*Stannington Parish Council*

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

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**Minutes of Meeting**

**12 March 2014**

**Stannington Village Hall – 5.30pm**

Attendance:

Clr K Carins – in the chair

Clr P Smith

Clr B Smiles

Clr S Dickinson

D Hall – Clerk

D Phillips – Northumberland County Council

PC Andrea Teasdale – Northumbria Police

**57. Apologies**

Clr Rev A Gregory

Clr H Brown

Clr R Philipson

Clr D Strachan

Clr Armstrong – Northumberland County Council

**58. Public session**

Mr Phillips of Northumberland County Council was in attendance. He was able to advise that the parking issues at Green Close were being looked into and that the council intended to discuss the obstruction to the view and the damage to the grass verge with the residents of the properties. A further discussion took place regarding the routing of vehicles to St Mary’s and the damage to the road at Glororum. Mr Phillips advised that discussions with Bellway were ongoing and that Hargreaves, opencast mining operator, had agreed to support the improvements to the roads.

A further discussion took place regarding the parking and road dangers at the School in Stannington. It was agreed that an approach should be made to Lord Ridley to see if some land could be made available for parking and that if this was the case then a scheme and funding could be explored.

PC Teasedale was welcomed to the meeting. She gave an update on the closure of Netherton Park, expected in September 2014. There was also some concern about poachers and illegal scrap men operating in the parish and members were asked to remain vigilant.

**59. Minutes of the previous meeting**

Agreed as a true record

**60. Matters arising**

* Clr Smith had looked into local trusts for funding of play equipment but this was not possible. He agreed however to look at possible funding from Lloyds and TSB Banks and the Clerk agreed to look at possible equipment.
* Northumberland County Council be asked to look at possible signage on the access to Stannington Village – “no access to site traffic or opencast traffic”
* Clr Smith advised that the buses causing parking dangers were in fact mini-busses and taxis from a company called Docherty’s

**61. Reports from across the parish**

* Village Hall - Meeting taking place on Tuesday 11th, will report after.
* Brenkley Liaison committee - Next meeting 25th March.
* Stannington Station - The T James wagons that are using Station Road are from the Well Hill opencast site. The Chairman had complained to both Hargreaves (the opencast operators) and NCC planners, Raitrack and spoken to the haulage company.

Railtrack had not been informed of this route so therefore could not object to it when it went through the planning process. They are writing to both Hargreaves and T James asking them to change their route. T James is also going to look and see if there is an alternative route. It is all based on costs.

* Planning - At the planning meeting in Alnwick, the land adjacent to 26, Station Road was recommended for approval by the planning officer and the planning committee  voted unanimously in favour of his recommendation. The Councillors stated that the layout must remain as close to the road frontage as possible so this was very reassuring.  There has been no word about the site at the top of Station Road but the Chairman attended the opening of the visitors centre at Northumberlandia and all the speakers stressed that as the landform has already attracted 100,000 visitors, accommodation is badly needed in this area. Hopefully this information may filter out and someone will pick up this idea for the derelict site.
* Northumberlandia - Northumberland County Councillor Paul Kelly cut the ribbon on the £242,000 building at Northumberlandia, in Cramlington. The visitor centre has been built thanks to funding secured by the Land Trust from the Banks Community Fund and Defra’s Rural Economy Grant. Coun Paul Kelly said: “The Lady of the North is one of the most talked about landscapes in the north, and she is putting this part of Northumberland on the map. This centre will allow visitors to stay longer, and will provide another source of income for the site which will allow for future improvements.” It is now seen as a major asset to the area that will create further economic and social benefits for the community. It is a tremendous entrance to Northumberlandia who is now world renowned. 100,000 visitors have so far visited the land form.
* Netherton Park - Councillors attended a meeting with the trustees of Netherton Park and the residents. This proved very helpful for all concerned. No application has been lodged yet. Roads, utilities and routes through the scheme were discussed. Some residents want compensation for the changes that will affect them and others want the roads improved.
* St Marys Liaison committee - The meeting was attended by a NCC Highways officer and Joe Nugent, a NCC planning officer. The Chairman went through the minutes and matters arising. Highways were given an opportunity to go through a suggested route for both Hargreaves and Bellway HGVs. It would mean full Hargreaves lorries through Glororum and empty lorries through Tranwell Village, it would work in an anti clockwise fashion. This would negate passing HGVs, limit right turns and aid the situation in Glororum. Better signage would be looked at to warn road users of HGVs. Thompson lorries had been witnessed travelling in a convoy which is not best practice. A building report was given by Bellway. There are over 20 reservations and all the discounted are reserved with no uptake from Stannington. Ist Burnholme resident will be in shortly. The pub will open in November and is now seeking 11 letting bedroom instead of 4. The cost will be around£70 per night. The hospital should have an application in for designs in Spring. Bellway confirmed they own the Catraw culvert and will take responsibility for its upkeep. It is silting up which may be due to building debris or the settling lagoons from the open cast mine at Well Hill. The well is still causing technical problems and remains uncapped. There is an issue with water bubbling up on a public footpath. The drain on the Drive is higher than the road and hasn’t been dealt with yet. A fence has been erected directly behind Mrs Marfitt Smith’s residence. This is making it impossible to access the back of her garage. Tracey Brady did not feel it was correct to discuss this problem at the meeting but the PC explained that a liaison meeting is the correct place to discuss issues and solutions. Bellway stopped the meeting half way through and said they would not take part in any more. If residents have a problem they can go to the show house or site office. This is not ideal as residents issues will not be recorded for the planning dept., so all residents must be encouraged to CC in the parish council with issues so they can be passed on to NCC. Bellway suggested a residents committee may be the next step. David Hall and I will meet with Bellway to discuss their stance on this. They have sent a cheque for £2500 to Stannington First School.
* Well Hill Liaison Committee - Members attended a site visit prior to the meeting. An introduction of all committee members was made and Councillor Paul Kelly chaired the meeting. 6.600 tons of have gone to Lynemouth power station. 16,000 tons is in stock on site. There is a 300,000 cubic metre over burden. 15,000 tons of fire clay is destined for Throckley. There will be no stripping until the weather improves. Trees have been removed as per plan. April/May will see the screening bunds at the North West boundary of the site. The second phase of the archaeology assessment is to be agreed and the fire clay/glacial clay removal. There has been no significant Archaeology found.

A forthcoming planning application is for a non material amendment;

Alteration to the site- size/shape of lagoon, a further lagoon, footprint change of bund and infrastructure and movement. There is no weighbridge. Lorries have their own scales.There is an increase in height to a bund of between 3 and 4 metres to help with screening to the Drive. Monitoring water/dust and noise is done monthly. There has been one noise breach since site began operations. Two weeks later another noise measurement was taken and was fine. No reports of dust above the acceptable limits.

The water can be drained at 30 litres per second into the local watercourse but it would be very rare for this type of discharge off site. If the quality of the clay lessens then this may shorten the site’s working.

Glororum Road was discussed and as stated in Bellway report talks between Highways and the developers would work out an appropriate plan of action for highways. The restoration should be done before works begin.

Public protection- noise levels were a nuisance when vehicles were reversing. Broadband type sensors were discussed as a way forward. All complaints must go through Joe Nugent from NCC.

The new planning application needs no change to the s106 agreement. There is an increase exiting the site but no Saturday movements. Audit should be undertaken to the roads and houses along the route. The community Trust fund is not a planning consideration however Hargreaves have agreed to one. 130,000 tons of coal may give a fund of around £13,000. Joe Nugent will forward fund application template forms. Funding committee will meet before each liaison committee meeting. Next meeting;

Thursday 15th May at 5pm, 4pm for funding committee.

Comment by PC at planning meeting;

Stannington Parish Council objected to the original application for opencast mining on the Well Hill site and was disappointed that Northumberland County Council approved that application. However now that opencast mining has commenced, the council recognizes that it is inevitable that fireclay as a resource must be extracted at this time in the interests of sustainable development and efficiency. We are concerned however that the impact of this could be to route some Lorries via Glororum or Tranwell.

* St Mary’s - Successive approvals for housing at St Mary’s Hospital and open casting at Well Hill, combined with local traffic and that from Whitehouse Farm visitor attraction have meant that roads approaching and through Glororum have been overwhelmed and often dangerous. These roads are narrow and due to frequent vehicle conflict the verges have been over-run, road edges have disintegrated very badly and road users are now facing significant risk. The road is breaking up. This road was deemed unsuitable when there was open casting 20 years ago and there was far less traffic. What has changed?

Long promised funding from St Mary’s development S106 agreement to provide traffic calming has not yet been implemented. It is also vital that the county council seek to provide traffic calming at Glororum, funded from this scheme, so that the impact on this hamlet is mitigated for example by one way traffic lights and better signage to forewarn pedestrians who walk this route to Whitehouse Farm and other road users of HGVs, so as to limit vehicle and pedestrians conflict. A vehicle count should be undertaken yearly and a speed limit of 20 mph should be implemented. Councilors acknowledge that Hargreaves drivers are very respectful and adhere to the 20mph speed limit which is contrary to the Bellway drivers who have run other vehicles off the road, they speed and are rude.

It is also vital that if this application is approved that a pre and post development road survey is undertaken and repairs are carried out before any increase in fully laden Lorries is approved. Houses should be surveyed in the same way and any remedial works carried out. A proper traffic management plan should define vehicle movements in and out of the development site with a one way system established via Glororum and Tranwell and no convoys should be allowed. Former Passing places should be re-instated and made long enough for long vehicles to pull in without verge damage and to protect road users from oncoming Lorries. Wheel washing should be carried out and verges repaired.

It should also be reported that Stannington Station Rd within the parish is now being used as part of the route to Alcan, with a level crossing and a dangerous right turn at the A192 junction we find this wholly unacceptable.

When the last application was approved it was indicated that there would be a community fund but this has never happened and this should not be overlooked on this occasion.

* Glororum - The residents are looking forward to the road repairs, verges repaired and repair/extension to the passing bays. But mainly they are hopeful of a safer route!

Cl Brown has been asked about the ‘road calming’ funds which the County Council have received from Bellway....maybe these will be used by Highways for signage, repairs etc. Councillors met back in November with Clr Armstrong and talked of a ‘Glororum’ sign so that drivers realised they were driving though a residential area and Clr Armstrong did say last week that she was chasing this.

Clr Brown emailed our Neighbourhood Beat Manager last week regarding cars being driven off the road by Bellway contractors driving in an aggressive manner and the speed of local traffic.

Residents will continue to be vigilant and report any problems with the route and the drivers! Residents thanked the Council very much for organising the site visit and subsequent meeting with Morpeth Council and Mitford Parish members. Their understanding of our situation and being able to witness the wagons on the route helped to show a very ‘united front’ at the recent Planning Meeting. It was very professional and I think persuaded the Council Members to agree to their own site visit of the route. Joe Nugent’s assistance along with the Highway Department in researching this idea has all come together to make us feel we have finally got somewhere! We still will have wagons on this route but hopefully the damage they are doing has now been recognised and will be corrected and the ‘one way’ system will be safer.

* Neighbourhood plan – the Chairman circulated a significant amount of information about the plan and how it was developing. A drop in session had been planned and posters, cards, representation packs etc. were all being circulated across the parish.
* Core Strategy – the Chairman had attended a meeting on this issue. The main concern was the potential to Green Belt the majority of the parish and it is hoped that the Neighbourhood Plan will help to address this.
* School – Noted that HJ Banks were supporting the project for an extension with £5k and apprentice labor and Bellway had pledged £2.5K.

**62. Remembrance Trees**

Councillor Dickinson had kindly secured a red flowering hawthorn tree to mark the passing of the Late Lord Ridley. A site had been selected and Viscount Ridley will be asked for appropriate dates. It was agreed that this was also a good time to mark the retirement of councillors.

**63. Finance**

The following income accounts were approved:

**Income**

Interest

Jan £1.23

Feb £0.94

Neighbourhood plan grant £6253.00

The following payments were approved:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Chq** | **Payee** | **Details** | **Amount** |
| 912 | D Hall | Salary and exp | 643.97 |
| 913 | NWL | Water bills | 186.76 |
| 914 | Bart Endean | War memorial | 381.00 |
| 915 | D Hall (BT) | BT bill | 74.73 |
| 916 | M Stewart | Salary | 320.00 |
| 917 | J Douglas | Audit | 200.00 |

**64. Development Control**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Application | Address | Detail | Decision |
| 13/03785 | 26 Station Road | 7 Dwellings | No objection – support in favour of previous application. |
| 13/03917 | 2 Low Horton Grange | 2 dwellings | No objection |
| 14/00328 | Farm House West Duddo | Alterations | No objection |
| 14/00516 | Ardlea, Station Road | Extension | No objection |
| 14/00571 | Thornhill Cottage | Extension | No objection |
|  |  |  | The council recognises that it is inevitable that this resource must be extracted at this time in the interests of sustainable development and efficiency. They are concerned however that the impact of this could be to route some lorries via Glororum or Tranwell. Should the County Council be minded to approve this application then we would ask that a combined traffic plan be put in place for the original application for coaling and this current one for fire clay extraction. In this case we would suggest that all empty lorries going into the the site go via Glororum and all full lorries leaving go via Tranwell. This is because the road network into and through Glororum is in a very poor state or repair now, verges have been eradicated and there is conflict for oncoming lorries going into the opencast site and out as well as additional impacts from construction traffic going to and from the St Mary's development. It is also vital that the county council seek to provide traffic calming at Glororum, funded from this scheme, so that the impact on this hamlet is mitigated for example by one way traffic lights so as to limit vehicle conflict and that of pedestrians who walk this route to Whitehouse Farm. The council also notes that the S106 for the original application failed to secure any community benefit as indicated at the planning meeting and we therefore request that this is dealt with as part of this application. |

Notices of appeal

# Notices of enquiry

**65. Correspondence**

Noted unless otherwise indicated:

* NCC – residents festival
* Grace – Rape Crisis Group
* Carers Northumberland

**66. Any Other Business**

* Seat in the cemetery to be replaced when available at Heighly Gate
* Drain opposite vicarage blocked again
* Trees on est of old A1 still need trimmed
* Cemetery car park has dried up after drain repair
* Potholes across the parish have been filled

**67. Shotton Triangle opencast proposal**

Clr Smith decelared an interest in the next item and left the meeting. Clr Dickinson declared an interest and so the meeting becam inquorate. A future meeting to discuss this will be held.

**Date of Next Meeting – 14th May 2014 – 5.30pm in Stannington Village Hall**

**Signed Chairman Date**

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**Minutes of Meeting**

**8th April 2014**

**Stannington Village Hall – 5.30pm**

Attendance:

Clr K Carins – in the chair

Clr H Brown

Clr D Strachan

D Hall – Clerk

**68. Apologies**

Clr Rev A Gregory, Clr R Philipson, Clr B Smiles, Clr P Smith and Clr S Dickinson

**69. Shotton Triangle Opencast Coal application**

Members discussed the application at length including the impact on residents, coaling times and impact on the life of the site.

Resolved that: the Council does not object to the application in principle however it raises the following:

* Concern over noise and lighting
* Noise monitoring and management plan is required to minimise impact on nearby residents
* Impact of blasting - blasting impact assessments, pre-operation survey of properties is required
* Mitigation measures such as double glazing to be provided to properties at Shotton in advance of the commencement of the site operations
* Community benefit from removal of coal, fire clay and sandstone to be directed to community projects within the Stannington Parish eg. Project to provide additional community and school facilities and enhanced parking at the school which is currently a serious risk to road users, parents and children.

**Signed Chairman Date**