

WARK PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr Edward Jeffrey

Contact: clerk.wark@gmail.com

DRAFT MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR STONEHAUGH WARD

MEETING HELD ON 19TH MAY 2022 , 7PM AT STONEHAUGH COMMUNITY HALL

Agenda and Minutes

1. Appointment of Chair for the meeting: Councillor Edward Jeffrey
2. Welcome and apologies for absence:
Apologies: Councillor Weir, Councillor Lorraine, Councillor R Batey, Councillor Leadbitter.
Present: Councillor Edward Jeffrey (EJ), Councillor S Batey (SB), Councillor A Hutchinson (AH), County Councillor Nick Morphet (NM), Louise Keeney, Clerk to Parish Council (LK), Nine members of the public.
3. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest - None
4. Approve minutes of meeting held on 16th June 2021 – Approved, Proposed AH, Seconded EJ.
5. Matters Arising: None
6. Chairmans Report on activities of the Parish Council – report read to those present by EJ. EJ thanked AH for her report, noted Councillor Hutchinson wishes to retire from her role as Councillor, EJ thanked AH for her time as Councillor, sharing his view that it would be a loss to the Parish Council when AH does resign. Those present were invited to consider taking on role of Parish Councillor.
7. Report from County Councillor N Morphet. Introductions undertaken and NM presented his report which had been circulated to those present.
Storm Arwen, NM advised he is interviewing the partners involved, in the event of another Storm Arwen, Adult Social Care may be in a position to give us a list of those that are vulnerable, this would be addresses only (no names or details). People self-identify to Parish Council, making it clear how long you will be keeping the data. Recognised privacy and consent are issues needing careful consideration.
County wide schemes – not much for Wark and Stonehaugh – list includes those roads to be upgraded, Road maintenance and Road Safety. EJ highlighted the issues discussed at last meeting regarding Storey Terrace. NM explained pot holes are required to be a minimum of 4cm deep and 30cm wide to be eligible for repair. NM advised PC to wait until October and include in Local Transport Plan suggestions. AH expressed view to NM that highways have yet to return to undertake repairs to C205 – NM made a note to follow up.
EV charging point (EV) – suggested sites for Stonehaugh included: Picnic site, Community Hall, Activity centre – NM advised he has stressed Stonehaugh would benefit given the remote location, lack of public transport and that impact on climate will be minimal. MOP sought to clarify financial implications of Electric charging point being situated at Community Hall – NM explained process to

reimburse Hall, MOP From Campsite advised that they have one, but it is of low power. NCC install it and maintain it, they would reimburse the hall. Discussions followed to explore the impact on parking (will take up two parking points which cannot be used by anyone other than those using charging point), finances and ensuring that cost to hall was covered. Further discussions needed, EJ queried if community hall was seeking to install one themselves and explore whether there is a revenue stream from the EV.

Benches – NM advised using members local improvement money, some outstanding discussion with NCC, bench would have commemorative plaque for jubilee – Whitton three-seater bench– spikes in ground chosen – order given to Nick. NM – PC to choose the words for the plaque. FC have agreed that it can go on picnic site.

Tree Warden Scheme – NM explained – MOP Campsite advised that Northern PowerGrid have been present and surveyed some areas (About 30 trees). MOP asked how to get involved – send email to Clerk and will forward link. Discussion about positives and drawbacks of the planting of trees.

Climate Change Fund – open to communities and PC's and will consider all sorts of projects that are going to reduce emissions – link to be shared with Clerk.

Greenway – NM explained project and agreed value in taking presentation to PC's, EJ felt scheme was a positive for Stonehaugh, AH felt Stonehaugh better site than Wark (EJ agreed), Pump tracks explained (NM advised anyone can ride them) – link to a video (NM to share with Clerk) MOP queried what track looks like NM advised it's a windy track, you can choose what you want. Want people to get behind it and like a steering group drive it forward. EJ queried whether project needs Parish land or Forestry land – could be PC, FC and NCC. MOP asked who funds it, maintains it, insures it – NCC look for funding to fund it, maintenance would likely fall to group. EJ – could set it as a separate event for NM to do video. Campsite owners advised they are in discussion regarding Cycling through woods – could combine these to two projects - ongoing.

Streetlight Consultation – in progress. Stonehaugh lights – majority present ok with the lights, however a query was made as to whether they should/could be on a sensor, timer. Beauty of a consultation offers options for consultation.

Third interactive speed sign – NM reminded AH that there is someone to contribute to this.

8. Highway Issues: Work on C205 Whygate Loop – ongoing.

9. Stonehaugh Issues:

- Sale of land to Northern PowerGrid for new Substation – update. AH confirmed that solicitor is chasing up. Diagram was sent to village approximately two years ago, no objections came forward, initial offer was £600 to purchase it, current offer is £1500 – money is to be ring fenced for Stonehaugh.
- Activity Centre – repair to stargazing shelter, college came up to assess and undertake initial repairs, planned to return early spring to undertake repairs, work needs done on seating inside, design doesn't allow sunlight into seating, seating rotten – college is supposed to be returning.
- Repairs to Road into Picnic Site – FC have this in hand, to chase up.
- Additional Picnic Tables – these have been requested, AH to chase up with Alex, additional one for woods.

- Allotments – fencing needs replacing, will get £90 rent this year, SB to undertake assessment. Standpipe, residents would value one on Allotment site. PC to explore viability of a standpipe on site – SB to action.
- MOP raised issue of site of old bonfire which villagers are using to get rid of their grass cuttings. Noted that there are composting bays elsewhere in the village. Not the allotment holders that are responsible, it is others. Noted difficult to manage, ensure residents are knowledgeable of alternative sites for grass cuttings.
- Play area – needs volunteers to repair this – MOP confirmed what is needed in terms of repair. AH – advised looking to reduce width of surrounds, remove boards as trip hazard, bark cost is substantial. SB and MOP to coordinate volunteers – to be completed before inspection. Every year AH Applies to Giles Heron Trust to maintain. MOP informed meeting that there is a defunct Youth Club account – (£415) which can be used for benefit of children in village.

10. Reports from Representatives of other bodies (Stonehaugh Community Hall, Wark Town Hall). AH informed meeting that PC is supposed to have a representative of SCH, report of footpath to one of village properties being muddy, being driven over to park vehicle, PC aware that previous owners and FC removed covenant, but it was never to be driven over.

Craft Club has started in the village, each Wednesday afternoon, everyone welcome – hoping to do willow sculptures, practical hands-on stuff.

Holiday Home Development: MOP raised issue of holiday homes, querying when work might be starting on development to the rear of the hall, chalet area. EJ confirmed that PC was not aware of development. MOP shared that National Park have advised someone is attempting to revive the planning – apparently nothing they can do as is a loophole. Planning is for additional chalets. Campsite owners shared that when campsite sold, two parts of land, field out the back, planning consent given in late 60's, early 70's which would normally have died has not died, appears whomever they sold land to, have begun reinstating planning, MOP will forward to PC email correspondence he has from National Park, having queried whether residents would have an opportunity to comment on this – seems this is not be. Development would be for 16 chalets – discussion ensued regarding implications for village including utilities and whether they are obligated to engage with PC. Ongoing issue – to be included on agenda for next meeting.

11. Wark Area Red Squirrels – volunteers still needed. Liam Reid confirmed red squirrels still present, but greys are coming in. SB confirmed there are six volunteers in the village, Wark doesn't have any. Volunteers can be trained up into despatching.

12. Celebrations Queens 70th Jubilee – Wark Beacon will be installed and lit on The Battlesteads Green. Stonehaugh Beacon will be installed and lit on Bullring (this has been changed to Community Hall) AH highlighted that PC were not informed. EJ advised that Fire Brigade are to be notified Notify fire brigade – clerk to notify. MOP identified to light Beacon. It has been suggested that nominations for lighting the beacon in Wark are made by members of the public (names put into box in the Wark Post Office or emailed to clerk.wark@gmail.com.) Nominations to be those aged 70 or over and to include reason for nomination. Names will be randomly drawn on 26th May 2022. Stonehaugh have Amy Ridley, singer planned to provide entertainment on Saturday and Afternoon Tea planned for Sunday. AH confirmed that Warksburn group have their own Beacon.

13. Recruitment of Parish Councillor for Stonehaugh – AH seeks to retire, expressions of interest/ nominations invited.

14. Questions from members of the public.

- Grass Cutting –MOP raised it hadn't been done, two cuts thus far, AH advised that land doesn't belong to Parish Council however we agreed to cut 12 times per year – if wanted more frequently then village would need to pay.
- Hall club committee – dog waste, bags being left. EJ queried why can't have a waste bin – AH advised this is not an option. MOP shared that signs in other locations (Chopwel woods) have been effective – noted that FC have recently erected signs however SB will look into.

15. Any other issues – Nothing further from MOP. AH raised issue of Internal Auditor, must be independent and competent, AH has enquired as to whether Tyne Rede Accountancy would be acceptable given they prepare accounts. Proposed by SB that if legal Tyne Rede to undertake, EJ seconded.

Meeting closed 9.15pm

Councillor E Jeffrey

Charmain of Wark Parish Council