

Stannington Parish Council

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

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Minutes of Meeting
12 April 2017
Stannington Church Meeting Room

Attendance:

Cllr K Carins – in the chair
Cllr S Wilson
Cllr P Smith,
Cllr R Philipson
D Hall – Clerk

Declarations of interest in matters on the agenda: None declared.

60. Apologies

Cllr H Brown, Cllr D Strachan, Cllr S Dickinson, Cllr B Smiles
Cllr Armstrong – Northumberland County Council

61. Public session

Mr Emery – forthcoming councillor was present and introduced himself to the council. The chairman welcomed him and confirmed that the council looked forward to welcoming him in the future.

62. Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved that: the minutes be agreed as a true record.

Noted that Councillor Smith had raised concerns about storage containers at the Ice Cream Parlour on the Old A1 and also at Netherton Park which had been reported to Northumberland County Council.

63. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

There is a mismatch between the grass cutting cycles for Northumberland County Council and Isos which can often look untidy.

The chairman reported on applications by the Village Show Committee for a Red Phonebox and that HJ Banks had indicated that they would prefer to fund Defibrilators instead and so the application was being redrafted. (£1200) These to be located at St Mary's, Station Road Garage and adjacent to the Southbound shelter in Stannington Village.

Cllr Smith indicated that he had a contact for 2 old Red Phoneboxes and he would follow this up.

Councillors discussed a cost for lighting at the church car park, estimated to be in the region of £500 but Mr Clark was currently ill, works to be done when he is better.

There is a very dangerous tree opposite the church, on the corner, behind a decaying stone wall. Everyone is concerned that the tree will split as it's a lime and they are prone to this and then it will come down over the path and hit someone or a car. This happened earlier in the year. Clerk to report to Northumberland County Council.

Northumberland County Council have put temporary barriers on the old A1 near the Vale. Mr King acknowledge that this is a regular source of work and is often damaged. The concern is that a staggered barrier is insufficient as livestock often are in the area, as are horses and dogs so something to stop this is what's needed. Clerk to liaise to see if a metal fence and kissing gate with a cycle route through could be provided?

Seat for Mrs Stanger Leathes – needs careful consideration and liaison between the family and others – Chair's action.

Fly tipping at SW Duddo – report to Northumberland County Council

64. Reports from around the parish/outside bodies

Brenkley Liaison meeting:

Minutes of the 22nd March meeting not yet been received but will be circulated upon receipt of them. The Village Show applied for funding for a red telephone box to house a defibrillator. However, the funding committee felt that the purchase of the three defibrillators better fitted the fund criteria.

Action;

To approve the application by the The Village Show to purchase the defibrillators and for the PC to investigate funding the red phone box.

Northumberlandia;

There has been no meeting to date

SPNP;

Minutes circulated with action plan for consultation.

Stannington Station;

On the 28th March Councillor Carins spoke on behalf of the Parish Council at the planning meeting in March. The planning committee approved the Stannington/Birchwood Nurseries application. The developers are including a children's playground in their scheme which will be for general use for all children in and around the area.

Stannington Village;

Councillor Carins attended a site meeting in the village on the 3rd April at the invitation of Councillor Armstrong. A complaint had been made to NCC Highways concerning the rumble strip on Church Rd. A resident was experiencing problems with noise and vibration when large vehicles and farm vehicles crossed over the strips. The problem was witnessed and NCC will look into this issue and see if there is a solution. A resident reported a problem with the ISOS

housing allocation for the new bungalows. Although the resident is an 85-year-old widow who has lived in the parish since the 1970s she is not eligible for a bungalow as they are 2 bedroomed. She presently lives in an isolated area of the parish and must rely on friends and family to help her.

Action:

To monitor the rumble strip issue and to investigate the ISOS housing issue.

Handyman's Report:

Commentary:

- Residents have complained about potholes near the Lychgate- Councillor Carins has reported these to NCC Highways Officer Martin King
- Some posts on the perimeter of the Church car park are needing replaced- Maurice will purchase these from Carrs and replace
- Play area; tyres on the tyre frame have begun to perish and wires are coming through, some steps up to the frame are rotten and need replacing, climbing frame steps also needs a couple of steps replacing, the frog litter bin is broken and could cause an injury, some of the fence posts need replacing. Clerk to resolve
- Maurice has requested paint stain for the seats and flower boxes around the parish- Councillor Carins has approved this request
- Grass rake- this needs replacing as the old one has been stolen
- The tree opposite Wooler cottage needs to be removed; Tommy Pringle and Maurice have inspected the tree

Action;To monitor all the issues and rectify where appropriate.

Hepscott Park:

Demolition of the old hospital buildings will shortly commence.

Freedom of Information;

On the 30th March Councillor Carins and Councillor Wilson attended a FOI presentation at County Hall. The presentation has been distributed to all the parish councillors.

Freeman of the Parish;

Councillor Carins has liaised with David Hall to organise this ceremony.

The invitations have been delivered. The WI will cater for the event. David Hall will organise the agenda.

West of the parish

There have been a number of fly tipping incidents over the past few months. Cllr Wilson has reported these on the NCC portal and in the main they have been cleared.

On Thursday 23 March 2017 Cllr Wilson witnessed an incident on the road from Stannington village to St Mary's. She took the vehicle registration and rang the police control room who in turn informed NCC. Coincidentally Cllr Wilson made contact with Paul Thompson, Environmental Enforcement Officer, NCC. Mr Thompson has requested that if at all possible he be emailed with any details and he will update the NCC portal. This will save time and in turn he returns emails to provide an update.

It should be noted that at least 2 incidents of fly tipping have occurred while the Bellasis Bridge has been closed to traffic as they are situated in the most southern part of the Parish boundary just off the Horton Grange road leading to The Cheese Farm.

Actions requested : Circulation to Parish Councillors of Paul Thompson’s details.

Address Tyne Mills Depot, Hexham. NE46 1XL
 Telephone 01670 62554
 Mobile 0796658608
 Email paul.turnbull01@northumberland.gov.uk

Glororum:

The Contractors from St Mary’s are still struggling to always follow the route and stick to the speed limit. The residents of Glororum are always vigilant and are good at reporting issues. David Awan at the site is very helpful. The enforcement Officer Robert Wilson is aware of the issues.

The route beyond the Glororum route heading to the Bellway development at St Marys, past the turn off for the Whitehouse Farm and down Bett’s Lane is in a dreadful state of repair. I do not travel this way for this reason but as I was delivering the recent NP notices as had to use this route. The Construction traffic cannot be held totally to blame as this route was already subsiding before this site began and now in some parts the route has totally dropped away.

The raised curb heading out at the East junction has been hit again by a visitor to Glororum and been reported – cones have been placed to highlight the hazard but as yet I do not know what action NCC are going to take.

The Bridle Path at St Mary’s is still being accessed by vehicles. Some of the properties have been built extremely close to this path and these residents are very concerned about their safety and that of their property. Friday 31st March, during the night a vehicle became stuck, some residents blocked any escape route and the Police were called. As I reported last year, this path needs some form of physical restriction to prevent cars, vans, motorbikes from gaining access. Regardless of who owns the land, NCC are responsible for the path.

Action: Ask NCC for updates on the dangerous kerb on the Glororum route / Bridle Path at St Mary’s / roads around this area inspected.

65. Finance

The following income accounts were approved:

Income

Interest Jan £2.11 ,Feb £2.08 , March £1.82 , Vilaage show £5930, FD Fees £100
 Precept from Northumberland County Council £11,475.00

The following payments were approved:

Chq	Payee	Details	Amount £
1088	J Ludman	Planning fees	425.00
1089	THC	Landscaping and grass cutting	4260.00
1090	Carrs	Grounds equipment	43.73
1091	NWL	Water bill	27.90
1092	K Carins	Reimburse printing bill - Azzure	94.49
1093	S Dickinsdon	Reimburse tree costs	15.00
1094	Factory framing	Frames	98.00
1095	K Carins	Goods for freeman event	133.25

1096	D Hall		806.68
1097	HMRC		1207.20
1098	D Hall		127.44
1099	J Douglas		200.00

66. Development Control

Application	Address	Detail	Decision
11/01177	A1 Diner	Housing development	The Council vehemently objects to this application on the basis that this is a very urban style development in open countryside that does not match the character and surroundings of Station Road. The proposed development is far to dense and the notion of three storey buildings does not sit well with surrounding development. In addition the street scape will be littered with cars as most of it is parking and there is a risk that the estate will be congested by multiple car families parking on the road as well as off street. This council asks that this application is refused in favour of a lower rise, less dense style of development.
16/04227	10 Bowmont Walk – St Mary Park	Fence	No objection
17/00601	Station Road – Moorhouse Farm	Increase size of floorplan	No objection Clr Karins declared and interest and left the meeting during this item
17/00480	Land West of Duddo	Residential chalet	The council objects to this application as it amounts to the construction of a dwelling in the open countryside. The council does not object to a basic shelter structure for the purposes of stock management eg shepherd's hut, but a full size dwelling such as this is not supported.

			Clr Karins declared and interest and left the meeting during this item
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Notices of appeal
Notices of enquiry

67. Neighbourhood plan

See notes above. Now in draft form and out for consultation. 20th April is consultation day in the Village Hall and the clerk has written to all consultees.

Clr Smith asked for a breakdown of costs and it was agreed that this be circulated.

68. Correspondence

Noted unless otherwise stated.

- Northumberland County Council declarations of interest forms
- Norris and Fisher – Insurance offer
- Northumberland County Council – notice of elections
- NWGB Business – change of water supplier
- Morpeth Gathering – request for donation – declined
- BDO Audit – Audit letter
- Active Northumberland – Residents Festival
- Northumberland County Council – local elections info
- Northumberland County Council – public footpath orders
- S Lamb – trees on the old A1 – follow up
- Northumberland County Council – abandoned trailer on the old A1
- R Grimes – road to St Mary Park
- Blagdon Estate – field next to the cemetery

69. Any Other Business

- 4 lights on Green Close yet to have LED conversion
- Paths in The parish not cleared since October – Northumberland County Council
- Agreed not to move the speed signs around the parish anymore
- Request for the reports template to be recirculated
- Road repairs needed from The Lodge (Netherton Park) to the Jn with Station Road
- Dog fouling on the old A1 from The Lodge (Netherton Park) to the Jn with Station Road
- Noted that new councillors would receive training by NALC
- Detailed arrangements for the meeting on 21 April were discussed for the making of Honorary Freemen

Signed

Chairman

Date

Stannington Parish Council

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Minutes of Meeting **21 April 2017** **Stannington Church**

Attendance:

Cllr K Carins – in the chair
Cllr S Wilson
Cllr P Smith
Cllr R Philipson
Clr B Smiles
Clr S Dickinson

Lord Ridley
Rev Catherine Pickford – Council Chaplin

D Hall – Clerk

70. Welcome from the Chairman

Chairman – Lord Ridley, Reverend Pickford, Councillors, Clerk, invitees and distinguished guests and members of the public may I welcome you to this meeting of the council to mark the conferment of the role of Honorary Freeman on two of our distinguished guests, Eunice Ridley and Mark Wood. Thank you for coming along and helping us to celebrate this occasion and to mark the meritorious service of these two people over many years in this parish. May I now ask Reverend Pickford to say prayers?

71. Prayers

Reverend Pickford – Prayers

72. Apologies for absence

Councillor D Strachan
Councillor H Brown

73. Conferment of the role of Honorary Freeman

Chairman - Clerk will you please explain the statute relating to the awarding of the Honorary of Freeman of this parish.

Clerk - Madam Chairman, Lord and Lady Ridley, Freeman and Alderman Dungait, Reverend Pickford, Councillors, invitees and distinguished guests and members of the public - A Freeman was

a man who had served his apprenticeship and was free to conduct his trade in his own town. 'Free men' enjoyed a special status, the details of which varied according to special charters, but usually included the exclusive right of trading and of voting at elections for (and sitting upon) the Council. The power to vote at parliamentary elections was usually confined to freemen.

This title has long since disappeared and it has been replaced by the title 'Honorary Freeman' which is bestowed upon certain individuals, or past Members, who have, in the opinion of the Parish Council, rendered eminent service to the Council, or conducted exceptional work, service or other worthy undertakings that benefit the community in the Civil Parish of Stannington in Northumberland, formed in England under the reforming Local Government Act 1894.

A local council is permitted by legislation (Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972) to admit, further to a council resolution, to be honorary freemen or freewomen of the place or area for which it is the authority (a) persons of distinction, and (b) persons who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent services to that place or area. In 2009 Parliament passed the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act in which Councils were given the right to grant honorary Freedoms in their area of jurisdiction.

The honorary freeman title confers no powers on the individual. It is entirely ceremonial. The Parish Council officially thanks people who conduct exceptional work, service or other worthy undertakings that benefit their community by presenting them with a Freedom Scroll as a timeless thank you. The scrolls are highly regarded by recipients.

To be granted the title of Honorary Freeman is a mark of distinction upon the person whom the Council wishes to honour. The Freedom itself carries no privilege and is purely an honour, reflecting the eminence of the person on whom it is conferred or as recognition of significant and valuable services rendered by that person.

A sealed and illuminated certificate of the grant of Honorary Freedom, containing a copy of the formal resolution, is presented to the newly appointed Honorary Freeman by the Chairman, with an opportunity being given for the recipient to reply.

Chairman – We now move to the business of conferring the title of Honorary Freeman of this Parish.

Councillor Dickinson, I invite you to address the meeting in proposing that Eunice Ridley be granted Honorary Freedom of this parish.

Councillor Dickinson - Eunice Ridley (Glass) was born in 1953 at Shotton Grange Cottage, the daughter of John and Elsie Glass who moved onto the estate in 1940. John was known as Jack the Estate Drainer. In fact Eunice learnt everything about the natural world from her father. Eunice's best friend was Cecilia, Lord and Lady Ridley's eldest daughter. At 4 years old Cecilia had a Governess called, affectionately, Patch and insisted Eunice joined the lessons too. When Eunice went to school at 5, she already had all the basics, so was given more advanced lessons than the rest. Hence her speed reading! The very school she went to is now her home. Eunice acquired her clear speaking voice at an early age, reciting poems and enunciating every sound clearly. A talent fostered by her Aunt Alice which led to Eunice winning various elocution competition both locally and in London. Eunice would have liked to be an actress but it didn't happen! She won awards for her readings as part of the Temperance Movement. Eunice is an accomplished piano player.

Over her years in the parish Eunice served on many committees including the Village Hall, WI, various event committees such as the Queen's Jubilee and can always be seen around the parish tending to open spaces, trees, planters and the like. She joined the parish council in 1989 and served for over 25 years both as a councillor, vice chairman and chairman. She was a very strong activist in the fight for a grade separated junction for Stannington and supported so many organisations and individuals to be successful or to resolve problems that there are simply too many of them to recall here tonight.

There is no doubt that Eunice's commitment to this parish has been immense and that she is a worthy candidate for the role of Honorary Freeman.

Chairman – Councillor Wilson, I invite you to address the meeting in seconding that Eunice Ridley be granted Honorary Freedom of this parish.

Councillor Wilson – To carry on the story of Eunice, many of you will know she was a pivotal character in the operation of Blagdon Estate where she worked for 43 years. She worked as a young lady at the Ridley Arms but was headhunted by the then farm manager, Jasper Martin. Her expertise for figures and her knowledge of the workings of the farm grew and, in the words of one person here tonight, Eunice Ridley had arrived! Eunice has a wood named after her, a stretch of trees behind St Mary's church yard. This was done to mark her retirement Blagdon. Eunice has lived her full life in the parish and can recall all the names of the other named woods on the estate. Indeed Eunice became involved in the International Dendrology Society as a result of the 4th Viscount Ridley's passion for the study of trees.

Eunice is a lifelong football fan of Sunderland and had a season ticket for years, I guess someone has to!

I therefore concur with Councillor Dickinson that Eunice Ridley is a fitting candidate for the role of Honorary Freeman and so I second that proposal. Indeed I recommend to the council that it should resolve that:

We the Council grant you this highest honour we can bestow for the valuable and devoted services rendered to the Council, by you for twenty five years.

During that time you have served in many positions and held high offices of Councillor and Chairman over the periods from 1988 until 2013.

We loudly applaud your valuable and sterling service whilst thanking you most sincerely.

Chairman – Councillors, I put it to the vote: all those in favour....

Clerk – Chairman that motion is carried unanimously.

Chairman – I call upon Lord Ridley to present this illuminated scroll and therefore to bestow this honour on behalf of the Council and I also call upon Eunice Ridley to receive it.

Clerk – Chairman as the proper officer of the council I will formally record this resolution in the minutes of the council.

Lord Ridley presented the scroll on the Council's behalf and Eunice Ridley Responded.

Chairman – Councillor Philipson, I invite you to address the meeting in proposing that Mark Wood be granted Honorary Freedom of this parish.

Councillor Philipson - Mark Wood, a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors began his early life living in Hexhamshire. His father was a Hexham solicitor and he and his sister grew up near the village of Wall. Mark joined John Sale & Partners in 1980 as Land Agent when he succeeded Geoffrey Pettit as Lord Ridley's Agent for Blagdon Estate. Prior to this he went to Winchester college, trained as a land agent and worked for Sale and Partners for almost all his career. He was at Blagdon for 33 years, mostly living at Shotton Grange where he and his wife Jane (Jimmie) brought up a

wonderful family, a son and three daughters. On a lighter note...he plays bridge with great skill, is a countryman, enjoys shooting, etc.

Mark is a Chartered Surveyor, he has been a Church warden and held roles with the Diocese of Newcastle. He has also held the roles of:

Director of Blagdon Farming Ltd
Secretary of Tynedale Agriculture Ltd
Secretary of Seven Mile House
Director of Plessey Checks Farming Ltd
Director of Blagdon Nominees Ltd
Director of Blagdon Farm Shop Ltd
Secretary of Tynegrain Agriculture Ltd

Over his long and distinguished career and service to this parish Mark has helped and supported the essence of country and community life. In particular he has helped so many residents and tenants of the Blagdon Estate beyond measure.

There is no doubt that Mark's commitment to this parish has been immense and that he is a worthy candidate for the role of Honorary Freeman.

Chairman – Councillor Smith, I invite you to address the meeting in seconding that Mark Wood be granted Honorary Freedom of this parish.

Councillor Smith – To further the story of Mark Wood, he has been a stalwart of protecting and enhancing the Estate and the environment. More recently he has been a member of the Stannington Parish Neighbourhood Plan Group setting out a vision for the parish for many years to come. He is a Fellow of the Association of Agricultural Valuers, was Company Secretary at Tynegrain, a farmer's cooperative and Secretary to the Trustees at Netherton Park securing education for vulnerable young people. A little known fact is that he has also been a Tax Commissioner for Northern England, as Councillor Wilson said, someone has to do it!

On a lighter note there was a period of about six months after Whitbreads gave up their lease of the Ridley Arms before Sir John Fitzgerald took it over. Mark decided the Estate should keep the pub open during this period rather than closing it down, and he was instrumental in running it! That's service to me.

He has always been helpful and supportive in all aspects of life in the Parish to so many people, both personally and in his capacity as Agent at Blagdon. He has very broad shoulders and it was always reassuring for people to know there was dependable and strong, and powerful, support available when it was needed

I therefore concur with Councillor Philipson that Mark Wood is a fitting candidate for the role of Honorary Freeman and so I second that proposal. Indeed I recommend to the council that it should resolve that:

We the Council grant you this highest honour we can bestow for the valuable and devoted services rendered to the Parish, by you for thirty three years.

During that time you have served in many positions including Land Agent for Blagdon Estate and Church Warden over the periods from 1988 until 2013.

We loudly applaud your valuable and sterling service whilst thanking you most sincerely.

Chairman – Councillors, I put it to the vote: all those in favour....

Clerk – Chairman that motion is carried unanimously.

Chairman – I call upon Lord Ridley to present this illuminated scroll and therefore to bestow this honour on behalf of the Council and I also call upon Mark Wood to receive it.

Clerk – Chairman as the proper officer of the council I will formally record this resolution in the minutes of the council.

Lord Ridley presented the scroll on the Council's behalf and Mark Wood Responded.

Blessing

Chairman - Reverend Pickford may I ask you to give a blessing to these proceedings and to all those present?

Reverend Pickford – said a blessing on behalf of the Council.

74. Conclusion of business

Chairman – That now concludes the business of the council on this prestigious occasion. Thank you all for attending this momentous and historical meeting of the council.

Signed

Chairman

Date