

## **DUDDO PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Meeting held on 26 September 2022 at Duddo House, Duddo at 7.00pm. Meeting was postponed by one week due to the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II whose funeral took place on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

**Present:** Parish Councillors Anthony Carroll, Stephen Cockcroft, and Clare Dakin (Chairman)

### **1: Apologies**

Stuart Breckons

### **2: Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest in any agenda items.

### **3: Appointment of Acting Clerk for this meeting**

The Council agreed to appoint Cllr Clare Dakin as acting clerk for this meeting.

**4:** Councillors resolved that the Chair be appointed to continue to act as Responsible Financial Officer in the absence of a current permanent Clerk appointment.

### **5: Update on the retrieval of parish funds from Barclays Bank**

Cllr Dakin reported that the first half of the precept has been paid into the new NatWest account. Furthermore we have at last received the missing funds from Barclays Bank following persistent efforts by the former Chair Angus McIntosh in visiting the branch in Berwick in recent months on a number of occasions and Cllr Dakin's approach to Barclays on Twitter which yielded an immediate response unlike the formal recorded delivery letter sent to the branch. We are now in a position to employ a Clerk as planned and to pay our outstanding bills.

### **6: Councillor Vacancy and Appointment of Permanent Clerk**

The Councillor vacancy is advertised on our website. Cllr Cockcroft was aware of a couple of individuals who have expressed interest and he will encourage them to apply through the website. Cllrs note that they may not follow through but will keep trying to encourage others to take part. Cllr Cockcroft is also aware of a lady who may be interested in the Clerk position should Mr Cozens no longer be. The Chair has approached Mr Cozens to ask if he is still able to take up the post but he has not responded. Cllrs agreed that one chasing email should be sent and if no response we should assume that he has moved on.

### **7. Minutes of the last meeting held on 30 May 2022**

The Council resolved to adopt the draft minutes as a true record subject to a minor typographical correction and that they be signed by the Chair

### **8: Matters Arising**

Cllr Cockcroft formally proposed Cllr Dakin to represent the Council on the Barmoor Windfarm Community Fund Committee as required by the administrators of the fund.

Cllr Cockcroft reported that the Oilio food scheme was going well. As and when the Co-op get the Community Larder Scheme up and running it will be referred back to the PC for publicising on the website

Cllrs discussed that potholes remain a big issue in the parish and all Cllrs are encouraged to report any they spot via the NCC online system. Cllrs Cockcroft's grandmother was commended for her efforts in cleaning up algae covered road signs recently. Some issues previously reported including the major hole on the Tiptoe to Shellacres road and the vertical rail at the Etal bends have been dealt with but not the white line painting at the Tiptoe road end nor the replacement of broken signs. The Duddo Farm hedge has been lowered as requested.

### **9: Planning**

No applications to discuss. The PC now hold a hard copy of the new Northumberland Local Plan which can be inspected by appointment at the Chair's home.

### **10: Correspondence**

It was noted that a response the consultation on the revival of Neighbourhood Plan proposals has been submitted after email correspondence with comments from all Cllrs.

### **11: Any other business**

Cllr Carroll reminded Cllrs that we must now seek insurance as originally planned on revival of the Council, the Chair to action this. Two long outstanding bills were now to be paid

### **16: Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 at 7.00 pm

Confirmed as a true record

and signed by the Chairman..... Date.....