

Minutes of the meeting of Matfen Parish Council held on Tuesday 26th November 2024 at 19:00 in Matfen Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs S Greaves, Chair to the Council together with Cllrs J Dempsey, K George, F Robson and D Elles.

1124.01 To receive questions from residents in relation to Matfen Parish.

- a) Go Local. A representative from the organisation Go Local attended the meeting to raise awareness of Go Local. GO Local Food is a community-run co-operative, based in the Tyne Valley, growing a wide range of vegetables all year round. They are entirely volunteer run and produce and distribute good quality local, seasonal produce, whilst looking after the environment. Go Local Food would like to increase involvement in the Parish. They started in 2012, and the main site is in Ovington with a smaller site in Matfen. Go Local is looking to increase its membership, crop share, work share or supporter. Work share members provide most of the labour however to be financially stable they require 100 crop share members. They currently have 115 members however these are not all crop shares. As a member you have the option to take out a subscription for a weekly share of the crops they grown in one of 3 sizes. Unfortunately, collecting the veg from Ovington seems to be a stumbling block for members in Matfen and Go Local are looking at other collection points and doorstep delivery to see how this works. A number of roadshows will be held next year to raise awareness.

1124.02 Apologies for absence received and accepted from Cllr T Webb.

1124.03 To receive Declarations of Interest. Cllr D Elles declared a personal and prejudicial interest in any matters relating to Matfen Estates.

1124.04 County Councillor's Report. Cllr Mrs V Jones gave her apologies as she was unable to attend the meeting.

1124.05 To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on **24th September 2024**. The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24th September 2024 were approved and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

1124.06 Actions taken following the meetings held on **24th September 2024**.

- a) Litter bin. Minute 0924.07a refers. The new litter bin has been installed on the village green however the broken litter bin has not been removed by NCC. The clerk will chase this up.
- b) Public toilets. Minute 0924.07b. This had been reported to NCC however no action has been taken. The clerk will chase.
- c) Grass cutting. Minute 0924.08b refers. It was RESOLVED to pay for the grass cutting of the football pitch next year. The cost will be £60 per cut.

1124.07 Finance/Administration

- a) Accounts for payment – It was RESOLVED to accept and approve the list of payments on the attached schedule.

Payee	Details	Gross payment	VAT	Net Payment	Payment method
Mrs A Senior	Clerical services	693.66		693.66	BACS
H M Revenue & Customs	PAYE	188.45		188.45	BACS
Mrs A Senior	Play area inspections	75.00		75.00	BACS
Matfen Village Hall	Hall rent – November 2024	15.00		15.00	BACS
Mrs A Senior	Postages/travel expenses	59.55		59.55	BACS
Scrimshaws Cleaning	Public toilets – Sept 2024	86.66		86.66	BACS
Matfen Cricket Club	Play area grass cutting	60.00		60.00	BACS
Viking Direct	Stationery	90.71	15.12	75.59	BACS
The Poppy Shop	Remembrance Day Wreath	34.49	4.08	30.41	BACS

MATFEN PARISH COUNCIL					
Ward 1 – Fenwick, Ingoe, Ryal. Ward 2 - Matfen					
The Poppy Shop	Wreath for tornado crash site	34.50	4.08	30.42	BACS
Wel Medical	Replacement defib pads	71.94	11.99	59.95	BACS
M Billingham	Mole trapping – village green	30.00		30.00	BACS
Unity Trust Bank	Bank charges	5.40		5.40	DD
Scrimshaws Cleaning	Public cleaning – October 24	86.66		86.66	BACS
Matfen Village Hall	Hall rent – July/Sept 2024	30.00		30.00	BACS
Wag and Company	Grant aid	50.00		50.00	BACS
Matfen Cricket Club	Hedge cutting – Jubilee Gdn	40.00		40.00	BACS
Income					
Unity Trust Bank	Bank account interest	65.00		65.00	30.09.24

- b) To consider and agree Budget for 2025-26. It was RESOLVED to accept the Budget for 2025-26. A copy of which is attached.
- c) To agree Precept 2025-26. It was RESOLVED to levy a precept of £12000 on Northumberland County Council. No change from 2024-25.
- d) To consider request from Wag and Company for grant aid. It was RESOLVED to send a contribution of £50 towards the work of Wag and Company.
- e) To note increase in NJC payscales from 1st April 2024 and backdated pay as per NJC contract of employment. It was RESOLVED to note and accept the increase in NJC payscales from 1st April 2024 and the backdated pay as per NJC contract of employment.

1124.08 Planning Applications. It was RESOLVED that the Council receive the details of the Planning Applications and decisions made by Northumberland County Council, in accordance with the list circulated.

Planning applications

Reference Number	Address	Description
24/02480/FUL	Land South of Wallhouses South Farm Bungalow	General purpose agricultural building and associated hardstanding. WITHDRAWN

1124.09 Village Issues and Highways Matters.

- a) Jubilee Garden. Cllr J Dempsey had cut the hedge around the Jubilee Garden. It will be cut again in March 2025.
- b) Dog Fouling. Problems with dog fouling are still being seen on the Cricket/Football Pitch. Cllr J Dempsey has installed CCTV and any evidence will be passed to the Enforcement Officer at Northumberland County Council
- c) Bench. It was noted that the bench on the grass verge opposite the village hall is broken and will be removed and replaced.
- d) Tree Felling. It was noted that Matfen Estates had applied for a felling licence to fell a number of trees, 18 of which are Ash Trees on the Fenwick Road. Matfen Estates will replant trees in a different area.

1124.10 To discuss the possibility of developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Matfen Parish, including potential benefits, requirements and next steps. Due to Parish Council elections being held in May 2025, it was RESOLVED to defer the discussion until after the elections.

1124.11 To consider response to consultation enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at meetings. It was RESOLVED to respond positively to Parish Council members being able to join meetings remotely although this should not be used as an excuse for physical attendance at meetings.

1124.12 ELECTIONS. As the Parish Council elections will be held on 1st May 2025, it was agreed that a discussion should take place at the next meeting to consider succession planning.

1124.13 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 11th February 2025** at 19:00 in Matfen Village Hall.