

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MATFEN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.00PM IN MATFEN VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:** Cllr K Mavin, Chairman of the Council together with Cllrs J Dempsey, K George and F Robson  
**Also present:** Mrs Mandy Senior, Clerk to the Council

1122.01 **Apologies for absence** received and accepted from Cllr J Barber.

1122.02 **Declarations of Interest.** None

1122.03 **Residents** present raised the following matter and where relevant they are listed together with the actions that will be taken, if required. In due course, if necessary, reports will be made back to the Council.

**Ryal village.** A resident attended the meeting to express concerns over a potential unauthorised development on land north of Ryal church. Contractors working on the site had advised that they had been installing water pipes for a proposed glamping/camping site. This area does not have planning permission. It was also noted that waste is being brought to the site to be burnt. This will be reported to Planning Enforcement for them to investigate further.

1122.04 **Minutes** of the meeting held on **27<sup>th</sup> September 2022** were approved and signed as an accurate record.

1122.05 **Actions taken** following the meeting held on **27<sup>th</sup> September 2022.**

a) **Matfen Cricket Club.** Minute 0922.09b refers. Cllr J Dempsey confirmed that Matfen Cricket Club will continue to cut the grass in the play area in 2023. It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would replace the goal posts on the Sports Field. These had been installed and are now in use.

1122.06 **Finance/Administration**

a) **Accounts for payment.** The accounts for payment were approved for payment, having been previously circulated.

Payee	Details	Gross payment	VAT	Net Payment	Payment method
Mrs A Senior	Clerical services	478.40		478.40	BACS
H M Revenue Customs	PAYE	119.60		119.60	BACS
Mrs A Senior	Play area inspections	75.00		75.00	BACS
JRB Enterprises	Dog waste bag dispenser/bags	145.86	24.31	121.54	BACS
Marmax Products Ltd	Seat for Jubilee Garden	488.40	81.40	407.00	BACS
Net World Sports	New portable goal posts	2050.00	341.67	1708.33	BACS
RBL Poppy Appeal	Poppy wreath	25.00		25.00	BACS
Amazon	Signs for Jubilee Garden	6.99	1.17	5.82	BACS
L Paterson	Public toilet cleaning – Sept/Oct	112.50		112.50	BACS
Sport Tynedale	Grant aid	50.00		50.00	BACS
Tynedale Hospice at Home	Grant aid	100.00		100.00	BACS
Matfen Village Hall	Hall rent	15.00		15.00	BACS
PCC of Matfen	Contribution towards churchyard maintenance	450.00		450.00	BACS
<b>Income</b>					
Unity Trust Bank	Bank account interest	12.35		12.35	30.09.22

b) **To note increase in NJC Payscales from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 and backdated pay as per NJC contract of employment.** Following the increase in paycales from the NJC, it was AGREED to increase the hourly rate for the clerk and backdate to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022. The additional payment will be made with the January payment.

c) **To consider request from Great North Air Ambulance for financial support.** After discussion, it was AGREED to contribute £200 to Tynedale Hospice at Home. The clerk will arrange the payment.

d) **To consider request from PCC of Matfen for financial contribution towards the maintenance of the churchyards in Matfen in Ryal.** It was AGREED to make a £450 contribution towards the maintenance of the churchyards.

- e) **To consider draft budget and set the precept for 2023-24.** A draft budget had been prepared and circulated to all councillors. After discussion, it was AGREED to accept the draft budget and levy a precept of £12,000 on Northumberland County Council. This increase equates to a £5.24 increase per year on an average Band D property.

1122.07 **Correspondence and information items.** All correspondence since the September meeting had been listed on the agenda and circulated to all councillors.

- a) Northumberland Association of Local Councils – Weekly eNews
- b) Community Action Northumberland – Monthly CAN eNews
- c) Northumberland County Council – Proposal to extend the duration of a Public Spaces Protection Order for the control of dogs.
- d) Northumberland County Council – Invite: Northumberland’s collaborative climate change event.
- e) Northumberland County Council – West Northumberland Sports Awards – 8 December 2022, 18:00 at Q E High School. It was noted that the Matfen Ladies Cricket Team and Lizzie Scott from Matfen had been nominated for an award.
- f) Northumberland County Council – Cost of living support
- g) Northumberland County council – Update on recycling. Invitation to visit recycling plant at West Sleekburn.
- h) Community Action Northumberland – Notice of AGM – 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022
- i) Great North Air Ambulance – Request for financial support.
- j) Northumberland County Council – Town, Parish and Community Council Conference.

0922.08 **Planning Applications.** It was AGREED to accept the details of the Planning Applications and decisions made by Northumberland County Council in accordance with the list circulated.

Reference No:	Address	Description
22/03471/VARYCO 22/03473/VARYCO	Matfen Hall, Matfen	Removal of condition 2 on approved application 22/00432/LBC and 22/00431/FUL in order to use amended drawing numbers which reflect design improvements and therefore an optimum solution for development.
22/03059/FUL	Ingoe Chapel, Ingoe	Replacement UPVC windows throughout, velux in roof, new UPVC doors in bedroom and hardwood front door. <b>GRANTED</b>
22/01928/FUL	3 North side, Ryal	Porch to front of dwelling – <b>GRANTED</b>
22/03332/FUL	Causeway House, Ingoe	Ground floor side extension
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. <b>GRANTED</b>
22/00984/LBC 22/00845/FUL	Land SW of Kennels Cottage, Hope Lane, Matfen	Change of use from Dovecote and former accommodation and kennels to 1no bedroom dwelling for holiday accommodation including 2no car parking spaces and freestanding timber cycle store.
22/03700/FUL	Burnside Farm Cottage, Matfen	Proposed internal and external alterations including a conservatory extension plus minor groundworks
22/03900/FUL	Land north of Kearsley Farm, Ingoe	Conversion of former poultry buildings to create 3no dwellings, 3no sewage treatment plants and access tracks
22/04204/FUL	Land north wests of South Fens Farm	Erection of steel frame storage building with integral lean to horse shelter

**1122.09 Village Issues and Highways Matters**

**a) To receive reports from councillors on any village issues/highways matter which require attention.**

- i. **Jubilee Garden.** A huge amount of work had been done to improve the Jubilee Garden and thanks were expressed to the volunteers and in particular Liz Bishop for all of the work she had carried out. The garden is now dormant for the Winter and we look forward to seeing the garden in the Spring.
- ii. **Flooding in Ingoe.** Cllr S Greaves had reported an issue with flooding in Ingoe. NC Highways had agreed to have the gullies checked and cleaned including the soakaways and ditches.
- iii. **Update on the Community Plan following the meeting with Northern Powergrid.** Cllr K Mavin and Rachael Dempsey had met with Helen Priestley, Stakeholder Engagement Manager from Northern Powergrid regarding the recent application to their Resilience Fund to develop the Village Hall to be more able to support the community in the event of a climate emergency as outlined in the published Community Plan. Helen explained that we should have included some form of energy protection measures in the application as this was the most fundamental part of having some form of community hub/warm space etc. We had been led to believe that Northern Powergrid would be supplying a generator in the event of any kind of emergency. This had been mentioned in the various meetings with Northumberland Communities Together. Unfortunately, this now means that our application for village hall improvements is not valid and that we have to have any electrical inspection done at our own expense. Fortunately, a resident had offered to take on the task of obtaining an electrician to carry out a survey of the Village Hall to establish the specification of generator that would be suitable to supply the Village Hall and the requirements for the necessary modifications that would need to be made to the existing electrical apparatus in the hall. Once we have this information we will be able to resubmit our application to the Northern Powergrid Resilience Fund.

**1122.10 Any urgent business as allowed by the chairman/Agenda items for next meeting.**

- a) Chairman.** Cllr K Mavin advised that he will resign from the Parish Council at the annual meeting in May. The lack of response from Northumberland County Council, in all departments, including Planning, Highways, Northumberland Communities Together etc is becoming increasingly frustrating.

**1122.11 Date of the next meeting.** The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 at 7.00pm in Matfen Village Hall.