

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in Matfen Village Hall on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Present:** Mrs S Greaves, Chair of the Council together with Justin Dempsey, Kevin George, Thomas Webb

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

### 0324.01 TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS IN RELATION TO MATFEN PARISH.

- a) **Traffic through Matfen Village.** Concerns were raised about the volume and speed of traffic travelling through Matfen. It was felt that the 30mph sign at the west end of the village is too close and should be relocated to just after the bridge through the golf course, before Matfen Hall entrance. It was noted that car satnavs are showing the 30mph starting in this area and not at the actual sign. County Councillor Mrs V Jones is to look into this to see if the sign can be moved or if this would require a TRO. Matfen Parish Council had requested via the Local Transport Plan Programme that the footpath opposite Matfen Hall entrance be extended up to the Quarry Road.
- b) **Black Bull.** The Black Bull was listed as an Asset of Community Value 10 years ago. This listing has now expired. The Parish Council had made an application to register the Black Bull as an asset of Community Value however this had been rejected. The application can only proceed if there is a community group seriously interested in making a bid for the pub.

0324.02 **APOLOGIES** received from Cllr F Robson.

0324.03 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None.

0324.04 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024.** It was proposed by Cllr J Dempsey seconded by Cllr K George and **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes as an accurate record.

### 0324.05 **ACTIONS TAKEN FOLLOWING THE MEETINGS HELD ON 30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024.**

- a) **Public Toilets.** Work had been carried out to repair the public toilets. Quotes are still needed for the redecorating and repairs to the tiles. Cllr T Webb will follow this up.
- b) **Gov.uk website/emails.** Matfen Parish Council website has now been transferred to a gov.uk website and the new website domain name is <https://matfen-pc.gov.uk>. Councillors now have individual dedicated email addresses.

0324.06 **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) **Local Transport Plan Programme.** NCC had received an estimate of costs for the implementation of the 30mph zone in Fenwick and these are being reviewed. Cllr Mrs V Jones is to follow this up.
- b) **Grit Bins.** Cllr Mrs V Jones is funding two grit bins in Matfen Parish. One on Ryal Banks and 1 on the Ingoe Chapel road.
- c) **NCC Budget.** The County Council had passed the budget which will make savings of some £11million without reducing services or creating redundancies; The Government has also provided £10 Million for work on roads which will help the County Council do much needed work.
- d) **Road works.** The road from Roses Bower to A68 is to be resurfaced.
- e) **Member Funding.** Cllr Mrs V Jones advised that she still has funding available for capital projects. This could be used to fund Vehicle Activated Signs if this is something the Parish Council would be interested in.

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0324.07 **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)

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 including underpayment	140.40		140.40	BACS
Mrs A Senior	Play area inspections	75.00		75.00	BACS
Mrs A Senior	Postages/travel	55.70		55.70	BACS
Matfen Village Hall	Hall rent – March	15.00		15.00	BACS
L Paterson	Public Toilet Cleaning	50.00		50.00	BACS
L Paterson	Public toilet cleaning	62.50		62.50	BACS
Replacement Keys	Dog bag dispenser keys	9.05	1.51	7.54	BACS
Netwise UK Ltd	Website hosting package	396.00	66.00	330.00	BACS
Netwise UK Ltd	Gov.uk domain set up	12.00	2.00	10.00	BACS
Dan Patterson	Repairs to public toilets	250.00		250.00	BACS
Viking Direct	Stationery	67.48	11.25	56.23	BACS
AJGIBL	Insurance renewal	587.53		587.53	BACS
ICO	Data protection fee	35.00		35.00	DD
Unity Trust Bank	Bank account charges	18.00		18.00	DD
<b>Income</b>					
HMRC VTR	VAT refund	240.22		240.22	07.03.24

0324.08 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

Reference Number	Address	Description
23/04101/FUL	Barn at South Fens, Stamfordham	Conversion of stable building to 2n residential dwellings (C3 use) (as amended) <b>GRANTED</b>
24/00626/VARYCO	Land to North of Kearsley Farm, Ingoe	Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on approved application 23/02866/VARYCO in order to provide alterations to floorplans, elevations, and associated changes to parking arrangements.

0324.09 **VILLAGE ISSUES AND HIGHWAYS MATTERS.**

- a) **Speeding.** Following the concerns expressed by a member of the public regarding traffic and speeding through Matfen, the Parish Council will discuss this at the meeting when the Local Transport Plan priorities are discussed. This is usually at the July meeting.
- b) **Mobile Post Office Van.** An email had been received advising that the mobile post office van is at risk unless more people start using their services. It was RESOLVED to add a post to the Matfen Village Facebook page and add notices to the notice boards encouraging residents to use it or lose it.

**Update on the Tornado Crash Memorial and to consider a contribution towards the memorial.** A Go Fund Me page has been created to raise money for the memorial which will be erected on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the tragic accident <https://www.gofundme.com/manage/jsy9ra/edit> After discussion, it was RESOLVED to contribute £250 towards the purchase/installation of the memorial. Cllr J Dempsey AGREED to promote the fundraising through his professional sources (British Airline Pilots' Association Forum).

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- c) **Wildflower Areas.** Cllr Mrs S Greaves had previously contacted NCC regarding the cutting of verges around the parish. Cllr Mrs S Greaves would like to identify areas in the parish which can be used for wildflower areas/wildlife areas or no cut areas. The Parish Council AGREED for Cllr Mrs S Greaves to pursue this through contacts at Northumberland County Council and Matfen Estates. Areas suggested included the quarry road verges.

0324.10 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.00pm in Matfen Village Hall. This will be the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.