

Stannington Parish Council

David Hall, MA, B.Eng (Hons), MCIPR - Clerk to The Council
2 Monmouth Court – Widdrington – Morpeth – Northumberland – NE61 5QS E:
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Minutes of Annual Parish and Annual General Meeting held

29 May 2024

Stannington Village Hall

7.00pm

Attendance:

R Tolson – in the chair
S Dickinson
M Scott
R Philipson
R Nixon
L Darwin – Northumberland County Council
D Hall – Clerk

GENERAL BUISINESS

1. To appoint a Chairman for the ensuing year

Cllr Scott nominated Cllr Tolson and this was seconded by Cllr Dickinson. Cllr Tolson was therefore elected for the ensuing year.

2. To appoint a Vice Chairman for the ensuing year

Cllr Tolson nominated Cllr Dickinson and this was seconded by Cllr Philipson. Cllr Dickinson was therefore elected for the ensuing year.

128th ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

3. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Brown

4. To receive any declarations of interest

None

5. To receive the minutes of the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting

Received and noted that these were considered at the normal meeting of the council in 2023 following the APM

6. To receive any matters arising

None

7. To receive the annual report of the Chairman

The last 12 months have been relatively quiet compared to previous years, with no major Parish Council funded social events taking place, however the Parish Council have still been very busy.

Councillors' duties include regularly consulting on planning applications and a major application regarding holiday lets at Whitehouse Farm Centre was discussed at a public meeting last summer. This was attended by representatives of the farm centre as well as residents both from the entrance to the centre and from nearby. The council's view was to refuse the application in its present form due to many reasons, the principle being the impact on local residents by increased traffic flow into the site and elsewhere on what are minor roads not intended for that volume of traffic.

We have also supported residents regarding planning issues with the access road to the Netherton Park development as well as ongoing planning issues on Station Road.

Another major discussion involving the Parish Council in the last year was concerning the bus services or lack thereof in the parish. A meeting was held with Neil Easton, Public Transport Manager for the County Council which was attended by some residents. Following this the Parish Council carried out a Transport Survey with parish residents which received a good response. Unfortunately, this seems to have been largely ignored by the County Council and neither they nor the bus companies seem to want to engage in further dialogue. This issue will no doubt rear its head again in the next year.

Three new Freeman of the parish were installed recently namely Eileen Armstrong, Karen Carins and the Venerable Catherine Pickford. Eileen for her support of the parish in her role as County Councillor, Karen for her service in many areas of parish life including many years as a parish councillor and as chair of the council and Catherine for her time as Vicar of Stannington during which she not only provided spiritual guidance but was also a friend to many and very supportive of parish life.

The Parish Council aims to support all the different areas and institutions of the parish and some of these in the last 12 months include the following.

The illegal waste dumped by Bellway at the St Mary's Park development was finally removed following a long campaign by residents, supported by the Parish Council. The Environment Agency imposed a large fine on Bellway, none of which disappointingly was spent on the development or anywhere else in the parish.

Support was also given to residents of Hepscott Park to have trees and bushes trimmed in order to maintain the access as well as highlighting flooding issues on the site.

Support was given to our First School by providing funding for trips and use of the village hall. Support was given to the church by providing funding to run a Christmas lunch for the elderly. The Parish Council also aims to keep the parish well maintained and has provided new seats in various places around the parish, including within the cemetery.

A new flagpole has been erected in centre of the village in memory of Connie Dungait following requests from the family.

The Parish Council was also pleased to provide a tree in memory of Gavin Scott.

Councillor Phillipson and myself cleared and tidied the parish store and the leak in the roof and electrical issues have been resolved by Blagdon Estate.

The Parish Council has also been offered the tenancy of the Hearse House by Blagdon Estate and this needs further discussion.

Councillors are always on the lookout for new potholes, fly tipping and damage to signs and infrastructure within the parish and are constantly reporting them to the County Council
The Parish Council again unanimously voted to freeze the parish precept as our portion of Council Tax.

Thanks to County Councillor Lyle Darwin for his support and also for setting up an inaugural parish surgery for residents recently, which will hopefully become a regular fixture.

Thanks especially, on behalf of Parish Councillors go to our Clerk David Hall for his dedication, expertise and guidance on many issues over the years.

We are honoured to have the privilege of being Parish Councillors and look forward to another busy year supporting local residents and safeguarding our beautiful parish of Stannington.

8. Public session

No members of the public were present

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

9. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Brown

10. To receive any declarations of interest

None

11. To receive the minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

Received and noted that these were considered at the normal meeting of the Council in 2023 following the AGM

12. To receive any matters arising

None

13. To receive the minutes of the ordinary meeting on 20 March & 2 April 2024

Received

14. To consider any matters arising

The clerk update members on the situation relating to public transport.

Northumberland County Council current position - as previously discussed any decision to divert any of the Morpeth-Newcastle express services (X14, X15 and X18) will be an Arriva North East decision due to the fact that these services are commercial, Northumberland County Council will offer support to Stannington Parish Council's attempt to lobby Arriva to divert an express service via the slip road South Bound and via Stannington Village north bound.

Notwithstanding the Parish Council's attempts to lobby Arriva, NCC have taken on board the message from Parish Councillors and the results of your local transport survey and are actively looking at the opportunities to provide a direct service to Newcastle via the village. NCC are currently involved in developing a new service that will operate daily between Wooler and Newcastle with at least 3 return trips per day, it is their intention subject to receiving a compliant tender to divert this service through Stannington Village in both directions, this will include a pre 0900 arrival in Newcastle and a post 1700 return from Newcastle to cater for work flow and provide access to further education establishments. The return trips from Newcastle will go to Morpeth via Loansdean which will speed up journey times when compared with the current 436 which goes via Hepscoth. NCC will keep the Parish Council updated on this new service as it develops, but hopefully following its introduction this will go a long way to addressing a lot of the concerns identified in the Parish Transport survey.

It was agreed that once this was confirmed that a bus service leaflet be produced for the parish and posted to every household.

15. To consider items pertaining to development control

Councillors considered the following applications lodged with the local planning authority, unless otherwise stated no comment or objection was made to Northumberland County Council:

Notification of Prior Approval For The Creation Of A New Farm Track
Land West Of A1 At Lough House Stannington Morpeth Northumberland NE61 6EB
Ref. No: 24/01199/ROAD

Notification of Prior Approval For The Creation Of A New Farm Track
Land Adjacent To A1 At Netherton Park Junction Stannington Morpeth Northumberland
NE61 6EE
Ref. No: 24/01200/ROAD

Notification of Prior Approval for monopitch lean-to general purpose storage building.
Low Horton Grange Farm Cottage Green Lane Seaton Burn Newcastle Upon Tyne
Northumberland NE13 6BZ
Ref. No: 24/01091/AGRGDO

Note:

Notices of appeal – none

Notices of enquiry – none

Other notices – none

16. Finance

The following income accounts were noted and approved:

Income:

Precept £18050.00

Bank balance of BOI £57437.04 and Lloyds TSB £10350.00 as at 18 April 2024.

The following payments were approved:

Chq	Payee	Details	Amount £
1401	Communicorp	Scrolls	302.55
1402	Village Hall	Rent	24.00
1403	PCC	Freeman event	300.00
1404	NALC	Subs	500.26
1405	Clear insurance	Insurance	2409.02
1406	V Ridley	Rent	390.00
1407	V Ridley	Rent	75.00
1408	S Dickinson	Trees and plaques	153.00
1409	HMRC	PAYE	100.00

Resolved that: The payments and income listed be approved

17. Councillors' reports

REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

Author: Cllr Malcolm Scott

Date: 28th May 2024

Purpose of report: To update the Council on items reported.

Commentary:

- a) Two residents have asked me whether Estate Agent for sale boards can be erected on Council Verges. There are two for sale boards located at the North of Stannington Village just off the roundabout on the verge and on the Northbound (South end) sliproad verge immediately off the A1. This particular board is located in a very dangerous location. This has been reported previously by myself. These boards remain in place today. **Reported to Northumberland County Council**
- b) Complaint from Mrs A. Dent a resident that trees etc in The Limes are now very much 'invading' and overhanging her garden. **Reported to Northumberland County Council**
- c) Some weeks ago I reported to the NCC that the Hair Studio is disposing of large quantities of human hair in the Council waste bin on the wall under the PC and Village Notice Boards. This was done on 'Fix My Street' and the bin was emptied. This unhygienic practice is I understand to be 'commercial waste' and continuing as seen

whilst displaying the PC Notice last weekend. **Reported to Northumberland County Council**

- d) Request for a larger waste bin at the cemetery tap – **advise to use bin at corner of car park at the cemetery to avoid extra cost of emptying**

Should the NCC be contacted directly to redress issues a), b), and c).
Councillor M. Scott 28/05/2024

17. Correspondence

All correspondence noted unless indicated otherwise:

- Mr Leonard of Station Road – issues re speeding on Station Road, Northumberland County Council traffic survey confirms speeding and in addition there is jumping of the lights at the railway. Intention is to seek support from the Police.
- E Ridley - grass and trees in cemetery – now resolved
- D Emery – seat on A1 needs bushes cut
- Ted Hall – thanks for support on planning appeal
- Resident of Beachlea seeking support with unsocial behaviour
- Mazars - Audit

18. Other business

- Complaint has been made to Northumberland County Council re the replacement of an ancient hedge with a fence during nesting season
- A significant number of potholes are around the parish and have been reported to Northumberland County Council
- Fence at the bottle bank needs repaired – Northumberland County Council
- Propose to plant a tree to commemorate the late Vera Wilson who was the oldest resident in the parish and sadly passed away recently at the age of 102
- The clerk is preparing a brief for the refurbishment of the Hearse House which will then go to public consultation once consultants have prepared some options
- Cllr Darwin are to hold regular surgeries in the village hall every 3 months
- Cllr Philipson updated members on Hepscoth Park drainage and is pursuing
- Agreed to request residents to produce a Make, Bake and Grow Show on behalf of the council

19. Date of Next meeting

2 June 2024

Signed: _____ Chairman

Dated: _____

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Minutes of Meeting held
27 June 2024
Stannington Village Hall
7.00pm

Attendance:

R Tolson – in the chair
S Dickinson
R Nixon
D Hall – Clerk

20. Apologies

Cllr Brown, Cllr Phillipson, Cllr Scott

21. Annual Accounts

The Chairman reconciled the bank balances to the presented statements in the value £39587.79 BOI and £10350.00 Lloyds

Balance per bank statements as at 31 March 2024:	£	£
e.g. Bank of Ireland	39587.79	
Lloyds	10350.00	
		49937.79
Petty cash float (if applicable)		
Less: any un-presented cheques at 31 March 2024 (normally only current account)		
Cheque number		
1397	-360.00	
1398	-9885.60	
1399	-605.10	
1400	-888.05	
		-11738.75
Add: any un-banked cash at 31 March 2024		0
Net balances as at 31 March 2024		38199.04
<i>The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (a receipts and payments account, which should be maintained even if your authority uses income and expenditure accounting) for the year, as follows:</i>		
CASH BOOK		
Opening Balance 1 April 2023	39354.60	
Add: Receipts in the year	39794.26	
Less: Payments in the year	-	
	40949.82	
Closing balance per cash book [receipts and payments book] as at 31 March 2024 (must equal net balances above)		38199.04

Annual accounts were also approved which formed the basis for the Accounting Statements of the AGAR part 3:

Please explain any variances of more than 15% between the totals for individual boxes in Section 2. We do not require explanations for variances of less than £200; however, in some cases there may be 'compensating' variances which leave the overall total for a box relatively unchanged – e.g. where there was a major one-off project in one year (e.g. contribution to village hall extension of £30,000), but a totally different expense of a similar size in the next (e.g. purchase of playground equipment of £28,000). In such cases, it would be helpful to provide an explanation of movements within each box. We also ask you to explain any change where there is a movement to or from zero. Please either use the proforma below, or complete a separate schedule if more space is required.

Section 2	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	Variance (+/-) £	Detailed explanation of variance (for each reason noted please include monetary values (to nearest £100))
Box 2 <i>Precept</i>	35150	36100	+£950.00	Less than 15%
Box 3 <i>Other income</i>	8454	3694	-£4759.32	In the prior year there were to exception donations to the Parish Council, one for £3500 towards the cost of providing a new piece of play equipment and another for £783.45 towards a seat, both of these were to commemorate the sad passing of a very popular local resident. Together these equate to £4283.45 which when accounted for brings the variance within the 15% limit.
Box 4 <i>Staff costs</i>	5228	5484	+£256.35	Less than 15%
Box 5 <i>Loan interest/ capital</i>	0	0	£ 0.00	N/A
Box 6 <i>Other payments</i>	25211	35466	+£10254.6 2	In the current year the parish council gave a one off grant to the Village Hall for a new floor amounting to £6456.00 and also a gran to the school for educational activities costing £2060.00, when taken into account the variance is within the 15% limit
Box 7 <i>Balances carried forward</i>	39355	38199	-£1155.56	If some of the year-end balances are earmarked for specific purposes rather than as a general reserve, please provide a breakdown. You do not need to explain the year-on-year variance for this box.
Box 9 <i>Fixed assets & long-term assets</i>	160850	164810	+£3960.03	Explain <u>all</u> movements in this category and not just those above 15% Purchase of new seats and bins £3619.03 and a flagpole £341.00
Box 10 <i>Total borrowing</i>	0	0	£ 0.00	N/A

Stannington Parish Council					
Supporting Statement					
for Year Ended 31 March 2023					
Assets			2023		2024
Movements during the year					
a)	The following Assets were purchased:				
	Seats/Bins		1800		3619
	Flag pole		957		341
			<u>2757</u>		<u>3960</u>
b)	The following assets were disposed of:				
	None		0		0
			<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>
c)	At 31 March 2022 the following assets were held:				
	COMMUNITY ASSETS				
	Cemetery & Car Park		1		1
	Play Equipment		46635		46635
	Additions as above		2757		3960
	Dispoals as above		0		
	BUILDINGS	Custodian Trustee only			
	Village Hall	(Reg charity 522140)	1		1
	Fountain		15000		15000
	OTHER FIXED ASSETS				
	Bus shelters		45706		48463
	Seats/Bins/planters		8951		8951
	Gates & Fences		11700		11700
	Grounds equipment		17638		17638
	Furniture		1922		1922
	Speed signs		10540		10540
	TOTAL ASSETS		<u>160850</u>		<u>164810</u>
The basis of valuation is replacement value.					
Community land is valued at £1.00					
Leases					
	Lessor	Blagdon estates			
	Purpose	Playing field			
	Rent		50		
Borrowings			Nil		
Debts outstanding as at 31 March 2022			Nil		
Earmarked Reserves			Nil		
Tenancies			Nil		
	Council as tenant - storeag building		390		
	Council as landlord		Nil		
Payments made under section 137					
	Stannington School		930		2060
	Village Hall		450		6456
			<u>1380</u>		<u>8516</u>

Stannington Parish Council

2022-23 Financial year ended 31 March 2024

2023-24

Balance as at 31 March 2024			
32276	Bank of Ireland		39588
10350	Lloyds TSB		10350
0	No petty cash account held		0
42626			49938
U/P cheques at 31 March 2024			
Bank of Ireland			
918		1397	360
110		1398	9886
450		1399	605
200		1400	888
495			0
256			0
843			0
3272			11739
Lloyds		None	
Unbanked income at 31 March 2024			
0			0
0			0
0			0
Cash Book			
26190	Opening Balance		39355
43604	Add receipts in the year		39794
-30439	Less Payments in the year		-40950
39355			38199
Receipts			
35150	Precept		36100
0	Interest		0
1775	Burial fees		1550
2242	Vat		1664
4437	Grants and other income		480
43604	Total receipts		39794
Payments			
5228	Salaries office		5484
368	Travel		382
299	Telephone		352
	Stationery		
	Postage		
	Books and periodicals		
2080	Insurances		1892
4102	Sundries/ admin/events		1822
	Professional Fees		0
897	Subscriptions		477
400	Audit Fees		210
2964	Cemetery		5781
1380	S.137		8516
6261	Grounds and Open Space General		4762
2404	Shelters seats and bins		4209
	Equipment		
	Furniture & Fittings		
1441	Playing Field		3809
694	Store Rental & fittings		759
	Environmental /traffic schemes		0
1664	Vat		2471
30183	Total payments taking into account inter bank transfers		40927
Annual Return			
		Box	
26190	Balances BF	1	39355
35150	Precept	2	36100
8454	Other receipts	3	3694
-5228	Staff	4	-5484
	Loan	5	
-25211	Total other costs	6	-35466
39355	Balances fwd	7 and 8	38199
39355	Total cash and short term investments		38199

Resolved that: The Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022/23, Annual Governance Statements and Accounting Statements be fully approved and the Clerk and Chairman be authorised to sign the requisite assurances and statements and that the accounts be submitted for external audit.

Signed: _____ Chairman

Dated: _____