

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MATFEN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY**  
**31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2023 AT 7.00PM IN MATFEN VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:** Cllr K Mavin, Chairman of the Council together with Cllrs F Robson, S Greaves and J Barber

**Also present:** Mrs Mandy Senior, Clerk to the Council  
Mrs Veronica Jones, County Councillor

0123.01 **Apologies for absence** received and accepted from Cllr J Dempsey.

0123.02 **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr J Barber declared a personal and prejudicial interest in matters relating to Matfen Estates.

0123.03 **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.** Two Ryal residents attended the meeting to express concerns regarding the field North of Ryal Church. This site had been reported to Planning Enforcement after the November meeting and a Planning Enforcement Officer had visited the site on several occasions. He advised that he could find no sign of a camping/glamping site being created however would monitor the situation. County Councillor Mrs V Jones advised that she would contact the Officer to establish if the various caravan/storage containers require permission to be on the site and also if the large water tank and pipes should have permission. Mrs Jones will also report the burning of rubbish in the field. An update will be given at the next meeting.
- **Pot Hole.** There has been a pothole outside 1 Woodbine Terrace, Matfen for several months. This has been reported on a number of occasions by Councillors and residents and no action has been taken. There appears to be some confusion by NCC as to whether this is adopted highway however County Councillor Mrs V Jones will follow this up with NCC.

0123.04 **County Councillors Report.** County Councillor Mrs V Jones gave her verbal report on matters relating to Northumberland County Council and Matfen Parish.

- **Town and Parish Councils Conference.** The same message came out across the County and that was the lack of response/communication from NCC. The response from officers is not consistent across the County and members want a system where you can report issues and see the progress. NCC is currently investigating this. There is an app called 'Fix My Street' which works well. NCC is buying into Fix My Street to enable them to have a back-office function where the response/action can be seen in the App. This could be a problem in rural areas with no phone signal.

0123.05 **Minutes** of the meeting held on **29<sup>th</sup> November 2022** were approved and signed as an accurate record.

0123.06 **Actions taken** following the meeting held on **29<sup>th</sup> November 2022**.

- a) **Ingoe flooding.** Minute 1122.09ii refers. Cllr S Greaves advised that NCC had carried out work on the drains and responded very quickly.
- b) **Community Plan.** Minute 1122.09iii refers. Quotes have been obtained for the generator and the required work to the Village Hall to connect a generator. This has been resubmitted to the Northern Powergrid resilience fund.

0123.07 **Finance/Administration**

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

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MATFEN PARISH COUNCIL					
Ward 1 – Fenwick, Ingoe, Ryal. Ward 2 - Matfen					
Payee	Details	Gross payment	VAT	Net Payment	Payment method
Mrs A Senior	Clerical services	726.92		726.92	BACS
H M Revenue & Customs	PAYE	202.37		202.37	BACS
Mrs A Senior	Play area inspections	75.00		75.00	BACS
Northumberland CC	Additional grass cutting 2023	407.64	67.94	339.70	BACS
Great North Air Ambulance	Grant aid	200.00		200.00	BACS
Society of Local Council Clerks	Subscription 2023	37.42		37.42	BACS
Unity Trust Bank	Bank account charges	18.00		18.00	DD
L Paterson	Public toilet cleaning Nov/Dec 2022	112.50		112.50	BACS
Amazon	Stationery	9.43	1.57	7.86	BACS
<b>Income</b>					
Unity Trust Bank	Bank account interest	24.40		24.40	31.12.22

0123.08 **Correspondence and information items.** All correspondence since the November meeting had been listed on the agenda and circulated to all councillors.

- Northumberland Association of Local Councils – Weekly eNews
- Community Action Northumberland – Monthly CAN eNews
- Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd – Notification of external auditor appointment for 2022-23 financial year for the 5 year period until 2026-27.
- Northern Powergrid – Emergency Power Cuts Stakeholder Briefing and Invitation.
- Northumberland County Council – Climate Change Newsletter – January 2023
- Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Consultation on electoral division boundaries for Northumberland.
- Char.gy – Free Government Funded EV Charge Points
- Northumberland County Council – Tynedale's Collaborative climate change event.
- Northumberland County Council – Road Closure Order, East Moorhouses junction to Ouston junction, Matfen – 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

0123.09 **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
22/04253/LBC 22/04252/FUL	Farm buildings, Fenwick Towers, Fenwick	Listed building consent for conversion of barn to residential accommodation with small extension.
21/02837/FUL 21/02838/LBC	West Fenwick Farm, Fenwick	Listed Building consent: Restoration, alteration and conversion of the existing former byres and stables attached to the west of West Fenwick Farmhouse into residential use <b>GRANTED</b>
22/04644/FUL	Mootlaw Farm, Ryal	Conversion of existing barn into one two-bedroom dwelling house with associated amenity space

0123.10 **Village Issues and Highways Matters**

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

- i. **Gritting.** Cllr J Barber thought that some gritting routes had been missed during the recent snap of cold weather. Cllr Mrs Jones advised that she thought the gritting routes had worked well however would check to see if NCC had any figures on it. On quiet routes, the lack of traffic can be an issue as the grit only activates once traffic is moving over it.
- ii. **To consider installing EV Charge Points in Matfen.** Several streams of grant funding are available to install EV Charge Points in parishes. Northumberland County Council are asking parishes to submit locations to be included in their bid

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for funding in 2023. Matfen Parish Council is supportive of the idea of installing EV Charge Points in Matfen however there is only one location which may cause problems with parking. It was agreed to ask residents how they would feel about the installation of 1-2 charging points outside the Village Hall. The information will be placed on the notice boards, Village Facebook page and the website. Information needs to be submitted to NCC by 28<sup>th</sup> February.

- iii. **Drain on the Ryal to Great Whittington Road.** Cllr F Robson advised that this has still not been cleared and flooding had occurred recently. Cllr Mrs V Jones will chase this with NCC.

0123.11 **Date of the next meeting.** The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.00pm in Matfen Village Hall.