

Stannington Parish Council

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Minutes of Meeting
14 March 2018
Stannington 1st School

Attendance:

Councillor K Carins – in the chair
Councillor H Brown
Councillor S Wilson
Councillor R Philipson
Councillor M Scott
Councillor R Tolson

D Hall – Clerk

PC Went – Northumbria Police

2 residents of the parish

70. Apologies

Councillor S Dickinson
Councillor D Emery
Councillor Armstrong – Northumberland County Council Councillor

71. Public session

PC Went attended the meeting and gave an update on a number of issues particularly speeding cars and delivery vehicles. PC Went is also organising a village litter pick with the school and scout group.

Mr & Mrs Gray attended to express concern at the withdrawal of the X44 service from Newcastle to Morpeth via Stannington. It was acknowledged that a new commercial service S1 and S2 has been introduced which is a circular route from Stannington to Morpeth via Clifton and Station Road. This however means that residents have to travel north to Clifton in order to board the X44 to Newcastle. The chair summarised meeting that she and Cllr Armstrong had held and agreed to continue talks to resolve the matter in addition to securing links to Horton Grange and Milkhope. It was agreed that The Clerk Write to the MP to seek his support in getting Arriva to discuss the matter.

The matter of the litter bin in the play area was raised and the clerk agreed to request Northumberland County Council to ensure that this is in the regular schedule of emptying.

72. Declarations of interest in the agenda

None

73. Minutes of the previous meeting

Agreed

74. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

- Request Martin King of Northumberland County Council highways to come to the next meeting
- Note that The Chairman has sought a meeting to discuss the terrible state of potholes across the parish and a meeting is to be held with Cllr Glen Sanderson of Northumberland County Council (Highways portfolio) and this will be supported by Cllr Armstrong.

75. Reports from around the parish/outside bodies

REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

Author : Cllr Sue Wilson

Date: 12 March 2018

Purpose of report: To update the Council on fly tipping and implications on the loss of No 44 bus

Commentary:

1. There have been 2 incidents of garden waste over the last couple of months, the latest one this past weekend. The perpetrator apparently tipping the entire load of hedge cuttings in the middle of the road which leads to the Belasis, about half way up the hill.

Action requested: To note the report.

2. Concern raised by a lady who lives at Horton Grange the effect of the loss of the No 44 bus is making her very stressed and concerned.

This is the southernmost outpost of the Parish, the lady doesn't drive and her husband is now unable to use his car due to advancing dementia. The bus was her lifeline and her only bit of independence. She will now have to get taxis to shops or day centres with her husband, as they are both in their late 70's this will have an impact on their savings. Action requested: To request the Parish Council consult on the parishioners behalf to arrange coverage to the Horton Grange area by public transport.

REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

Author: Cllr. Karen Carins

Date: 14th March 2018

Purpose of report: To update the Council on matters affecting Stannington Parish

Brenkley meeting report

Minutes circulated

Actions requested:

To report to the Parish Council following all Brenkley meetings

Stannington Village

Commentary: Residents have asked for help during the inclement weather. The loss of the X44 has also been discussed.

Actions Requested: The Parish Council will liaise with NCC with regard to bus services to Newcastle. The Parish Council will look at organising a coping strategy in the event of inclement weather or power cuts particularly for the most vulnerable residents in the community.

St Marys Park

Commentary:

On site meetings have been held with residents from St Mary Park, Councillor Sanderson, Councillor Armstrong, Martin King(Highways) and Councillor Carins with regards to the state of the roads between Stannington and Betts Lane. These roads are now given priority status and will be resurfaced shortly. In the meantime, signs warning road users of the uneven roads have been erected. The potholes around the parish will be inspected weekly and repaired where necessary until the roadworks are begun.

Councillor Carins attended the St Mary Residents meeting, the minutes circulated.

A meeting has been arranged between the residents and Bellway for the 16th March. Councillor Armstrong and Councillor Carins will attend as observers.

Actions requested:

To liaise with NCC Highways (a meeting is being arranged regarding road safety measures, line markings), Bellway and St Mary Park Residents.

Stannington Station

Commentary: There has been complaints regarding development vehicles obstructing the pavement, bad road traffic management and damage to the grass verges.

Actions requested:

To remain vigilant of any issues that may arise from the various developments that are currently in progress.

Bus Services

Councillor Armstrong and Councillor Carins attended a meeting at County Hall to establish what had been arranged for the bus services to Stannington Parish. The Arriva bus service will cease to operate a service in Stannington shortly. Northumberland County Council have negotiated with PCL Travel and the S1 service will now have an additional service, the S2. It will be a circular route. The parish are receiving a much better service to Morpeth and to other connections.

The timetable will be available shortly, in the meantime I have attached the draft timetable. It will mean getting 2 buses to Newcastle, first bus to Clifton, or the Train Station (to catch a train to Newcastle or Cramlington) or to Morpeth Bus Station. The buses to Newcastle are every 15 minutes and although it requires 2 buses to get to Newcastle it is still a lot faster than the old Dinnington route. Clifton buses are also every 15 minutes. This bus company are also looking at a Friday and Saturday evening service when the Inn at St Marys reopens.

Stannington First School

Councillor Armstrong and Councillor Carins attended a meeting at Stannington First School with the Headmistress and the Chairman of the Parent Governors. The issues regarding the layout of the school the shortage of space, the outdated school furniture, heating and the new school building were discussed. It was decided that a meeting would be arranged to see if any of the issues could be addressed. A new school building was the obvious solution but something needed to be put in place in the meantime. The possibility of a car parking solution was discussed. NCC are considering the community building as a classroom when looking at classroom space but this should not be the case. Following this meeting Councillor Armstrong and Councillor Carins met with Sue Aviston, School Capital and Organisation Manager at NCC to discuss the problems. The officer will arrange to meet with the Headmistress at Stannington First School to look at what measures can be put in place. There is a small amount of funding available. A new school will cost 3 million + but may be achievable through S106 agreements with future developers. A temporary car park could be applied for which would help service the school, in the interim, and the WW1 event in November.

It was agreed that further discussions with Northumberland County Council and Blagdon Estate take place on this matter.

Author : Cllr Malcolm Scott

Date: 12 March 2018

Purpose of report : To update the Council on fly tipping, loss of No 44 bus, recent problems relating to inclement weather and car park dangers.

Commentary:

1. Recent incidents of waste tipping.

- a) Roll of carpet underlay tipped opposite Shotton Edge which lay on the footpath for a number of days.
- b) Fridge has been dumped just within the Banks boundary fence at access gate on Blagdon Lane (old entrance to Delta Force paintball) Trees are currently being cut in that area yet fridge is still in situ.

Action requested: Councillor Scott to contact the County Council or Banks to have fridge removed.

2. Concern raised by residents of Vale View and Ridley Cottages at the loss of the No 44 bus service to Morpeth and Newcastle. Whilst there may be a shorter bus run by using the S1 and S2 services this can involve additional costs to those without a bus pass.

Also, whilst it is understood that the bus goes to the railway station the trains to Newcastle are not that frequent and this will involve additional cost. Can none of the regular buses that run down the A1 not drop into Stannington. Also, as previously indicated can an occasional route to Cramlington be explored.

Action requested: To request the Parish Council to consult on the behalf of parishioners to arrange for the some of the buses that pass the village via the A1 to come into the village North and South bound.

3. The recent snow has attracted complaints about the serious problems by residents of Elizabeth Square, Vale View and Ridley Cottages in accessing their properties. Due to the amount of snow on the hill to these properties it was not possible for some of their cars and those of visitors and delivery drivers to get up to the houses. Residents had to try to clear the whole hill road on numerous occasions to try to gain access. They also personally purchased grit for the hill. The council vehicles coming through the vehicles caused a huge build up of snow at the bottom of the hill which once this had frozen created serious access problems.

Action Requested: Can the Council explore the provision of a grit bin at the top of the hill/cul de sac on Elizabeth Square.

4: The trees in the car park at the Ridley Arms/Village Hall can be difficult to see in the darkness.
Action Requested: Can some hi viz white paint bands be painted on the trees.

Author: Cllr. Helen Brown

Date: 14th March 2018

Purpose of report: To update the Council on matters affecting Stannington Parish, specifically around Glororum.

Signage:

Despite many emails over the last 6 months the 'one-way' system signage for the Bellway St Mary's site Construction Traffic has not been replaced. This is starting to cause problems again as two wagons cannot pass on the route and domestic vehicles are finding it tricky, especially when wagons travel in convoy.

Signs went missing / were damaged at the end of the summer – this was reported to NCC and Bellway(who also had their own sign at the east junction). These signs were found in the back of the hedge and put them back up. The Bellway sign had been thrown into the field and was too damaged to be put back up.

When work was done on the footpath by Highways England before the end of the year these sign went missing again – we again went down and found one of them but the other has disappeared. There is a great deal of frustration at the lack of help in this matter by NCC, despite many emails.

The one-way system protects other road users and the Glororum route which is already starting to fall apart again, even though it has previously been totally resurfaced.

Action: to report to NCC and reinstate signage

Potholes: The West end junction has become extremely dangerous as it is impossible to manover without falling into a pothole. This junction has already been repaired and resurfaced 6 times since Bellway started at St Mary's – the turning wagons 'chew up' the road surface. Also the route turning right from this junction towards Tranwell which is within Stannington Parish has subsided badly.

Action: To report danger to NCC

Rubbish: The rubbish thrown from cars off the A1 on the Clifton sliproads and on the Glororum route is getting much worse and poses a direct hazard to wildlife and farm stock.

Action: To report to NCC in the hope that a team can be deployed to clear it up.

Gritters / snow-ploughs: The Glororum route is gritted regularly by a wagon which turns around at the west junction and comes back down again. Why does this route get serviced in this way and then stop at the west junction? In the recent bad weather when the Police were directing traffic off the closed A1 onto the Glororum route the traffic had nowhere to go as to the left and right were huge snow drifts which even our tractor found difficult to get through....why is there not a continuous route in place for the gritter / snow-plough? – especially as it is a school bus route onto St Mary's?

Action: to report to NCC

76. Development Control

Councillors considered the following applications as a consultee of Northumberland County Council noting that the power to approve or refuse applications lies solely with the local planning authority and that the parish council's comments would be taken into account along with all other statutory consultees and those of residents:

Application	Address	Detail	Decision
18/001146	Furrow Grove	Gable windows	No objection
18/00132	St Mary's Hospital	Landscaping	No objection
18/00435	58 Station Road	Discharge of conditions	Raise concerns over sparsity of play equipment
18/00668	56 Station Road	2 dwellings	No objection
18/00706	Kyloe House	Parking	No objection
18/00250	Tranwell airfield	Outline planning for 4 dwellings	Stannington Parish Council notes that part of the land pertaining to this application lies in the parish of Stannington. We also note that the land is a former airfield and largely hardscaped having been used extensively over the years for car boot sales etc. The property lies adjacent to Tranwell woods, a low density development of properties in woodland. The council believes that this land is brownfield because of its former use and it already has planning for chalets. On the basis of the low density proposed and the low impact on the countryside the council supports this application as it will tidy up this land (notwithstanding the need to remediate it) and remove the use as a car boot sale area. The council would not support however a greater density or two storey development.
			No objection

Note: Cllr Armstrong of Northumberland County Council took no part in any of the planning discussions.

Notices of appeal - none
Notices of enquiry – none

77. Stannington Parish Neighbourhood plan (SPNP)

The SPNP is now with the examiner. Northumberland County Council will inform the PC of any findings shortly.

78. Finance

The following income accounts were approved:

Income:

Interest

Jan £2.67
Feb £2.61

Fees £286

The following payments were approved:

Chq	Payee	Details	Amount £
1140	Solagen	Speed signs	1722.00
114	M Stewart	Handy man services	160.00
1142	Wave	Water bill	18.16
1143	St Mary's PCC	Donation for lighting	1080.00
DD	BT	Line rental	58.45

Resolved that:

The payments and income listed be approved

79. Correspondence

Noted unless otherwise stated:

- Solagen - quote for new speed sign £3525.00 plus VAT - agreed
- Air Ambulance – thank you for support
- Morpeth Gathering
- History Society – Request for funding for Centenary of WWI –Agreed
- MR Carr – Pottholes
- P Smith – Fly tipping
- Healthwatch
- Astoria Homes – offer of donation –agreed for play facilities on Station Road
- P Hunter – lighting on Station Road –Northumberland County Council
- Northumberland County Council – repairs to recycling centre
- J McWade – Dovecote lane vehicle restriction

80. Adoption of policy for the appointment of Honorary Freeman of the Parish

Members discussed the introduction of a policy.

Resolved that the policy shall be approved as follows:

The title 'Honorary Freeman' 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 Stannington.

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, at a specially convened council meeting, with an opportunity being given for the recipient to reply.

Nomination for Honorary Freeman

Any person may nominate an individual or organisation for the honour of Freeman.

Further information may be requested from us as part of the process if required. Applications will then be considered by the Council annually. An Extraordinary full Council meeting would then be convened to bestow the honour to those selected.

1. Process for nominations

All nominations for the Honour of Freeman of the Parish should be made to the Council and supported by a reference from someone familiar with the work of the nominee. All nominations will be private and confidential and shall be submitted to the Clerk.

2. Selection Criteria

Applicants shall be judged eligible as against the following criterion:

- They have brought distinction to the Parish of Stannington and enhanced its reputation as a direct result of their actions
- The work of the individual / organisation is considered exceptional as a direct result of their sustained actions
- The work of the individual / organisation has made a significant difference to the life of others – such service may be continuous over a period of time or through one significant single action or initiative
- The individual / organisation exemplifies selflessness and sustained commitment to voluntary service in their community

When considering applications, the Council may wish to split nominations into categories to allow further clarity in their decision making. The following categories are suggested:

- Charitable
- Community
- Culture
- Business, Innovation and Science
- Education
- Health and Environment
- Military
- Miscellaneous/other
- Local Government

It is accepted that some requests may fall into more than one category and applicants therefore need to address that in their submission.

All decisions of the Council shall be final and the Council may wish to limit the number of awards in any one year.

The Council reserves the right to decline nominations without challenge or redress and this will be specifically where the nominee has been the subject of criminal action, bankruptcy or other such actions which could bring the reputation of the parish and the honour into disrepute. The Council also reserves the right to seek further information from the person making the nomination and the nominee before determining the application.

The Honour will only be bestowed after the Council has agreed to make the award and the Nominee has accepted this in writing.

81. To determine the appointment of Honorary Freemen for the year 2018

A total of 7 nominations were received for the role and all were worthy of consideration. After careful deliberation the council agreed to select four of the nominees to take forward this year and to approach the candidates for their acceptance. The council also agreed that those not taken forward on this occasion be carried forward to a future occasion.

82. Any other business at the discretion of the Chairman

Other items:

- Planter at the end of Station Road broken
- Discussion on how civil emergencies and power cuts might be handled – discuss with Northumberland County Council emergency planning
- Further press Karbon Homes for resolution on issues at Beechlea

83. Date of next meeting

9 May 2018 – 6.45pm Stannington 1st School

Signed

Chairman

Date