannington Parish Council

*David Hall MA., PG.C., B.Eng (Hons), N. Dip. M., MCIPR, – Clerk to the Council*

2 Monmouth Court – Widdrington – Morpeth – Northumberland

NE61 5QS – Tel/Fax 01670 791622

Email: [Stanningtonpc@Aol.Com](mailto:Stanningtonpc@Aol.Com)

## **Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting**

**13<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

**Stannington First School – 5.30pm**

Attendance:

Clr K Carins – in the chair  
Clr P Smith  
Clr H Brown  
Clr D Strachan  
Clr R Philipson  
Clr S Dickinson  
Clr Wilson  
D Hall – Clerk

Also in attendance:

H Simms – Nathaniel Litchfield  
I Byatt  
Mrs Binks  
M Stewart  
P Combe – Blagdon  
M Dickinson – HJ Banks  
C Strugnell – Bellway  
A & V Flemming – Station Road

### **1. Apologies**

Clr B Smiles  
Clr Armstrong – Northumberland County Council

### **2. Public session**

**The chairman made the following statement after which a minutes silence was held:**

*Stannington Parish Council was very sad to hear of the passing of a much respected member of our community. Neil Weatherly, a retired senior Police officer, was the ward Councillor for Stannington at The Kylins for 12 years. He became the Mayor of Castle Morpeth in 1998. His other roles included chairing a number of key policy formulating committees; Neil was made the Borough's spokesman for Regeneration in 2002. In 1994 he was Castle Morpeth Borough Council's representative on the North East Regional Assembly. He was a member of the Executive Committee and the Scrutiny Panel*

*scrutinising One North East with regard to Job Creation in Deprived Communities. Neil was made an Honorary Alderman in 2003.*

*He served on Stannington Parish Councillor for over a decade and Neil was also a Governor at Stannington First School, two years as Vice Chairman and three years as the Chairman. Our sincere condolences go out to Lilian, Carol, David and all his family. He was a true champion of Stannington Parish and will be greatly missed.*

### **Other items**

1. Mr Stewart advised the council for the need for a tree guard to be moved slightly on the oak tree at Clifton. He also advised that youths had broken 2 spas in the play area and the Clerk agreed to look at this.
2. Alan and Victoria Flemming presented their proposals to build on the land on Station Road formerly owned by Mr Shell. The council noted their proposals
3. H Simms – Nathaniel Litchfield, I Byatt, P Combe – Blagdon, M Dickinson – HJ Banks and C Strugnell – Bellway all presented suggestions for INSET arrangements for Station Road and Stannington Village. The council noted these suggestions and agreed to hold a public meeting in July or September to further understand the outcome of Neighbourhood Plan proposals and housing needs surveys.

### **3. Minutes of the previous Annual Parish held 14<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

Noted that these were approved at the meeting held in July 2014 and so these minutes were only received for information.

### **4. Matters arising**

None

### **5. Chairman's report**

Stannington Parish Council has had a challenging and exciting year. It is very apparent, by the hard work and enthusiasm of each parish councillor, that we are all committed to Stannington Parish and our residents. The geographical location of each councillor helps the council to keep abreast of issues within our smaller communities. The fact that this is our 121<sup>st</sup> A.G.M. is testament to the longevity of the Stannington Parish Council and our continuing commitment to the residents we serve.

A major part of our duties involves consulting on some very contentious planning applications;

- We successfully defeated the application for 4 wind turbines at Tranwell Airfield. The threat of an appeal was lifted in June.
- The success of our support for the application to extend the skin clinic at the Milkhope Centre showed our commitment to our rural businesses.
- We were unsuccessful in our request for a smaller number of houses to be permitted at Clifton but we remain vigilant as there are road and mining issues to be resolved.

- A new housing development at Netherton Park Park required careful negotiations with residents and the Trustees of Netherton Park. Issues were resolved and we look forward to welcoming new residents into our parish.
- St Marys continues to grow but with more below market value houses which will assist those residents both within our parish and from outside to gain a foot on the property ladder.
- We await applications from Hepscott Park, Stannington Station Road and Station Road End.
- Again applications outside our parish boundary may cause issues for our infrastructure. The Stobhill development won on appeal. Again we must all be vigilant on the effect these new houses have on our parish.
- We successfully lobbied Northumberland County Council over the changes to the planning system. We lobbied all the parish councils, County Councillors and our local MP to look carefully at the impact the proposed changes could have to our residents. The term “one size does not fit all” was flagged up and the solidarity between parishes meant that some of our issues were addressed. We await the final outcome of the planning review proposals.
- The Neighbourhood Plan is progressing and we have been successful in our application for a grant to help us retain professional planning advice. We are waiting for the results of our very successful housing and transport survey and we are conducting a business survey too.
- We are looking at insets within the proposed Green Belt and we are working closely with Northumberland County Council planning strategists. We must look at where an inset may benefit our parish. The County plan will hopefully be in place next year and with it the new Green Belt which may last beyond 30 years so we must not have boundaries that are too restrictive around our settlements so that they stifle possible growth for future residents.

Other duties around the Parish have included;

- Supporting the village show, the new school building and with the help of the show team, the forthcoming improvements to the playground.
- Maintaining and improving the grounds across the Parish with the help of our handyman, Maurice, and external contractors.
- Organising football coaching for children in the village. This has proved extremely successful and we intend to keep up these sessions.
- Working with the local authority to manage grass cutting, refuse collections and the infrastructure of the Parish.
- Setting the precept for the year. The PC has held the precept at the same level for 6 years now, although it was increased this year the increase in houses in the parish means that there is no increase in cost per household.

The Liaison Committees meetings we attend help maintain the good relationships that the Parish Council has with all outside bodies. There have been presentations from ISOS, Banks Mining, Blagdon Estates and Netherton Park Trustees. The speed awareness signs continue to be a valuable asset to the Parish.

Consulting on the Core Strategy is and has been a very important role for the Parish Council. All the PC'S continue to influence the proposed planning policies for Wind farms, Opencasts, Housing, the Green belt, Transport and how we shop. The next consultation is in the autumn and will be on the draft plan.

The fountain to the fallen of all wars, again, made for a lovely addition to the service on Remembrance Sunday.

As stated last year, everything that has been achieved this year could not have been possible if we did not have a very strong Parish Council. Each councillor can feel very proud of the hard work they have put in this last year.

Our County Councillor Eileen Armstrong continues to support us with her time and energy in attending meetings at County Hall with myself, chairing the NP steering group and sitting on our various liaison committees. Her friendship and her commitment to our parish is most welcome.

This month sees a new Parish Councillor, Sue Wilson, joining us and I wish her every success in her new role.

I was honoured to attend the Licencing service for our new vicar, Reverend Catherine Pickford. We extend a very warm welcome to Catherine and her family to our beautiful parish.

Maurice continues to care, diligently, for the Village and I have good discussions on a regular basis with him. He is very much the eyes and ears of the PC and also a great ambassador for us. His hard work and dedication are sincerely appreciated. He is much more than our handyman.

On behalf of all the Parish Councillors I would like to thank David Hall for all his hard work. Without his advice and support we could not maintain the high standard of care that our parish receives. His abundant knowledge and expertise is relied upon by all of us and as Chairman, I really appreciate his careful consideration to all things in Stannington Parish.

A joint collaboration of the Village Show Group and the Parish Council is well on the way to achieving the £15,000 we need to buy new equipment for the children's play area. The timescale for these improvements is June.

So finally, I thank you, again, for all your support, attention to detail and hard work and let's have another successful year.

**Signed**

**Chairman**

**Date**

# Stannington Parish Council

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## **Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

**13<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

**Stannington First School – 5.30pm**

Attendance:

Clr K Carins – in the chair

Clr P Smith

Clr B Smiles

Clr H Brown

Clr D Strachan

Clr R Philipson

Clr S Dickinson

D Hall – Clerk

PC Andrea Teasdale – Northumbria Police

## **6. Apologies**

Clr Armstrong – Northumberland County Council

## **7. Election of chairman**

Proposed that Clr Carins be elected.

**Resolved that Clr Carins be elected chairman**

## **8. Election of vice-chairman**

Proposed that Clr Strachan be elected.

**Resolved that Clr Strachan be elected vice-chairman**

## **9. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

Noted that these were approved at the meeting held in July 2014 and so these minutes were only received for information.

## **9. Minutes of the previous meetings held 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

Agreed as a true record.

## **10. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meetings held 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

- Noted that there was to be a planning application forthcoming for the ISOS site at Beechlea

- Mr King from Northumberland County Council acknowledged that the litter picking was the responsibility in relation to the A1
- The chairman and clerk to attend the annual meeting with Northumberland County Council and parish councils
- Confirmation that properties at Shotton are to be double glazed
- Meeting with T Brady of Bellway on 10<sup>th</sup> June and the chair to attend

### **Well Hill**

The next meeting is 4th June. It has been decided to hold the Funding meeting too. Steve MacQuarrie will be attending.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

The group has secured funding to retain the planning consultant. A business survey is being delivered to all businesses within the Parish this month. The Newcastle University students will send a report on the work they did with the group. See minutes attached.

### **Handyman**

Maurice has repaired the bus shelter but they have not been cleaned and he feels they may need painting this year too.

The builders at the new building at Clifton have made a terrible mess in the ditch in front of the site. Who can we speak to repair this? Planning officer?

Maurice is getting about 3 bags of new chippings for the play area. The hedge by the school has now been cut and he will put road planings down where parents have caused damage through parking.

The mower is broken. Maurice will put the old flymo and the broken mower in as part exchange and buy a new one. He's using his own at present.

He wants to replace some guard fencing around the cemetery which he has the wood for. I told him to go ahead.

Some trees in the village are showing canker and have overhanging branches, who do we contact to meet up with Maurice to look at our trees?

### **Village Hall;**

Next meeting 1st June.  
Brenkley Liaison committee;

Minutes attached and presentation attached.

### **Stannington Station;**

There has been complaints regarding the large "Car-ching" van parked at the top of Station Road. Northumberlandia;

Date for next meeting to be decided.

### **Netherton Park**

Netherton Park application was approved.

## **St Marys Liaison committee**

No meeting has been arranged to date.

## **Village Show7**

The Village Show dance will be held on the 20th June, tickets £16, theme 1940's. A grant for £8000 has been applied for from Banks Mining.

## **NALC Roadshow**

Transparency was high on the agenda at this meeting.

Access to meetings

Filming and Broadcasting- audio record as a safeguard

Access to information- F.O.I. and Public Schemes

Data transparency and audit reform- 31st March routine External audit ends for precept under £25,000

Officer decisions

Register of Interests

Minutes and agenda must be put on website within 1 month of meeting albeit draft minutes.

Minutes must be agreed via email prior to publication rather than publicise draft minutes as DCLG suggests. To start 1st April 2015.

Local Council Awards Scheme-

Successor to Quality Councils Scheme

National criteria/system, but local assessment

Foundation level, but opportunity to progress

Web and electronic evidence, c.f. hard copy

Simple series of tests or criteria

£50 registration fee + £50- £200 accreditation

## **Neighbourhood Plan**

Minutes circulated.

## **Clifton**

The Solagen speed signs were re-located on 8/4/15.

Solagen have asked if payment for the re-locations could be made by direct debit rather than cheque. Solagen also suggested a 3 year contract for the speed signs thus to avoiding any time lapse at the end of each year. – **Not agreed**

The Clifton planters have been stocked for the Spring. Grass cutting has taken place & the verges look tidy.

## 11. Finance

The following income accounts were approved:

### Income

Interest:

March £0.71

April £0.84

Precept £9900

NP grant £6281.00

The following payments were approved:

Chq	Payee	Details	Amount
984	CANCELLED CHQ		
985	THC	Landscaping annual fees	4320.00
986	M Stewart	Salary	160.00
987	D Hall	Salary & Exp	720.21
988	J Douglass	Audit	200.00
989	HMRC	PAYE	1162.16
990	Gustharts	Lawn mower	152.40
991	NALC	Subs	333.43
992	Green Agriculture	Materials	5.61
993	Blagdon	Rent	50.00
994	Blagdon	Rent	340.00
995	M Stewart	Salary	160.00
996	Northumberland County Council	Furniture for school	2562.00
997	N Tourism	Course fees	25.00
998	AON	Insurance – 3 year deal	1789.47
999	Nemisis	Fireworks	200.00
1000	NWL	Water Rates	326.55

The annual accounts, statement of accounts and governance were approved. No changes to charges were agreed and the council agreed the financial regulations and risk assessment as published previously. This being subject to internal and external audit.

<b>Bank reconcilliation 2014/15 - Bank Ireland Account</b>				
Bank balance as 1 April 2014		15407.4		
Less up chqs from prior year		-8138.13		
Add Vat claim income		1601.36		
add fees unpaid		425		
<b>Opening Balance 1 April 2014</b>		<b>9295.63</b>		
Less payments in year		-30646.62		
Add U/P chqs		8810.72		
Add income		24132.57		
Less unreconciled income		-2298.47		
Less VAT claim outstanding				
	Balance	9293.83		
<b>Bank statement 31March 2015 - Bank of Ireland</b>		<b>9293.83</b>		
<b>Book Balance - Bank of Ireland 31 March 2015</b>		<b>2781.58</b>		
<b>Reconcilliation 2014-15 - Lloyds Account</b>				
Current acct balance as at 1 April 2014		20350		
Less payments				
<b>Opening Balance 1 April 2014</b>		<b>20350</b>		
Less payments		0		
Less U/P chqs		0		
Add income		0		
	Balance	20350		
<b>Bank statement 31 March 2015-Lloyds</b>		<b>20350</b>		
			<b>TOTAL</b>	
				<b>23131.58</b>



**Stannington Parish Council  
Supporting Statement  
for Year Ended 31 March 2015**

**Assets**

**Movements during the year**

a) The following Assets were purchased:

b) The following assets were disposed of:

None 0  
0

c) At 31 March 2015 the following assets were held:

**COMMUNITY ASSETS**

Cemetery & Car Park 1  
Play Equipment 39122  
New play equipment (see above)

**BUILDINGS**

Village Hall 1 Custodian Trustee only  
(Reg charity 522140)  
Fountain 15000

**OTHER FIXED ASSETS**

Personal Computer 570  
Fax Machine 0  
Bus shelters 50784  
Seats/Bins/planters 7683  
Gates & Fences 13000

**TOTAL ASSETS** 126161

**The basis of valuation is replacement value.**

**Community land is valued at £1.00**

**Leases**

Lessor Blagdon estates  
Purpose Playing field  
Rent 50  
Expiry 2021.00

**Borrowings** Nil

**Debts outstanding as at 31 March 2015** Nil

**Earmarked Reserves** Nil

**Tenancies** Nil

Council as tenant 390  
Councilst landlord Nil

**Other**

Agency work Nil  
Advertising Nil  
Pensions Nil

**Payments made under section 137**

Air Ambulance 100  
Parochial Church Council 200  
Stannington Show 200

500

# Stannington Parish Council

Bank Reconciliation					
2013-14	Financial year ended 31 March 2015		2014-15		Rounded values
<b>Balance as per bank statement 31 March 2015</b>					
15407	Bank of Ireland		9295.63		9296
20350	Lloyds TSB		20350.00		20350
	No petty cash account held		0.00		
<b>35757</b>			<b>29645.63</b>		<b>29646</b>
<b>Less U/P cheques at 31 March 2013</b>					
644	Bank or Ireland	962	100.00		100
187		979	480.00		480
381		980	11.10		11
75		981	1572.00		1572
320		983	19.97		20
200		984	4320.00		4320
370		985	160.00		160
180		986	785.49		785
377		987	200.00		200
594		988	1162.16		1162
3984					
311					
516					
<b>8138</b>			<b>8810.72</b>		<b>8811</b>
<b>Lloyds</b> None					
Unbanked income at 31 March 2015					
1601		VAT	2298.47		2298
425					
<b>2026</b>			<b>2298.47</b>		<b>2298</b>
<b>Cash Book</b>					
25222	Opening Balance		29645.63		29646
28172	Add receipts in the year		24132.57		24133
-23749	Less Payments in the year		-30646.62		-30647
<b>29646</b>			<b>23131.58</b>		<b>23132</b>
<b>Receipts</b>					
-19000	Precept		-19000.00		-19000
-18	Interest		-14.10		-14
-1300	Burial fees		-2125.00		-2125
-1601	Vat		-2298.47		-2298
-6253	Grants		-695.00		-695
<b>-28172</b>	<b>Total receipts taking into account inter bank transfers (5000)</b>		<b>-24132.57</b>		<b>-24133</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
4386	Salaries office		4525.48		4525
2360	Salaries handyman		2080.00		2080
368	Travel		608.88		609
234	Telephone		257.46		257
0	Stationery		0.00		0
0	Postage		0.00		0
0	Books and periodicals		0.00		0
1843	Insurances		1882.80		1883
539	Sundries/ admin		418.00		418
0	Professional Fees		0.00		0
350	Subscriptions		314.20		314
440	Audit Fees		440.00		440
2784	Cemetery		2763.13		2763
0	Electricity		0.00		0
500	S.137		500.00		500
2964	Grounds and Open Space General		3682.17		3682
400	Shelters seats and bins		1551.06		1551
537	Equipment		0.00		0
0	Furniture & Fittings		0.00		0
1820	Playing Field		2175.00		2175
693	Store Rental & fittings		498.86		499
1930	Environmental /traffic schemes		0.00		0
0	Neighbourhood Plan		6651.11		6651
1601	Vat		2298.47		2298
<b>23749</b>	<b>Total payments taking into account inter bank transfers</b>		<b>30646.62</b>		<b>30647</b>
<b>Annual Return</b>					
Box					
25222	Balances BF	1	29645.63		<b>29646</b>
19000	Precept	2	19000.00		<b>19000</b>
9172	Other receipts	3	5132.57		<b>5133</b>
-7347	Staff	4	-7471.82		<b>-7472</b>
0	Loan	5			
-16401	Total other costs	6	-23174.80		<b>-23175</b>
29646	Balances fwd	7 and 8	23131.58		<b>23132</b>
<b>29646</b>	<b>Total cash and short term investments</b>		<b>23131.58</b>		<b>23132</b>

## **12. Development Control**

Application	Address	Detail	Decision
15/00969/COU	30 The Villas St Marys Hospital Stannington Morpeth Northumberland NE61 6AT	Change of use from field to garden	No objection
15/01060/DISCON	Land South West Of South Shotton Farm Shotton Lane Stannington Northumberland	Discharge of Condition 59 of planning approval 13/03854/CCMEIA - Extension of operational surface coal mine by 26 hectares to extract an additional 290,000 tonnes of coal, 35,000 tonnes of fireclay and 15,000 tonnes of sandstone	No objection
15/01265/PRUTPO	5 And 6 Briery Hill Lane Stannington Morpeth Northumberland NE61 6PP	Tree preservation order application to reduce conifer boundary line by approximately 6 metres	No objection
15/01296/FUL	17 Villas St Marys Hospital Stannington Morpeth Northumberland NE61 6AT	Proposed single storey rear extension	No objection

Notices of appeal  
Notices of enquiry

## **13. Correspondence**

Noted unless otherwise indicated:

- Mr Went – proposal for 20mph limit at Stannington 1<sup>st</sup> School – sent to NCC
- NCC Meeting at Glorum
- NCC - increased highway inspections at Glorum, road repairs and cleansing of the A1 confirmed as NCC responsibility.
- Report from PC Teasedale
- NCC – 106 agreements for St Mary's
- Tracy Brady – Meeting confirmed with Bellway
- G Wiseman – thanks for new path in the cemetery

## **14. Any Other Business**

- Dogs on the playing field – notify NCC
- New PC website in production
- Council agreed to run another football tournament
- Villageshow committee have secured £2500 towards improving the play area
- Village show grant – Ctrs Philipson, Carins, Wilson and Dickinson declared an interest and remaining members approved a grant of £200
- St Mary's inn illegal brown signs being dealt with by NCC.
- St Mary's PCC request for brown sign to NCC

## **15. Date of next meeting**

Members agreed to change the date to the 16<sup>th</sup> July at 5.30pm in Stannington Village Hall

Signed

Chairman

Date

# Stannington Parish Council

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## **Minutes of Special Meeting** **25<sup>th</sup> June 2015** **Stannington Village Hall – 7.00pm**

Attendance:

Clr K Carins – in the chair

Clr P Smith

Clr H Brown

Clr R Philipson

Clr S Dickinson

D Hall – Clerk

Clr Armstrong – Northumberland County Council

26 members of the public

Representatives from ISOS

### **Meeting called to determine the council's response to planning application:**

15/01517/FUL | Demolition of existing garages and construction of 4no. two storey, three bedroom houses & 4no. single storey, two bedroom bungalows with associated parking and landscaping. | Land At North East Of Beechlea C364 Stannington Main Road Through Village Stannington Northumberland

**The meeting was preceded by a one hour session in which plans and details of the development were displayed and parish councillors discussed these with members of the public and hear their views both for and against the proposals.**

### **16. Apologies**

Clr B Smiles and Clr D Strachan

### **17. Public session**

The clerk advised councillors and the public about the process for this planning application over the last few weeks and for the evening:

- ISOS advised the PC at their meeting in March about their intention to submit an application
- ISOS then held, at the council's request, a public exhibition
- The PC has remained neutral so as not to fetter their discretion
- There has been significant public interest and discussion on the application on social media
- NCC are the planning authority and SPC is simply a consultee
- NCC are responsible for notifying neighbours and site notices
- SPC have been granted an extension to the consultation to allow this meeting to take place

Members of the public expressed their concerns relating to the development:

1. Development is too big
2. Choice of brick is inappropriate and should be stone
3. Although 16 car park spaces provided the NET figure is 7 or less
4. Serious issues with traffic and car parking on Beechlea
5. No real evidence of housing need
6. Construction traffic
7. Environmental impact eg red squirrel
8. Potential car parking on the old A1

### **18. Consideration of planning application for Beechlea**

Councillors noted the public concerns but also noted that initial work on the neighbourhood plan indicated a wish from residents of the parish for affordable housing although a formal housing needs survey is still being assessed. They also noted the poor maintenance of the existing estate and the refusal of ISOS to tackle existing parking problems.

**Resolved that the following response be sent to Northumberland County Council.**

Stannington Parish Council recognises the need for affordable housing through the formative work it has done in the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Stannington Parish. The Council notes a number of literal comments made as part of the formulation of the plan and also expects that the recently completed housing needs survey will support this need.

The Council requested ISOS Housing to undertake a public consultation before making a planning application and were therefore pleased when this resulted in amendments to proposals before the planning application was submitted. The Council also held a further public awareness and information gathering session for the public before determining its response to this application. The Council therefore feels that a full and thorough process has been adopted in reaching its decision on this application.

Having taken all the circumstances surrounding the application the Council wishes to OBJECT to the application for the following reasons:

1. Although the application shows 16 car parking spaces on the development this will involve the removal of 9 spaces currently on the site which are used by residents of Beechlea and therefore the net number of spaces for the new properties is only 7 which is one less than the number of proposed dwellings. In addition there are 8 garages being removed also. The Council believes that this will therefore force residents of Beechlea to park on the current estate roads which are already heavily congested and thus pose a traffic hazard and risk to young children.
2. The Council is also concerned about the impact on parking on the old A1 directly opposite Green Close in addition to traffic flows along Church Road and Beechlea itself directly adjacent to Stannington Vicarage. The Council requested that ISOS look at parking issues on the entrance to Beechlea in this area and to provide mitigation in the form of off street parking but they have declined to do so.
3. The Council believes that given the location the properties are not in keeping and should have been constructed in natural stone as are many properties in the village.

Finally the Council is concerned that if the development were to go ahead that construction traffic would present a significant safety risk to school children at between 8am and 9am and again between 3pm and 4pm.

Given the sensitive nature of this application and level of public opposition to this application the Council feels that this application should therefore be considered by committee rather than a delegated decision.

**Signed**

**Chairman**

**Date**