

WARK PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr Edward Jeffrey

Contact: clerk.wark@gmail.com

Draft Minutes of meeting held on 6th December 2022 at Wark Town Hall

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Present: Chairman Edward Jeffrey (EJ), Councillor Annie Hutchinson (AH), Councillor Judith Weir (JW), Councillor Brenda Murray (BM), Councillor Lisa Lorraine (LL), One Member of the public, Clerk Louise Kirkland (LK)

Apologies: Councillor Steve Batey (SB), Councillor Phillip Leadbitter (PL)

2. Notification of Other Business – Nothing of note

3. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest - None

4. Approval of Minutes - 6th Sept 2022 – Wark Parish Meeting (circulated 23 September 2022) – EJ initialled and signed to be approved.

5. Co-Option of Councillor – Brenda Murray submitted application and is officially appointed into the role of councillor following today's meeting – councillors in support of Brenda being co-opted. Brenda will be a councillor for Wark but will be responsible for Stonehaugh.

6. Report from County Councillor – Nick not in attendance. Change of date of meeting likely reason for this. EJ will call Nick as a follow up to meeting

7. Matters Arising

7.1 Stonehaugh Play Area (Equipment and Bark) – update – BM advised that they are scheduled for 8th December 2022. 30 tonne of bark will be £3020. Still got half the Playdale bill to pay. LK to liaise with BM to get payment.

7.2 Stonehaugh Allotments – update, Invoice for allotment rental fee has been raised and sent to SAS but remains outstanding. BM to chase this up.

7.3 Clearance of Storm Damage – Stonehaugh near Scott's yard and Tree Survey – update from the report provided by Fathers. AH querying whether a felling licence will be required (SB to check). EJ querying whether claim could be made through

insurance – LK to check. AH asking if we could sell the timber- this to be looked into. Agreed to prioritise the Scotty's yard and Chestnut tree in Wark. Item 191- All the trees on the Battlesteads Green. Proposed by AH and seconded by BM.

- 7.4 Stonehaugh Pavilion Repairs – AH concerned we are going to lose this asset to the village, it requires repair urgently. University stating that they will repair but this has been the case for some time now with no firm commitment/date. AH querying whether it is appropriate to consider appointing a tradesman to undertake repairs and pay for this. University had £1000 for materials – AH to get in touch with University and query timescale for repair and funds available for this
- 7.5 From 6 Sept - Greens Committee used to have responsibility for amenity, Sub Committee for raising funds for amenity land –Leave to next meeting at Stonehaugh. Christine Reid has offered to go on sub-committee.
- 7.6 Public Toilets in Wark – Completion of sale – AH has chased it up, David Healey will pay £2000.
- 7.7 MVS for Wark – update, Query WPC to apply for funding from Community Foundation (AH letter 23 Sept 2022). We had £6000 in reserves for Wark, £4000 was for the toilets but they have gone. MVS are £5000, Battlesteads and David Healey has said they will give £200 and Jamie Thompson also committed funding. AH suggests Community Foundation application may be accessed for MVS. JW quite helpful to those in need – Ray Wind Farm. Letter to be drafted by AH and applied for. BM asking to shadow AH and develop knowledge of applying for grants.
- 7.8 Litter Bin outside of The Shop, Wark – complaint has been received that the bin is being used as dog waste bin. Owner so frustrated and has removed bin. JW advised that members of the public can put dog waste in any bin as long as its sealed waste and as long as the bin is not a recycle bin. Appears that there is little WPC can offer as a solution to this problem – EJ to speak with owner.
- 7.9 Jo Linton, Project and Community Development Manager at Age UK Northumberland – Activity Books – See Notes. LK to email Jo and get a number of packs, Stonehaugh, Community centre, Town hall

8. Correspondence

- 8.1 Planning Application Consultation 22NP0082 Bell Craggs, Wark Forest – Deadline 13 December 2022. For a phone mast. EJ no objections will assist with signal in the area. MOP seeking clarification on location which EJ responded to. AH propose,

EJ seconded.

- 8.2 Planning Application Consultation 22NP0087 East Whygate, Wark – Deadline 1 December 2022 – supported by PC, submitted 30 November. EJ propose, BM seconded.
- 8.3 Planning Application Consultation 22NP0084 14 Kern Green, Stonehaugh– Deadline 21 November 2022. MOP to check deadline as may be able to respond. Discussion about back road and congestion and state of road.
- 8.4 Planning Consultation 22/03308/FUL Grey Bull Inn Hexham Road Wark – Deadline 21 November 2022. Two windows on front and new door. New entrance to pub, separating entrance to flat/pub. Deadline has passed however noted that WPC councillors would have supported this.

9. Financial Matters

- 9.1 Accounts and Approve Payment Schedule – Circulated at meeting – see below.

Wark Parish Council - Payment Schedule as at 6 Dec 2022

Date of Cheque	Date Invoice/Receipt	Inv No./Ref	Payee Name	Description of Goods/Service	Amount (£)	Cheque No.	Approved
23/09/2022			N Reid	Payroll	85.5	1393	EJ/JW
23/09/2022			M Stoker	Payroll	83.7	1394	EJ/JW
23/09/2022			L Keeney	Payroll	386.1	1395	EJ/JW
06/10/2022		#5256022	WEL Medical Ltd	Service/Battery	192	1396	EJ/JW
17/10/2022		47835	Playdale Playgrounds Ltd	Play Equipment	1825.61	1397	EJ/JW
19/10/2022	17/10/2022	#5256802	WEL Medical Ltd	Battery	192	1398	EJ/JW
28/11/2022			The Monday Club	Grass Cutting July/Aug 22	566.66	1399	AH/JW
28/11/2022			The Monday Club	Grass Cutting Sept/Oct 22	566.66	1400	AH/JW
28/11/2022			M Stoker	Payroll	76	1401	AH/EJ
28/11/2022			N Reid	Payroll	76	1402	EJ/AH
28/11/2022			L Keeney	Payroll	343.2	1403	AH/EJ
06/12/2022	30/11/2022		T.Bell Horti-Services	Grass Cutting Stonehaugh Sept/Oct	420	1404	AH/JW
06/12/2022			Wark Town Hall	Room letting fee for meeting of 6 Sept 2022	30	1405	AH/JW

- 9.2 Bank Account – Balance as at 8 November 2022 £22, 770.34. Bank Account details to be updated and consider separate accounts for Wark/Stonehaugh. AH, EJ and LK to make an appointment to see accountant for update/review of accounts.

- 9.3 To Decide Parish Precept – Discussion on whether to delay decision making until next meeting or stay at the current figure. 2.5% is government figure, proposed by EJ to stay the same, BM agreed. AH highlighting that PC has money in the bank and mindful of cost of living crisis that everyone is facing. MVS – discussion on progress and that this needs to be progressing. EJ to check with NM and dependent upon his information LK to chase. EJ signed precept form in presence of others.
- 9.4 Donations – consider recipients from previous year and consider any new requests
- Monday Men - £200 for cutting betty's bank
- Church – LL to check with JK - £100, AH proposed.
- Toddlers - £50 – LL proposed, and JW seconded
- Town Hall - £50 EJ proposed and BM seconded
- M Murray - £50 – EJ proposed, and AH seconded
- Wark Senior Citizens Dinner - £50 – LL proposed, and BM seconded
- Wark Junior Football Club £50 – AH proposed, and EJ seconded
- Sport Tynedale - £50 – BM proposed, and EJ seconded
- Air Ambulance - £100 – EJ proposed, and BM seconded
- Wark School - £50 – BM proposed, and AH seconded.
- 9.5 Grants – AH successful in application to Evan's Trust - £3000.
- A reminder that community groups, charities and social enterprises in the parish are eligible to apply to the Council's Community Chest Scheme. This includes school PTAs and community sports clubs. The next deadline is Friday 13th January.
- Co-op is also accepting applications for grants – BM to explore and apply as appropriate.
- AH – to share with LK the bank accounts to separate Stonehaugh money. If they're historic they may be dormant (Signing officers still live and present). Would there be benefit to a new online account. AH – can PC do BACS. Letter with two signatures and send it off.
- 9.6 EDF Contract Renewal – EDF £21 monthly. Felt to be reasonable - EJ to renew.
10. Reports from Representatives to Other Bodies (Wark Town Hall, Stonehaugh Community Hall and Giles Heron Trust). WTH – Warm Hub and Powergen will supply a generator in

the event of a power cut, will be installed and fuel to run it. SCH – Powergen dialogue, revise claim, 35kilowatt, shower gone from the application. Generator will power heat to warm the building. Guy Opperman – MOP highlighted role of GP and suggests he is contacted. Helen Hinds, Community Resilience at NCC to liaise.

Giles Heron Trust – AH wrote to George Benson asking for donation. Applications are considered twice a year. AH and BM to get together. BM to be representative of community matters.

11. Highway Matters

11.1 Update on Wark Primary School Road Safety Scheme – see notes. LK to contact School Transport. Could we ask the surgery if they could get staff to park on The Battlesteads and leave spaces for patients - agenda at next meeting. Discussion about coaches parking and whether large layby at Latterford Road end could be used instead of spaces opposite The Battlesteads.

11.2 Proposed Works to C205 Middleburn Bridge – see notes for further details. Impact on any children attending school – to liaise with education/school transport. Forestry Commission any timber works and route that may be required. Businesses in the area – Birds of Prey. Clarks at Middleburn who have wagons. Highways to liaise directly with School Transport and Forestry Commission as well as any businesses that may be affected.

12. Other Business – Not for Decision. MOP raised the issue of speed of vehicles on Ward Lane and parking in passing places (day trippers). To be addressed by NCC – Nick to progress.

13. Items for Discussion at Future Meetings - Doctors parking. Signs to manage cyclists on the road. MOP offered to send email to Rupert and Lisa about appropriate signage/where.

14. Date for Next Meeting: 21st February 2023 at 7pm at Wark Town Hall

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Louise Kirkland

Clerk to Wark Parish Council