

## Minutes of the meeting of Matfen Parish Council held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 19:00 in Matfen Village Hall

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

In attendance: Rachael Dempsey, Matfen Village Hall

0125.01 Attendance by Angela Watts, Locality Co-ordinator, Northumberland Communities Together and Nigel Fisher from the Civil Contingencies Team, Northumberland County Council. Angela and Nigel attended the meeting to give a short presentation on emergency Contingency Planning. Matfen Village Hall was the first to produce a Emergency Community Plan which now needs to be updated. Matfen Village Hall now has the ability to connect a generator and can become a Community Hub during emergencies. Community Hubs are not there to replace the services of Northumberland County Council, only to enhance what they provide. Concerns were expressed, as during the recent power outages the mobile phone signal was also down. The Community Hub are then unable to contact NCC or residents advising that the hub is open. It also tends to be the outlying villages that need support. Angela advised that NCC are currently trialling the Starlink system and are looking at employing and giving out to hubs during emergency events. They advised it is approx. £250 to purchase the system on a 30-day rolling contract. No charge is made if the system is not used. Northumberland Communities Together encourage communities to know where their vulnerable residents are and how to help in an emergency. They also encourage every household to have their own individual emergency plan. Angela Watts agreed to send a template to the Village Hall committee to update their emergency plan. It was also agreed that Nigel Fisher would attend a future meeting to demonstrate the Starlink system. It was noted that Northern Powergrid have grant funding up to £20,000 which will open in April. Matfen Village Hall was encouraged to register as a community resilience hub.

0125.02 Apologies for absence received and accepted from Cllr D Elles.

0125.03 To receive Declarations of Interest. None.

0125.04 County Councillor’s Report. Cllr Mrs V Jones gave her apologies as she was unable to attend the meeting.

0125.05 To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on **26<sup>th</sup> November 2024**. The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024 were approved and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

0125.06 Actions taken following the meetings held on **26<sup>th</sup> November 2024**. None

0125.07 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
M Billingham	Mole trapping – village green	40.00		40.00	BACS
Mrs A Senior	Clerical services	597.52		597.52	BACS
H M Revenue & Customs	PAYE	149.20		149.20	BACS
Mrs A Senior	Play area inspections	75.00		75.00	BACS
Matfen Village Hall	Hall rent – February 2025	15.00		15.00	BACS
Mrs A Senior	Postages/travel expenses	63.45		63.45	BACS
Scrimshaws Cleaning	Public toilets – November 24	86.66		86.66	BACS
Northumberland CC	Additional grass cutting	449.44	74.91	374.53	BACS
M Billingham	Mole trapping – village green	50.00		50.00	BACS

**MATFEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Ward 1 – Fenwick, Ingoe, Ryal. Ward 2 - Matfen**

AJGIL Client Account	Insurance renewal	597.74		597.74	BACS
Netwise UK Ltd	Doman Name renewal	72.00	12.00	60.00	BACS
Unity Trust Bank	Bank account charges	6.00		6.00	DD
Netwise UK Ltd	Website hosting package	396.00	66.00	330.00	BACS
<b>Income</b>					
Unity Trust Bank	Bank account interest	63.24		63.24	31.12.24

0125.08 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. It was RESOLVED to respond to planning application 24/04319/FUL objecting to it in its current form and recommend that the application is considered by the planning application, due to the number of objections from parishioners.

**Planning applications**

Reference Number	Address	Description
24/04207/VARYCO	Land West of Tilehouse Plantation, Millers Lane, Matfen	Removal of condition 8 (underpass) and 9 (underpass) on approved application 16/02369/FUL in order to works required for the installation of an underpass is no longer required to provide access to Matfen Hall as the two are no longer linked commercially.
24/04319/FUL	Land South of Wallhouses South Farm, Northumberland	General purpose agricultural building and associated hardstanding.
25/00083/FUL	Locksley Cottage, East Wallhouses	Erection of 1no granny annexe

0125.09 Village Issues and Highways Matters.

- a) Matfen Cricket Club. It was noted that Matfen Cricket Club is looking to become a CIO under the name of Matfen Sports Club encompassing the football element of the sports field. Football matches on the sports field needs to be covered by public liability insurance if they are to host inter school matches. It was suggested that the football coach arranging the matches may be able to cover the inter school matches through his own insurance.

0125.10 To discuss succession planning re forthcoming elections. It was noted that both Cllr Mrs S Greaves and Cllr F Robson are stepping down at the forthcoming election. It is hoped that the Parish Council will be able to attract councillors from Ingoe and Ryal.

0125.11 Emergency Plan. It was RESOLVED to discuss and update the Emergency Plan at the March meeting.

0125.12 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025** at 19:00 in Matfen Village Hall.