

Stannington Parish Council

David Hall, MA, B.Eng (Hons), MCIPR - Clerk to The Council

2 Monmouth Court – Widdrington – Morpeth – Northumberland – NE61 5QS

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Minutes of meeting held

13 January 2021

Via Zoom Call

Attendance:

K Carins – in the chair
S Dickinson
S Wilson
R Nixon
M Scott
H Brown
R Tolson
R Philipson
D Hall – Clerk

61. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Armstrong of Northumberland County Council

62. To receive any declarations in any part of the agenda as known prior to the meeting

- Councillor Carins declared an interest in matters relating to Station Road and also Stannington 1st School
- Councillor Brown declared an interest in matters relating to Stannington 1st School
- Councillor Nixon declared an interest in relation to planning matters on Station Road
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63. To receive the minutes of the previous meeting held 11 November 2020

Minutes agreed as a true record

64. To consider any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meetings not covered in the agenda for the meeting

Non not already covered in the agenda

65. To consider any written reports from councillors or representatives on outside bodies

REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

Author: Councillor Sandra Dickinson. Date: January 2021

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

Commentary.

FOOTPATHS.

Over the past nine months a lot more pedestrians are using our parish footpaths.

Footpath 1.

It has been brought to the parish council that the footpath along the Great North Road from Netherton Park road junction north to the garage at the top of Station Road is in need of some major repairs or in parts relaying the path completely. I have reported this in the past.

Footpath2.

Walkers from Morpeth / Hepscoth Park, walking south to Station Road and beyond come to a path dead end approximately 200 metres from the junction at Hepscoth Park and then have to walk on an uneven grassy and in places muddy verge till they get to the bottom of Station Road when they can either go up Station Road footpath or cross the road and take the footpath to Nedderton and beyond.

Actions requested:

Footpath 1. Be repaired or a new one laid. Footpath 2. A new footpath be laid to join up with the other ones.

REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

Author: Cllr Malcolm Scott

Date: 11th January 2021

Purpose of report: To update the Council on issues raised

Commentary:

- a) During the pandemic numerous many additional local people and villagers have been taking walks around the village and passing from Church Lane via the small lane and pathway at the side and rear of the old Police House and Daleside into Elizabeth Square to walk down to Vale View, The Vale etc. and returning via the same route. Some have been doing this in the afternoon and evening.

Two residents have recently complained about the lack of any lighting along the lane and public footpath at the side and rear of these properties. There is no lighting on the lane which also has an opening to The Limes and no lighting along the whole length of the path. Both areas are very dark and can be intimidating to some people particularly elderly and female residents and it is difficult to see along the path in the dark. One resident of The Glebe of who's elderly parents live nearby will not walk down here after 3pm in the Winter months or after dark at any time. She always walks to the end of Church Lane and via the main road to her parent's home. From a chat with Maurice, I understand that he has highlighted this issue before sometime ago. However, of note is that I have also been told that the lane and the pathway belong to Blagdon Estates.

This is considered to be a public safety issue.

Actions requested:

- a) To discuss the provision of a streetlight in the lane and along the pathway. There is a large electricity supply pole along the path which could possibly provide the power needed. See highlighted plan and photographs.
- b) Whilst already reported further concerns received from people walking down the pathway between Vale View and Appleby Cottage. At least one person has slipped and fallen recently on the pathway on the large build up of moss. This is exacerbated in wet and icy conditions.

Whilst this was discussed at Council previously it was unknown if this path belonged to the NCC or Blagdon Estates. I have discussed the matter with Claire Scoot the Estate Administrator who has said that she will check if it is under Blagdon ownership. If so she will get the pathway 'jetted' and cleared.

From discussions with local residents, it is understood that it is Blagdon's

Actions Required/Requested

Considering the potential for serious personal injury and potential litigation should someone slip and fall badly on this pathway could a letter be written by the Clerk to The Council to Claire Scott at Blagdon Estates to have this matter resolved urgently.

- c) Further concern by is again expressed by myself and my wife at personally having a car travel towards us at speed in darkness Southwards on the Northbound Slip Road to access the A1. On flashing my lights at him and stopping to confront him the driver did a three point turn on the slip road and headed North.

Actions Required

Continue to examine which additional signage required . Purchase suitable additional warning signage to prevent this issue as soon as possible.

- d) Concern expressed by resident at the high speeds of some vehicles accessing the village and driving at high speeds Northbound along the slip road. Some are not slowing and stopping at the mini roundabout and not slowing or stopping at the roundabout.
Also, resident expressed concern at the high speeds of delivery vans and cars possibly heading for St. Mary's Park along Church Lane and out through the village.

Actions Required

Examine the possible provision of a higher 'road hump' measures near the North end of the slip road or other vehicle slowing/calming measures both here and in the village.

REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

Author: Cllr. Karen Carins

Date: 13th January 2021

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

Brenkley Liaison Minutes were circulated to all Councillors.

Stannington Village

Commentary:

Following the various projects that are currently taking place in the Parish and costings it has been agreed that the playground may be updated in phases. Playdale's quote for the tractor, trailer and number plate is £3720. A quotation for the fencing etc. has been sought.

Notices regarding the removal of unauthorised equipment from the playing field were put up and removed by persons unknown.

Councillor Philipson and Councillor Carins have been dealing with the continuous flooding on Church Road and the state of the grass verge. Northumberland County Council, Northumbria Water and Blagdon Estate are all looking at the issue. The verge may only be addressed by Northumberland County Council Highways team. The cost to the Parish Council is £70 per square metre. Approximately 20 square metres is required. The cemetery car park has been re-surfaced and the feedback has been very positive. Only one line of car parking markings has been done in order to comply with current regulations.

PC Darren Stapleton reported to Councillor Carins the number of speeding complaints he had received from concerned residents. The problem is particularly bad at St Marys Park. There has been a break in at Stannington Village Hall.

Cars are appearing ,again, in the hall car park.

Speed Awareness signs are now being erected around the Parish.

Blagdon Estates have repaired the potholes in the hairdresser's car park and the lane opposite. They have made an excellent job.

The War Memorial has been repaired by stonemason but the white paint used for the lettering is peeling.

Pedestrians are still having issues with cyclists riding on footpaths in the Parish Signage is needed at the southern slip road from the A1 as visitors are still driving up the slip road the wrong way. A no access sign is needed. Northumberland County Council have been informed. Northumberland County Council are cleaning the road drains out on a much more regular basis.

Actions requested:

The council to order the new play equipment from Playdale. The council to look at clear cyclist signage and signage on the southern slip road. The council too arrange work to the verge on Church Road. The council discuss the speeding problems in the Parish. The council to ask the stonemason to look at the war memorial plaque. To be kept updated on the flooding issues.

The Coronavirus Pandemic

Commentary:

Volunteers have continued to assist residents in the Parish. The SPNP Facebook page has advertised the support flier again, during the 3rd lockdown. The Parish Council has released the Covid Fund to Stannington First School to enable them to purchase much needed Chromebooks and dongles to give children access to home learning.

Actions requested:

To discuss at the next Parish Council meeting, how we can further support the residents and businesses in our Parish.

Saint Marys Park

Commentary:

Saint Mary's Park are having problems with blocked drains. However, until the roads and utilities on the estate are adopted there is little we can do to help.

Actions requested:

The council to continue to work with residents.

WW2 FUND

Commentary:

The children's book was very well received by Stannington First School. The lottery tickets are now on sale and are selling well. The PC grant for the planes has been received. The Banks Community Foundation grant has also been received.

66. Grass verge on Church Road

Councillors considered the ongoing matter of parking on Church Road and damage to the roadside verge. Northumberland County Council indicated that only they could do strengthening works and that this would cost £70/m² and at an approximate area of 100m² this would be approximately £7000. It was therefore decided that since the council was investing over £20,000 in the church car park and speed signs this year that this matter be deferred into the year 2021/22 for consideration at a later date.

Councillors noted that a lot of work was going on in relation to flooding on church road involving Northumberland County Council and Northumbrian Water and was being coordinated by the Clerk and Cllr Philipson. The works involve pipe root cutting and jetting work and it is hoped that this will cure the flooding on Church Road.

67. To consider matters relating to the village playground – Chair to report

The Clerk had received a quote from Northern services as follows:

The budget price to carry out the works requested for extending the play area at Stannington and fitting new play equipment:

- Supply and install new fencing and posts plus mesh to match existing as per your photos and plan.
- Remove middle fence and dispose .
- Fill in old holes
- Fit new play equipment as discussed (tractor)

Budget Price is £1,660.00

Budget Price above quoted is providing the play equipment comes complete.

An extra charge will apply if the play equipment comes flat packed.

Charge would be £400.00 per day for two men

The cost of the tractor itself is £3,488.00

Therefore, the total cost of the project is estimated at £5,500. £3,500 is available from organisations making donations in memory of the late Andrew Crewdson and Blagdon Estate has agreed to pay for a plaque.

Resolved that:

This project proceed from 1 April 2021.

68. To consider possible speed limit on Station Road of 30pmh

Mr Hall, a resident of Furrow grove requested that the Council:

1. Start the process to affect a reduction in the speed limit on Station Road to 30mph from 40 mph.
2. Review the possibility of a “timed “and zoned reduction to 20mph coincidental with school bus times.

Justification

From 2015, 73 dwellings have been approved in Stannington Station constituting an unprecedented/excessive 95% growth rate for any rural settlement. The commensurate population change, especially children , has significantly increased road safety risks/hazards to a dangerous and unacceptable level . These recent 9 roadside developments have resulted in a residential situation typically characteristic and conditional of a 30/20 mph zone and comparable to other local villages e.g. Stannington , Hepscott.

Environmental indices – noise, pollution, amenity – have been negatively impacted by this development. HGV.s accessing to/from A1 exacerbates all of above.

Mr Hodgson of Station Road also wrote to the council as follows:

My eldest daughter started Chantry middle school in September 2020 and travels via the school bus to and from school.

No doubt you will be aware that many new houses have been built on Station Road and are currently being built. More families and children are moving onto the street and I have a couple of concerns I would like to share.

To get to the bust stop for school transport the children on the west side of train line must cross the main railway line alongside traffic, then either walk along a sloped muddy grass bank next to traffic which includes heavy goods vehicles and cars travelling very fast or cross the railway line then cross the busy road before crossing back over the busy road after less than 50 feet. She needs to cross the road 3 times and the railway line to walk less than 100 yards to the bus stop.

On the wet, dark mornings and afternoons this really does not feel safe for children aged from 9 years old, even when walking with parents. A consistent footpath on either side of the road and a crossing on the road would make this much safer for the increasing numbers of children walking to and from the bus stop for school transport to the middle and high school.

Along with this, the speed of the vehicles travelling on Station Road is a huge concern. The road is long and straight with a 40mph speed limit. The road is used by many cars and also heavy goods vehicles which travel way in excess of the 40mph speed limit. Many speed up when approaching the railway line to avoid having to stop. There have been many new houses built on Station Road including a new estate with lots of families moving into the area. Unfortunately, with the current speed limit I do sincerely worry about the dangers of a serious accident occurring and would like consideration of a reduced 30mph limit for Station Road.

The clerk advised that Northumberland county Council had undertaken a consultation with Statutory Consultees, including police, emergency services, bus companies and road hauliers associations, on a proposal for a 30mph limit. The Parish Council supports the proposal but also recognises that it is important that all residents of Station Road have their say and opinions heard. Northumberland County Council will now publish an official order. The process will be as follows:

Advertisement of the TRO then takes place. This includes at least one notice in the local press. The Council will usually display notices in any roads that are affected and, if it is deemed appropriate, may deliver notices to premises likely to be affected. For at least 21 days from the start of the notice the proposal can be viewed at a nominated council office during normal office hours. Objections to the proposals and comments of support must be made in writing to the address specified in the notice during this period.

Making the Order - The TRO can then be formally sealed providing all standing objections have been considered. Modifications to the proposals resulting from objections could require further consultation. This procedure can take many months to complete and the advertising and legal fees can be substantial. For this reason schemes requiring a TRO normally need to be included in the annual Capital Programme and cannot be carried out on an ad hoc basis.

Councillors noted that Mrs Irving had written to the council asking about this process and the Clerk will respond.

69. To consider issues on footpaths on Station road

As per Mr Hodgson's letter above Councillors agreed to refer this to Northumberland County Council when consulted on the annual Local Transport Plan priorities.

70. To consider items pertaining to 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
20/04096/OUT	Land At Moor Farm Estate Station Road Stannington Northumberland	Outline planning permission for residential development for up to four dwellings (All Matters Reserved) with demolition of existing structures - resubmission of application 19/01511/OUT	Object as per previous objection for this site
20/04132/FUL	Land East of Furrow Grove Station Road Stannington Northumberland	Construction of 5no. three-bedroom bungalows together with associated landscaping	Object as per previous objection for this site

20/04120/FUL	8 Bowmont Walk St Mary Park Stannington Northumberland NE61 6DA	Single storey side extension	No objection
20/03908/FUL	The Lodge 34 Station Road Stannington Morpeth Northumberland NE61 6DT	Proposed games room/porch extensions and new first floor.	No objection

Note:

Notices of appeal – none

Notices of enquiry – none

Other notices - none

71. Finance

The following income accounts were noted and approved:

Income:

Fees £175

Bank balance of BOI £39,588.93 and Lloyds TSB £10,350 as at 31 December 2020

The following payments were approved:

Chq	Payee	Details	Amount £
1264	WL Straughan	Car park resurfacing and white lines	12740.00
1265	Northern Services	Xmas tree and maintenance works	280.00
1266	KPF Littlejohn	Audit fees	240.00
1267	D Hall	Salary & Exp	839.00
1268	J Douglass	Professional fees	400.00
1269	HMRC	PAYE/NIC	502.69
1270	D Hall	Reimburse for Fasthosts web services	74.99

Resolved that: The payments and income listed be approved

Councillors also noted the outcome of the annual audit by KPF Littlejohn which was an in-depth intermediate audit and that no actions needed by the council and that the relevant notices were posted as well as the revision of the clerks Pay Scales by National Association of Local Councils.

Parish	2020-21	2021-22	2020-21	2021-22	Change		2020-21	2021-22	Change	
	Precept	Precept	Tax Base	Tax Base	Change	Change	Band D Charge	Band D Charge	Change	Change
	£	£	Band D	Band D	Band D	%	£	£	£	%
	For illustrative purposes only						For illustrative purposes only		For illustrative purposes only	
Hollinghill & Rothley - Rothley	537	537	72.66	73.10	0.44	0.61	7.39	7.35	-0.04	-0.54
Holy Island	500	500	114.92	113.53	-1.39	-1.21	4.35	4.40	0.05	1.15
Homcliffe	5,800	5,800	176.14	178.20	2.06	1.17	32.93	32.55	-0.38	-1.15
Ingram	250	250	76.10	74.78	-1.32	-1.73	3.29	3.34	0.05	1.52
Kilham (no parish council)	-	-	66.65	66.35	-0.30	-0.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kirknewton	900	900	60.43	59.75	-0.68	-1.13	14.89	15.06	0.17	1.14
Kyloe	1,000	1,000	147.91	149.91	2.00	1.35	6.76	6.67	-0.09	-1.33
Lesbury	17,000	17,000	501.21	500.96	-0.25	-0.05	33.92	33.93	0.01	0.03
Longframlington	24,000	24,000	565.04	578.39	13.35	2.36	42.47	41.49	-0.98	-2.31
Longhirst	7,000	7,000	227.42	239.96	12.54	5.51	30.78	29.17	-1.61	-5.23
Longhorsley	21,760	21,760	399.49	395.67	-3.82	-0.96	54.47	55.00	0.53	0.97
Longhoughton	21,000	21,000	591.98	601.60	9.62	1.63	35.47	34.91	-0.56	-1.58
Lowick	4,500	4,500	231.34	229.89	-1.45	-0.63	19.45	19.57	0.12	0.62
Maldon	2,500	2,500	138.65	135.06	-3.60	-2.60	18.03	18.51	0.48	2.66
Milfield	2,600	2,600	86.47	88.33	1.86	2.80	39.12	38.05	-1.07	-2.74
Mitford	8,500	8,500	243.59	248.79	5.20	2.13	34.89	34.17	-0.72	-2.06
Morpeth Town Council	645,037	645,037	5,361.02	5,380.68	19.66	0.37	120.32	119.88	-0.44	-0.37
Netherwitton	7,600	7,600	129.90	129.76	-0.14	-0.11	58.51	58.57	0.06	0.10
Newton by the Sea	3,750	3,750	123.52	122.34	-1.18	-0.96	30.36	30.65	0.29	0.96
Newton on the Moor/Swarland	22,700	22,700	477.42	506.39	28.97	6.07	47.55	44.83	-2.72	-5.72
Notham	5,200	5,200	237.76	231.38	-6.38	-2.68	21.87	22.47	0.60	2.74
North Sunderland	16,000	16,000	887.55	868.97	-18.58	-2.09	18.03	18.41	0.38	2.11
Nunbykirk	1,401	1,401	71.79	69.20	-2.59	-3.61	19.52	20.25	0.73	3.74
Ord	23,000	23,000	560.15	564.79	4.64	0.83	41.06	40.72	-0.34	-0.83
Pegswood	122,280	122,280	864.61	867.59	2.98	0.34	141.43	140.94	-0.49	-0.35
Rennington	4,120	4,120	174.92	183.42	8.50	4.86	23.55	22.46	-1.09	-4.63
Rothbury	102,065	102,065	879.54	872.58	-6.96	-0.79	116.04	116.97	0.93	0.80
Shilbottle	28,511	28,511	526.31	518.83	-7.48	-1.42	54.17	54.95	0.78	1.44
Shoreswood	447	447	44.08	40.74	-3.34	-7.58	10.14	10.97	0.83	8.19
Snitter	1,632	1,632	43.80	41.26	-2.54	-5.80	37.26	39.55	2.29	6.15
Stannington	30,730	30,730	888.61	941.10	52.49	5.91	34.58	32.65	-1.93	-5.58
Thirston	8,850	8,850	296.02	303.00	6.98	2.36	29.90	29.21	-0.69	-2.31
Thrapston	11,859	11,859	224.36	219.75	-4.61	-2.05	52.86	53.97	1.11	2.10
Talside	4,500	4,500	300.91	294.72	-6.19	-2.06	14.95	15.27	0.32	2.14
Togston	4,000	4,000	114.57	116.89	2.32	2.02	34.91	34.22	-0.69	-1.98
Tritlington & West Chevington	5,600	5,600	132.16	138.68	6.52	4.93	42.37	40.38	-1.99	-4.70
Ulgham	11,400	11,400	175.21	173.08	-2.13	-1.22	65.06	65.87	0.81	1.25
Wallington	3,500	3,500	162.50	153.92	-8.58	-5.28	21.54	22.74	1.20	5.57
Warkworth	69,700	69,700	901.06	906.36	5.30	0.59	77.35	76.90	-0.45	-0.58
Whittingham, Callaly & Alnham	4,435	4,435	294.75	293.40	-1.35	-0.46	15.05	15.12	0.07	0.47
Whitton & Tosson	5,092	5,092	96.47	93.18	-3.29	-3.41	52.78	54.65	1.87	3.54
Widdrington Station and Stobswood	50,285	50,285	787.86	771.72	-16.14	-2.05	63.82	65.16	1.34	2.10
Widdrington Village	7,300	7,300	73.84	69.65	-4.19	-5.67	98.86	104.81	5.95	6.02
Wooler	26,661	26,661	742.94	739.47	-3.47	-0.47	35.89	36.05	0.16	0.45

Resolved that: the precept be set at £32,550 resulting in a band D Council tax of £34.59 which effectively represents a 0% increase for the 12th year in a row.

72. Ongoing update on COVID19 Pandemic

Councillors noted the ongoing lockdown and that the public awaited further information from the government. Care Homes and over 80s are in line for a vaccine in the first instance. The post office is still operating as an essential service. All meetings via zoom until further notice.

73. Correspondence

All correspondence noted unless indicated otherwise

- Blagdon Estate – paths at Elisabeth Sq
- T Hall - request the Parish Council object to planning application resubmitted 19/01511/OUT
- PC D Stapleton – Speeding on St Mary’s Estate – not adopted so no action can be taken
- K Hodgson – Station Rd /request for 30mph and paths/lighting
- DAC Beachcroft – accident on Northumberland County Council cycleway -request to view minutes from 1990
- J Chambers – request for Bin
- E Ridley/M King re flooding on Church Road – issues under investigation
- E Williams – Free Little Library – considering implementation in notice boards
- PKF Littlejohn – annual audit concluded – no issues
- S Irving – Speed limits on Station Road – dealt with above

- J Baldwin – parking on Beechlea

74. Any other urgent business

- Cllr Brown – sharp road edge on the way to Glorum – report to Northumberland County Council
- Cllr Carins – trees at Beechlea to be planted when weather permits
- Planters at the entrance to all settlements to be replaced in April/May

60. Date of Next meeting

10 March 2021 and 28 April 2021 – Covid 19 issues permitting

Signed: _____ Chairman

Dated: _____