

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in Matfen Village Hall on Tuesday 30th January 2024

Present: Mrs S Greaves, Chair of the Council together with Mr Frank Robson, Justin Dempsey and Kevin George

In attendance: Mrs Mandy Senior (Clerk)
Mrs Veronica Jones (County Councillor)

0124.01 TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS IN RELATION TO MATFEN PARISH.

- a) **The Black Bull.** Residents of Matfen attended the meeting expressing concerns that the Black Bull Public House remains closed and in particular they expressed concerns that the owner will apply for planning permission for change of use to a residential property. The owner of the pub later attended the meeting and gave an update. Unfortunately, the family had to move downstairs due to the upstairs being uninhabitable. A lot of work needs to be carried out to make the upstairs habitable again. She gave assurances that the pub will reopen however is not able to give a timescale. The problem with the rubbish in the car park had been a misunderstanding with the skip company and this has now been resolved. Work will be carried out at the front of the pub including grass removed and flagstones laid; sign on the pole removed and placed on the side of the building. Residents offered to help in any way they could.
- b) **Sports Field.** Residents asked if dogs were allowed on the sports field. Yes, they are as long as dog owners have them under control and pick up any mess. Problems with dog fouling continues to be a problem.

0124.02 **APOLOGIES** received from Cllr J Barber.

0124.03 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None.

0124.04 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28th NOVEMBER 2023.** It was proposed by Cllr J Dempsey seconded by Cllr K George and **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes as an accurate record.

0124.05 **ACTIONS TAKEN FOLLOWING THE MEETINGS HELD ON 28th NOVEMBER 2023.** None

0124.06 **TO CONSIDER CO-OPTION TO FILL ONE VACANCY.** It was proposed by Cllr J Dempsey, seconded by Cllr K George, and **AGREED** to co-opt Thomas Webb onto Matfen Parish Council. Mr Webb accepted and signed his declaration of acceptance of office in the presence of Mrs M Senior, Clerk to the Council.

0124.07 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT.** County Councillor Mrs V Jones gave her verbal report on matters relating to Northumberland County Council and the parish of Matfen.

- a) **NCC Budget.** The consultation on the budget had closed and will be finalised in the next few weeks. There are to be no cuts to front line services.
- b) **Roads.** NCC is aware that the roads are falling apart and they are struggling to keep up with the amount of potholes. Discussions are ongoing as how best to tackle this. They are also looking into the frequency of gully cleaning. An email had been received from a resident regarding the recent flooding in Matfen and also on the road to Fenwick. It was

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noted that the field drains are often blocked and not maintained which leads to these problems.

- c) **Fix My Street.** The new way of reporting issues to NCC 'Fix My Street' is working well and is identifying problem areas around the County.
- d) **Planning Application – Land North of Ingoe Chapel.** Cllr Mrs V Jones had objected to this application. There had also been objections from NCC Ecologist and Highways. NCC are yet to determine this application.
- e) **Grit Bins.** Cllr Mrs V Jones asked if there were any areas which need additional grit bins. A request was made for a grit bin on Ryal Banks. The Parish Council will pay for this to be filled after the initial fillings by NCC.
- f) **LTP – Fenwick 30mph zone.** This is still to be implemented and Cllr Mrs V Jones will chase this up.

0124.08 **FINANCE**

- a) **Accounts for payment.** It was proposed by Cllr J Dempsey, seconded by Cllr K George and AGREED accounts on the list attached be paid.
- b) **To consider financial support to Tynedale Hospice at Home.** It was AGREED to make a contribution of £200 to the Tynedale Hospice at Home. The clerk will arrange payment.
- c) **To consider transitioning to gov.uk email addresses and obtaining gov.uk website domain.** After discussion, it was RESOLVED to transfer the website to a gov.uk website and create gov.uk email addresses for all councillors and the clerk. There is a grant of £100 available to assist with obtaining the first year's domain however the total cost will be no more than £150.00.

Payee	Detail	Gross payment	VAT	Net of VAT	Payment method
Mrs A Senior	Clerical Services	561.60		561.60	BACS
H M Revenue & Customs	PAYE	140.40		140.40	BACS
Mrs A Senior	Play area inspections	75.00		75.00	BACS
Mrs A Senior	Postages/travel	50.55		50.55	BACS
Northumberland CC	Additional grass cutting	428.03	71.34	356.69	BACS
Matfen Village Hall	Hall rent – January	15.00		15.00	BACS
L Paterson	Public toilet cleaning – Nov	62.50		62.50	BACS
L Paterson	Public toilet cleaning - Dec	50.00		50.00	BACS
JRB Enterprises Ltd	Dog bags for dispenser	77.88	12.98	64.90	BACS
Income					
Unity Trust Bank	Bank account interest	77.42		77.42	31.12.23

0124.09 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

Reference Number	Address	Description
23/04235/FUL	Reeve Acre, Ingoe	Replacement single storey bay and internal alterations. GRANTED

0124.10 **VILLAGE ISSUES AND HIGHWAYS MATTERS.**

- a) **Flooding and Drainage Issues.** Matfen Parish has suffered in the recent wet weather with Matfen Parish flooding on the road in and out of Matfen towards the Hotel Entrance. The

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walls bordering this road and the pavement and road surface is deteriorating. Flooding also occurs on the road to Fenwick.

- b) **To review the Matfen Community Plan.** The plan was reviewed with the Parish Councillors details updated. This will need to be distributed to all parishioners.
- c) **Public Toilets.** The cleaner reported last week that the tiles on the splash back of the sink are loose and the paint is peeling on the walls. Also there is a problem with the sink and the toilet flushing. Cllr T Webb to arrange quotes/repairs.

0124.11 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday 26th March 2024 at 7.00pm in Matfen Village Hall.

Signed as an accurate record _____