

Minutes of the meeting of Matfen Parish Council held on Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 19:00 in Matfen Village Hall

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

In attendance: Mandy Senior, Clerk to the Council
Mrs Veronica Jones, County Councillor

0325.01 To receive questions from residents in relation to Matfen Parish.

- a) Mootlaw Quarry. A local naturalist attended the meeting regarding the planning application for Mootlaw Quarry. He has been monitoring bird life at the quarry for a number of years and had commented on the application although not objected. He did however add certain provisos about restricting vehicle access and that mitigation suggestions in the Bird Risk Assessment be undertaken. He has gathered wildlife records and notes every year since the quarry was mothballed noting increased wilding of the habitat with times of species arrival and breeding. It was noted that North Tyne Road Stone is looking to close the quarry as it is no longer viable. It was **RESOLVED** to submit a comment on the planning application asking for protection of the wildlife during any works.

0325.02 Apologies for absence received and accepted from Cllr J Dempsey, K George and T Webb.

0325.03 To receive Declarations of Interest. Cllr Mrs S Greaves declared a personal interest in item 0325.08b Planning Application 25/00522/DISCON Mootlaw Quarry and Cllr D Elles declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 0325.08bi Felling Licence for Matfen Estates.

0325.04 County Councillor's Report. Cllr Mrs V Jones gave verbal report on matters relating to Matfen Parish.

- a) Local Transport Plan. It was noted that the road from Matfen to the Military Road will be resurfaced within the next few months.
- b) Halton Shield. The road safety work which was to be carried out imminently has been withdrawn as there is another larger piece of work that needs to be carried out and this will be done at the same time. This will include signage and resurfacing work and will be carried out in May/June when the daylight working hours are longer.
- c) Gulley cleaning. It was noted that the gulleys had been cleared in Great Whittington and Matfen.

0325.05 To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on **11th February 2025**. The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th February 2025 were approved and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

0325.06 Actions taken following the meetings held on **11th February 2025**.

- a) Jubilee Garden. It was noted that the hedge around the Jubilee Garden had been cut.
- b) Emergency Plan. It was **RESOLVED** to update the Emergency Plan after the May elections.

0325.07 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 | 597.32 | | 597.32 | BACS |
| H M Revenue & Customs | PAYE | 149.40 | | 149.40 | BACS |
| Mrs A Senior | Play area inspections | 75.00 | | 75.00 | BACS |
| Matfen Village Hall | Hall rent – February 2025 | 15.00 | | 15.00 | BACS |
| Unity Trust Bank | Bank account charges | 6.00 | | 6.00 | DD |
| Mrs A Senior | Postages/travel expenses | 58.50 | | 58.50 | BACS |

| MATFEN PARISH COUNCIL | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|--------|--|--------|----------|
| Ward 1 – Fenwick, Ingoe, Ryal. Ward 2 - Matfen | | | | | |
| Scrimshaws Cleaning | Public toilets – Dec/Jan 25 | 130.01 | | 130.01 | BACS |
| Information Commissioners Office | Data protection registration fee | 47.00 | | 47.00 | DD |
| M Billingham | Mole trapping – village green | 40.00 | | 40.00 | BACS |
| Scrimshaw Cleaning | Public toilets – February 25 | 86.67 | | 86.67 | BACS |
| Unity Trust Bank | Bank account charges | 6.00 | | 6.00 | DD |
| Income | | | | | |
| Unity Trust Bank | Bank account interest | 59.85 | | 59.85 | 31.03.25 |

0325.08 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 |
|------------------|---|---|
| 24/04207/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. GRANTED |
| 24/04319/FUL | Land South of Wallhouses South Farm, Northumberland | General purpose agricultural building and associated hardstanding. REFUSED |
| 25/00083/FUL | Locksley Cottage, East Wallhouses | Erection of 1no granny annexe WITHDRAWN |

0325.09 Election Arrangements. Arrangements were confirmed for the Parish Council elections which are to be held on 1st May 2025. Parish Councillors present completed their nomination forms, and these will be hand delivered to Northumberland County Council. Cllrs J Dempsey and K George had made arrangements to drop their completed forms off with the Clerk.

0325.10 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 13th May 2025** at 19:00 in Matfen Village Hall.

Signed as an accurate record _____

Date _____