

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

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

In attendance: Mrs Mandy Senior (Clerk)

2 Residents

0724.01 TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS IN RELATION TO MATFEN PARISH.

- a) **Jubilee Garden.** This item was brought forward on the agenda to discuss with the volunteers who look after the garden. It was RESOLVED to renew the licence with Matfen Estates for the Jubilee Garden. Cllr J Dempsey will ask the Cricket Club if they will arrange the cutting of the hedge twice per year. The Parish Council will pay for this to be carried out. It was noted that there had been some damage in the garden with the log pile being dismantled, children climbing trees and heads knocked off plants. It was AGREED to put a sign on the gate advising that this area is not a play area and a place of peace and quiet. This will be arranged.

0724.02 TO CONSIDER CO-OPTION TO FILL ONE VACANCY. Darcy Elles has expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend this meeting however will be invited to the September meeting.

0724.03 APOLOGIES received and accepted from Cllrs K George and T Webb and County Councillor Mrs V Jones.

0724.04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. None.

0724.05 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28th MAY 2024. It was RESOLVED to accept and sign the minutes as an accurate record.

0724.06 ACTIONS TAKEN FOLLOWING THE MEETINGS HELD ON 28TH MAY 2024.

- a) Public Toilets. The public toilets are in need of decorating. This will be arranged in due course.

0724.07 FINANCE

- a) **Accounts for payment.** It was RESOLVED to approve the payments on the list attached.
- b) To consider request from Matfen Village Hall for a donation towards the installation and supply of a generator to complete setting up the Village Hall as an Emergency Hub. It was RESOLVED to contribute £441.25 towards the installation and supply of a generator. Thanks were expressed to Rachael Dempsey and Keith Mavin for their work in obtaining funding for the Village Hall to become an Emergency Hub.

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
Matfen Cricket Club	Grass cutting 03.06.24	60.00		60.00	BACS
Unity Trust Bank	Bank account charges	18.00		18.00	DD
Matfen Cricket Club	Grant aid	300.00		300.00	BACS
Matfen Cricket Club	Grass cutting 24.06.24	60.00		60.00	BACS
L Paterson	Public toilet cleaning	50.00		50.00	BACS
L Paterson	Public toilet cleaning	62.50		62.50	BACS
Playsafety Ltd	Play area inspections	187.20	31.20	156.00	BACS
Mrs A Senior	Postages/travel expenses	71.55		71.55	BACS
Income					
Unity Trust Bank	Bank account interest	63.86		63.86	30.06.24

0724.08 PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

Reference Number	Address	Description
23/04265/FUL 23/04266/LBC	Farm Buildings, Fenwick Towers, Fenwick	Conversion of barn to residential accommodation with small extension. WITHDRAWN
24/01201/FUL	Land Northeast of West Fenwick Farm, Fenwick	Conversion and extension of existing vacant stone field barn into a 3-bedroom self/custom build private dwelling with detached garage. WITHDRAWN
24/01947/FUL	9 The Oaks, Matfen	Replace existing garden room and construct new single storey side extension, extend rear patio
24/02054/VARYCO	Land West of Rose Cottage, Kearsley Farm, Ingoe	Variation of condition 2 (plans) on approved application 22/01192/VARYCO in order to add an extension to house a therapy pool.
24/02155/FUL	Land Northeast of West Fenwick Farm, Fenwick	Conversion and extension of existing vacant stone field barn into a 2-bedroom private dwelling with detached garage.
24/02364/LBC 24/02363/FUL	Matfen Hall, Matfen	Listed building consent for erection of new spa extension, including refurbishment of existing spa to incorporate relocated gym, changing facilities, treatment rooms, offices and creation of new internal courtyard, landscaped spa deck with vitality pool.
24/02480/FUL	Land South of Wallhouses South Farm Bungalow	General purpose agricultural building and associated hardstanding.
24/02536/VARYCO	Land to north of Kearsley Farm, Ingoe	Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) in order to make amendment to floor plans and elevations to Unit 1 on approved planning application 22/03990/FUL

- c) **To consider Local Plan Policy ECN15 and discuss how it affects Matfen Parish with regards to farm diversification and the rural economy.** It was RESOLVED that Cllr J Dempsey would draft some questions to Rob Murfin, Planning, Northumberland County Council and copy to Joe Morris, MP for the Hexham Constituency to highlight the issues and obtain clarity. These can be shared with the East Tynedale Parish Councils' Forum.

0724.09 VILLAGE ISSUES AND HIGHWAYS MATTERS.

- a) **To receive update regarding The Black Bull Public House.** It was noted that the Black Bull has now been sold and will hopefully be back up and running as a pub next year.
- b) **To consider installing 'Children Playing' signs on the verges around the Jubilee Garden and to discuss the maintenance of the hedge and the renewal of the licence from Matfen Estates.** It was AGREED to cut back the hedge on a regular basis and review if the signs are still needed. Permission would be required from Highways Department to install signs.
- c) **To discuss and consider repairs to public toilets.** An email had been received advising that some of the guttering had fallen from the back of the toilets. A tree branch had fallen onto a section of the roof and the felt needs to be replaced. As Northumberland County Council is responsible for the fabric of the building, this will be forwarded onto them.
- d) **To agree to purchase replacement litter bin for the Village Green.** One of the existing bins on the village green was damaged when the wall collapsed. Northumberland County Council has refused to empty the litter bin until it has been replaced. It was RESOLVED to replace the litter bin, and a new one will be ordered.
- e) **To consider actions required arising from the annual Play Area inspection Reports.** The Inspection Reports had been reviewed and were noted. There are natural splits/shakes in the posts of the Robina wood however they are common and will be monitored. A buffer needs to be replaced on the gate of the Matfen Play Area, and this will be ordered.

0724.10 TO CONSIDER PRIORITIES FOR INCLUSION IN THE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRAMME 2025-2026.

It was RESOLVED to put forward the following priority to be considered as part of the Local Transport Plan Programme 2025-26.

- a) Extension of the footpath opposite Matfen Hall to join up with the permissive path just passed the Quarry Road heading toward Standing Stone. As this road is 60mph and there is a section of footpath missing, it is a safety issue for walkers.

0724.11 ASH TREE DIE BACK. It was noted that the Ash Trees on the road from Waterloo to Fenwick are showing signs of Ash Dieback. One tree in particular is split down the middle. This will be reported to Northumberland County Council.

0724.12 AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING. It was AGREED to add an agenda item for the September meeting. Grant Aid for Matfen Cricket Club to help with the costs of mowing the field in 2025.

0724.12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING. The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday 24TH September 2024 at 7.00pm in Matfen Village Hall.