

Minutes of the Parish Council held in Matfen Village Hall on Tuesday 30th November 2021

Present: Mr Keith Mavin, Chairman of the Council together with Mr Frank Robson, Kevin George, Justin Dempsey, James Barber and Sarah Greaves.

In attendance: Mrs Mandy Senior (Clerk)

1121.01 **RESIDENTS.** No residents attended the meeting however Cllr K Mavin expressed thanks to Phil and Mark Chaffer for planting bluebell bulbs around the village and helping with erecting of the village Christmas Tree.

1121.02 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** None.

1121.03 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST.** Cllr James Barber declared a personal and prejudicial interest in matters relating to Matfen Estates.

1121.04 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21st September 2021.** It was proposed by Cllr F Robson, seconded by Cllr J Barber and AGREED to accept the minutes as an accurate record.

1121.05 **ACTIONS TAKEN FOLLOWING THE MEETINGS HELD ON 21st September 2021.**

- a) **Tree.** Minute 0921.06aq refers. Planning permission had been received for tree works on the village green. NCC tree officer had been informed.
- b) **Free Trees.** Minute 0921.08a refers. The Parish Council had received a 120-hedge pack for planting in Ryal.
- c) **Standing Stone.** Minute 0921.10a refers. Cllrs K Mavin and J Barber had met with County Councillor Veronica Jones and Neil Snowdon, NCC to discuss the safety issues at Standing Stone. Neil Snowdon was generally accepting of the issue although advised that a speed restriction would be a long drawn-out process. NCC is to erect slow down signs relatively quickly in view of another incident recently. Hope Lane was included in the discussions of speed restrictions. As this road leads to a wedding venue this would hold more weight to be included in any scheme. To qualify for a 30mph there needs to be 20 dwellings on both sides of the road. Fenwick now falls in this category. Cllr J Barber is to report any further incidents in the area to both County Councillor V Jones and Neil Snowdon, NCC.

1121.06 **FINANCE**

- a) **Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr K Mavin, seconded by Cllr F Robson and AGREED accounts on the list attached be paid.

Payee	Details	Gross payment	VAT	Net of VAT	Payment
L Paterson	Public toilet cleaning – Sept	62.50		62.50	BACS
L Paterson	Public toilet cleaning – Oct	50.00		50.00	BACS
RBL Poppy Appeal	Remembrance Day wreath	30.00		30.00	BACS
Mrs A Senior	Clerical Services	469.23		469.23	BACS
H M Revenue Customs	PAYE	117.20		117.20	BACS
Mrs A Senior	Play area inspection	75.00		75.00	BACS
Matfen Village Hall	Hall rent	15.00		15.00	BACS
NALC	3 x training events	15.80		15.80	BACS
Mrs A Senior	Postages/travel expenses	78.52		78.52	BACS
Tynedale Hospice	Donation	100.00		100.00	BACS
PCC of Matfen	Donation	450.00		450.00	BACS
Income					
Northumberland CC	Precept	5250.00		5250.00	08.10.21

- b) **To consider and agree budget and precept 2022-2023.** It was AGREED to accept the budget report and levy a precept of £10,500 on NCC. No increase on the previous year.
- c) **To consider request from Matfen and Ryal PCC for financial support towards churchyard maintenance.** After discussion, it was AGREED to contribute £450 towards the maintenance of the churchyards in Matfen and Ryal.
- d) To consider request from Tynedale Hospice at Home for grant aid. After discussion, it was AGREED to give grant aid of £100.

1121.07 **CORRESPONDENCE.** All correspondence and information items received since the September meeting had been listed on the agenda were noted. (*Note: wherever possible, all communications addressed to the Council are circulated to Councillors by email for information as and when received*).

- a) **Sport Tynedale – Invitation to the Annual West Northumberland Awards.** Cllr J Dempsey advised that Lisa Scott had been nominated as Coach of the Year for the great job she has done in starting and running the Matfen Women's cricket team. She was nominated by all of the players, most of whom live in the Parish. The success of the women's team has been noticed by the Northumberland

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Cricket Board and the club has been invited to apply for specific grant funding to upgrade the practice facilities.

1121.08 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a) **To receive decisions of submitted planning applications.** It was AGREED that the Council receive the details of the Planning Decisions made by Northumberland County Council, in accordance with the list circulated.
- b) **To consider responses to planning applications received.** Concerns had been expressed by some Ingoe residents concerning the application for the conversion of the outbuildings to two holiday lets at South Hall. It was noted that the site notices had not yet been placed at the site however the consultation period will commence when the site notices are in place. The Parish Council will monitor any objections to the application and submit comments accordingly.kk

Reference Number	Address	Description
21/03965/VARYCO	Land Parcels to East and West of Vallum Farm	Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) pursuant to planning permission 20/01776/FUL in order to substitute alternative cabins for previous approved cabins
20/01368/FUL	2 North Side, Matfen	Installation of air source heat pump to provide domestic central heating and hot water. GRANTED
21/03519/TREECA	Village Green, Matfen	Works to trees in a conservation area. T10, T11, T12, T5 Sycamores. Remove major deadwood and crown reduce by 40%. PERMIT
21/03975/LBC	Matfen Hall, Matfen Drive, Matfen	Listed building consent for internal alterations to north side including installation of lifts, staircases, toilets, ensuites and new bedroom/ensuite layouts
21/01953/VARYCO	The Beacon, Fenwick	Variation of condition 2 (approved Plans) on approved application CM/20090475 to suit client requirements. GRANTED
21/01472/VARYCO	The Beacon, Fenwick	Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on approved application CM/20090477 to suit client requirements. GRANTED
21/04414/LBC 21/04413/FUL	South Hall, Ingoe	Listed building consent for conversion of outbuildings to two holiday lets, repair/reconfiguring of third outbuilding for storage ancillary to Hall and landscaping including new car park and main entrance to south elevation of Hall.

1121.09 **VILLAGE ISSUES AND HIGHWAYS MATTERS.**

- a) **To receive reports from Councillors on any village issues/highways matters which require attention.** Cllr S Greaves advised that NCC had responded to her email regarding the cutting of highways verges, and she would keep the Parish Council updated.
- b) **To revisit proposals for the Jubilee Garden.** The original proposal was presented to the Parish Council in March 2021. A group of volunteers would like to improve the area for residents and visitors as a quiet area to enjoy. Work is needed to clear the site, weed control, tree works. The tree survey covers the work needed on the trees; no tree will be felled unless necessary. Any felled trees will be replaced. Cllr K Mavin to contact the volunteer group for a specific plan. There had been some objections to the initial plans however full details had not been circulated. Any finalised plans will be displayed on the website, Facebook page and notice boards.
- c) **To consider options for grass cutting in the play area on the Village Green.** The tree officer, NCC had provided a plan of Matfen Village Green which showed the areas they are responsible for. The play area does not fall under NCC responsibility and therefore the Parish Council are responsible for the grass cutting. It was AGREED to pay a contractor to cut the play area 10 times between April and end of September at a cost of £60 per cut.

1121.10 **TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM COUNCILLORS ON CLIMATE CHANGE MEETINGS ATTENDED.** Cllr S Greaves had attended the East Tynedale Forum meeting where NCC officers had given a presentation on Climate Change. NCC issue a monthly climate change newsletter which will be forwarded to all councillors. NCC offers practical improvements to living conditions of residents in Northumberland. They can provide electric vehicle charging points at schools, churches, shops, public houses and on the highway. Grants are available for households to install air source heat pumps however the grants are only available for households with an annual income of less than £30K and the house needs to be insulated. The heat pumps are provided by EON. It was felt that NCC could do more to minimise their carbon footprints locally however the different departments of NCC do not appear to be talking to one another i.e. waste services and Climate Change team.

1121.11 **TO CONSIDER REJOINING THE EAST TYNE DALE PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL'S FORUM.** Matfen Parish Council had previously been a member of the East Tynedale Forum however had not attended

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meetings for several years. It was AGREED to re-join the Forum as it was felt that many of the issues in the Matfen Parish are common to the surrounding parishes.

1121.12 **MATFEN SPORTS GROUND.** Cllr J Dempsey gave an update on plans for removing the goal posts and replacing with moveable goal posts. It was noted that the goal posts are listed on the Parish Council's asset register. The Cricket Club also has plans to install new cricket nets, funded by a grant and a Sport England crowdfunding campaign.

1121.13 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday 25th January 2022 at 7.00pm in Matfen Village Hall.

Signed as an accurate record _____