

WARK PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr Edward Jeffrey

Contact: clerk.wark@gmail.com

Meeting to be held 30th April 2024 at 7pm in Wark Community Room, Westacres.

MINUTES

1. **Welcome and Apologies:** Councillor Edward Jeffrey (EJ), Councillor Anne Hutchinson (AH), Councillor Steve Batey (SB), Councillor Lisa Lorraine (LL), **Apologies:** Councillor Jason Riches (JR), Councillor Judith Weir (JW), Councillor Brenda Murray (BM). County Councillor Nick Morphet (NM). 3 MOP.

2. **Public Participation (For Members of the Public to speak - Restricted to 10mins max).**

MOP email (MOP present).

Item 1: Excessive speed of traffic. EJ informed resident of planned installation of poles/interactive signs. Suggesting cardboard cutout – discussed. Agreed by a number present that speed is an issue at both entrance and exits to the village. This is noted as an ongoing issue. See County Councillor update for further information.

Item 2: Visibility North of the junction River Meadow and Church Lane - going to lower the kerb – daffodils need replanting prior to kerb being dropped. To write to Cussins Development re: re-planting. MOP will forward a point of contact/correspondence address.

Item 3: Northumberland CC restrictive household recycling policy on plastic recycling. LK to put MOP in touch with NM (County Councillor)

MOP: Asking who is responsible for footpath up to church, overgrown and path width is reducing. EJ advised that Monday Men do try to help with maintenance but overall, it is the CC responsibility. There is also not a footpath all the way down to the graveyard. Can the footpath be extended? To explore with NM, County Councillor).

3. **Notification of Other Business:**

- AH – sign at Deneburn road end – From Stonehaugh side it takes people back over Dunterley to Kielder. Motorhomes using the road and it's not really suitable. Signage needs updating – To ask NM to follow up. Linacres Road end – spelling mistake – needs rectified.

4. **Declarations of Conflicts of Interest:** None

5. **Approval of Minutes** (23rd January 2024): Delay in presenting due to cancellation of March meeting (clerk

sickness).

6. Report from County Councillor Nick Morphet – read out by clerk in NM's absence – attached.

7. Matters Arising

Wark

- 7.1 **Wark Village Plan – AH.** AH advised that one was completed in 2011. Should be resident led – EJ queried whether it would be preferable to have an open meeting to obtain views. AH suggests we look at old plan first. Opinions can be obtained at the Parish Meeting. MOP asking for further information on what it is and what the benefit is? CD was completed – to consider showing this. Needs to be Village/Resident led. Noted that there has been significant development in Wark over recent years since the plan was completed and would likely benefit from update. Action – CD of previous plan to be located in first instance.
- 7.2 **Road around Village Green – AH and JR.** EJ met (with JR) around the green with County Councillor, JR found that it belongs to council (in the archives) with responsibility for maintenance.
- 7.3 **Wark Public Toilet – completion of sale and land registry fee (£45) – AH update.** Thanks to AH for completion of this which has required significant commitment/liaison over many years (2019). Papers signed by EJ and AH at solicitors' office. Clerk to send invoice for outstanding sale fee.
- 7.4 **Website Update/Noticeboard Directory**–is in progress. Clerk to raise at parish meeting.
- 7.5 **Bin at Post Office** -Liner needs replacing and location to be discussed. EJ has been asked if bin could be moved (there are issues with dog mess being placed in the bin and worries around their storage being contaminated with smells from the bin). EJ to order liner. Discussion re: location. Could move the one from the butcher's pole and bigger floor bin be moved to the butchers instead and move the pole one to near the doctors. EJ to organise the removal. Notify the CC of new locations to ensure they get emptied.
- 7.6 Benches on the green need repairs. Two benches need repairs, wood is rotten. EJ to liaise with Thomas Armstrong to repair.
- 7.7 Low kerb on the path to the new estate. Brought up by MOP previously, raised by NM with CC who were not willing to pursue, kerb very low to almost ground level, concerned about increased risk to pedestrians from vehicles. Kerb needs raised to regular height. NM to be asked to raise again. MOP querying what design standard is it made to?
- 7.8 A review of WPC assets for insurance purposes. Notify Gallaghers once the interactive signs are complete. EJ advised that five years from installation. Update insurers at time of installation.
- 7.9 EJ, correspondence received re: post on the green and query whether installation of ground level box can be installed instead to house electrics. EJ has this in hand and will update at next meeting.

Stonehaugh

- 7.6 **Tree Works** – Wark Forest Landscapes – update/next stage. Selling of Timber generated £2966.70 as income. Felling licence was obtained and is valid until 2028.
- 7.7 **Stonehaugh Grass Cutting** – Update on works beginning for the season. Mr Bell hoping to get started first week in May 2024 – impact of accident has caused delay. Public Liability insurance needed – EJ to follow up with Mr Bell and forward when obtained.
- 7.8 **Condition and Repair of Stargazing Pavilion at Stonehaugh** – plan is in place for volunteers to complete the repairs – AH to update councillors. Clarks donated hoggin, this is currently being installed. Liam Ried is aware that when he needs volunteers he is to reach out. Once complete AH will move onto next stage of repair. Education/Activity Centre is adjacent to the pavilion which is an asset. Liam has said he will do a presentation for the parish council.
- 7.9 Celebrations for 100 years of Kielder Forest– SB to update (brought forward from previous meeting).
- 7.10 Play Area inspection – for information only the inspection is booked for June 2024. Michael and Brenda Murray keep the play area in good order – thanks to them.

8. Planning Matters

- 8.1 Planning Application Consultation 24NP0026 Middleburn Farm, Simonburn, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 3E – circulated and councils views invited by 8 May 2024. AH/SB – in hand.
- 8.2 Telephone mast is now installed at rear of Councillor Batey’s property – Henshaw.

Financial Matters

- 7.1 AJG Community Schemes Insurance Renewal. Pre-Renewal Questionnaire circulated and noted.
- 7.2 Accounts and Approve Payment Schedule – Circulated and approved.

Date Invoice/ Receipt	Inv No./ Ref	Payee Name	Description of Goods/Service	Amount (£)
21/04/2024		Nicholson Portnell Solicitors	Land Registry Fee (public toilet sale - Wark) (cancelled as reissued in final invoice)	45
30/04/2024		C Reid	Fuel Costs - Stonehaugh Activity Centre	65.38
30/04/2024	10879 0	Nicholson Portnell Solicitors	Fees associated with sale of public toilets (wark)	149.8
30/04/2024		NALC	NALC Subscription and Annual Website Fee	240.66
30/04/2024		CIC Accountancy Ltd	Payroll for 23/24 and RTI submissions	264
30/04/2024		Arthur J Gallagher Insurance Brokers Ltd	Community Insurance for 1/6/24 - 31/5/24	1605.6
30/04/2024		E Jeffrey	Reimbursement of expenses	49.99

- 7.3 Bank Account – Balance as at 9 April 2024 is £16,531.40 - noted.

Signatories – Lisa agreed to be added and Annie to be removed.

8. Reports from Representatives to Other Bodies (Wark Town Hall, Stonehaugh Community Hall and Giles Heron Trust)

8.1 Stonehaugh Community Hall – WPC notified of changes to committee and noted no longer a WPC representative on the committee. Barbara Alderson-Byford is now the secretary and point of contact. Need to elect a body to this. When hall was built it was part of the charities commission.

Giles Heron and Wark Town Hall – no representation present at meeting today.

9. Highway Matters

9.1 **Proposed Village Car Park** – JR. On hold currently, waiting for sewerage people to submit design – they are willing to pay cost of works, do the works, put a mesh on surface – may get ten cars off the road and improve parking at doctors. NCC are aware of it and happy with proposals.

9.2 **SWARCO Interactive Signage** – update on grant application and ordering– EJ/JR. One pole up already at west end – Clerk to order. EJ applied to Ray Windfarm however unsuccessful as we are out of area by a small distance (ends other side of bridge). EJ to liaise with AH re: grant application. EJ has registered at Green Rigg. Until get decision on South end pole no point in ordering but in advance of installation.

9.3 Two roads for maintenance (numbers to be provided)- SB.

Asked if can get roads put into maintenance at NCC: U5061 (Longlea) U5063 (Morallee) U5052 Watsons Wall, U5059 Lowstead to Linacre's (won't repair due to drainage which is farmer responsibility), U5061 Watergate Ford Road. NM to progress. Highways. Road to Coldcoates Ford – smashed.

10. Other Business – Not for Decision.

11. Items for Discussion at Future Meetings. Directory.

Councillors - ? wish to stand for next year – Clerk to email.

12. Dates for Next Meeting (Proposed): 28 May 2024 (AGM) Venue to be confirmed (Town Hall or Community Hall at Westacres.)

Clerk to Wark Parish Council