

# WARK PARISH COUNCIL

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**Chairman:** Mr Edward Jeffrey

**Contact:** [clerk.wark@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.wark@gmail.com)

Draft Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7pm, Stonehaugh Community Hall

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

**Present:** Edward Jeffrey, Chairman (EJ), Councillor Judith Weir (JW), Councillor Anne Hutchinson (AH), Councillor Steve Batey, County Councillor, Nick Morphet (NM), Louise Keeney, Clerk (LK), Colin Hall of Environment Agency with two colleagues, Nigel Fisher of Civil Contingencies Team, 5 members of the Public from Stonehaugh Village.

**Apologies:** Councillor Lisa Charlton.

2. Notification of Other Business – Sub Committee for Stonehaugh (AH raised),

3. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest - None

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 – Wark Parish Council Meeting – Content accurate, AH raised that apologies and those present are not noted – LK to update this.

5. Presentation by Colin Hall, Environment Agency and Nigel Fisher from the Civil Contingencies Team. Nigel's presentation covered the Northumberland Community Resilience Programme. Nigel advised that his role is also to assist parish councils with its Emergency Plan.

Colin informed those present of risk areas and actions that have been taken to reduce risk to properties. With climate change predicting more and more heavy downpours. Would like to work with community to improve the plan, prevent future damage and harm, build resilience re the impact of flooding. JW and EJ are flood wardens in Wark. North Tyne River and Dene Burn pose areas of risk as does hill/field run off. Need additional flood wardens. Aim is to have a fully bomb proof contingency plan with a network of volunteers who are able to action the flood plans and be better prepared in the event of increased flood risk. Suggestion that Colin attends coffee morning on a Friday in Wark, Colin to forward information to clerk to get circulated on social and in noticeboards with the aim of attracting additional volunteers to the role of flood wardens. Want effective communication and early warning systems. Presentation from 7pm to 7.30pm.

Nigel Fisher, NCC Emergency Planning, Four members in the team, first point of contact in any emergency. Seeking to develop Community Resilience Hubs, there is a template which NM has and parish to adapt to our area. Looking at how we address power and communication issues which are caused as a result of storms. Radios are likely to be available in the future - Northern PowerGrid are looking at providing funding. Satellite phones are expensive to maintain, and Northumberland has blackspots, so preference is radios. Would like PC to think about what would like to do in our parish plan. Government Initiative, national alerts will be received by every mobile in the event of an emergency in your area – to go live in November 2022. NM has templates, like Parish to sit down and discuss what is needed, people, resources, facilities – emphasis on linking communities together, emergency services will be linked to plans. Nigel can assist with identifying funding that might assist with responses in the event of an emergency. Trying to reduce the risk of individuals being isolated and at increased risk of harm, recognised that following Storm Arwen no contact from emergency services for many days. MOP identified that during Storm Arwen generator was the biggest issue for Stonehaugh (Eventually resolved however timescales for contact and action was lengthy). EJ identified that Stonehaugh would benefit, which was affirmed by MOP. 29 September 2022- meeting at Newbiggin. Looking at another one in the West, offered the Town Hall. SB and MOP questioning whether backup generator to substation could be looked at, advised that with back up generator hall could be used (Kitchen, warmth etc.) Could tie in with Town Hall and Parish Council Committees. Nick is the contact. Presentation from 7.30pm to 7.50pm.

6. Presentation by Nick Morphet on Pump Track. NM explained how the track is accessible to all age range, pump your body and make your way around the track, used by bikes, skateboards, scooters. £155,000 to build – funding available with shortfall of £50,000 (NCC confident can source) – free facility, 100 riders in the summer at Chopwell site. Social Benefits. Thought of as relatively safe, ROSPA study referenced as evidence of safety record. Bike park great resource for young people to learn to take risks whilst developing skills. NM of the view we need a pump track in Tynedale, positive impact on mental and physical health, support other infrastructure (cycling), Hexham, Humshaugh, Stonehaugh (on cycle route 68 and plans for growing cycle infrastructure in Stonehaugh). We need suitable location and a group of people who are keen to push it forward. MOP asked about insurance – Chopwell covered through general park insurance. Minimal maintenance in ten years according to Chopwell. Recognised as a valuable resource for the area however, Stonehaugh appears reluctant to progress, not seeing the value in the longer term. NM is presenting in other areas in Tynedale. Presentation ended 8.15pm.
7. Report from County Councillor, Nick Morphet.
- Benches – Picnic site in Stonehaugh, fixing needs confirmed – SB supporting this.
- Street Light Consultation – Complaint in March, Requested County Council undertake consultation. LA are looking at ways to save money. NM thinks best way to save money and reduce carbon emissions is to switch them off over night and save enough money to buy motion sensors. Await consultation outcome.
- EV Charger, SCH – yes could be installed independently – NM has details to pass on.
- Allotments at Wark – state of fence, visit completed, doesn't think land subsistence is the issue, fence repair is landowners' responsibility – NM to speak with NR on PC behalf.
- Off Grid connections – NP are identifying every property in Northumberland off grid and calculating cost of getting them on grid – NM will continue to provide updates. £400 energy rebate will be available. NM will forward details to clerk. NCC inviting communities to provide Warm spaces and places provides warmth, electricity – AH asked if the Stonehaugh community hall is registered as a hub – NM has URL's with more information.
- Northern PowerGrid energy resilience grant - £1000 to £20,000 – NM provided update. Scheme not yet rolled out, apply through Nigel Fisher.
8. Matters Arising
- 8.1 Stonehaugh Play Area – Provision/Order of new play equipment. Springer needs replacing – cost of alternative £5000, Bowl and Swing. Play bark is needed. AH proposes both are purchased, money is in reserves for Stonehaugh – JW proposed, and SB seconded.
- 8.2 Order MVS for Wark. Speed signs, NM and EJ walked the line, Landowner – need to clear this with landowner (Nick Ridley). Two could be purchased now but third to wait until development completed north of the village. NM suggested that post on Westacres could be used. PC to send letter to landowner to seek permission to erect post on east side of road as enter village. Was sited on plan where posts to be erected. LK to draft letter.. Once permission given NM will email NCC. Need to raise funds for third sign – suggestions for open mic night – SB to action.
- 8.3 Clearance of Storm Damage – Trees at Stonehaugh near Scott's yard. EJ spoken with Mr Murray who has undertaken some remedial work. SB has spoken with Matt Fathers – survey to be completed – is in hand.
- 8.4 Sale of Land to Northern PowerGrid – Sign Legal documents for Stonehaugh Substation – AH advised PC receiving £1600 for sale of land. SB and AH signed documentation, witnessed by JW.
- 8.5 Chase Solicitor to complete matter which relates to the public toilet in Wark. AH has chased again today with solicitors (Susan Goodfellow), been an issue since November 2019. Written to Dave Healy and citing that they are waiting for papers from his solicitors.
9. Correspondence and Planning Applications
- 9.1 Proposed new EE 4G mast on forestry land, Wark Forest, Nr Hexham – Bell Crag, Fire

Tower – No objections

- 9.2 Planning Application Consultation 22NP0051 Cairnglastenhope, Wark Forest – email 16<sup>th</sup> Aug – deadline 6 Sept – No objections.
- 9.3 Planning Consultation 22/00971/FUL Hexham House Cottage Hexham Road Wark – Decision: Refused. LK read out reasons for this. AH proposes that if applicants appeal, Parish Council to undertake site visit.
- 9.4 Planning Consultation 22/02721/FUL Wark Methodist United Reformed Church Hexham Road Wark – Site Visit completed by two councillors; application was supported by WPC.
- 9.5 Planning 21/00691/FUL Barns West Of Sadbury Hill Wark – Withdrawn by applicant.
- 9.6 22/01893/SN Street naming Consultation – comments to be submitted 21 September 2022. No objections.
- 9.7 Request for funding/donation received – Sport Tynedale – Leave until December 2022.
10. Highway Matters
- 10.1 C205, 2017 ward lane resurfacing work and U5057 Coldcotes to Grindon. / Grindon to Scotch Coulthard (Henshaw parish) – SB wanted on agenda, stopped at Ladyhill. NM has asked if there is work still outstanding however remains unclear, work is not scheduled. If work is to be done, to be requested in Local Transport Plan. AH feels it is a new application. Scotch Coulthard Road has been improved - culverts in place, bridged the ford. Now passable to vehicles. Direct route through to The Sill from Stonehaugh. NM has joined Northumberland Local Access forum – applies on behalf of others to get old routes definitive map modification order to get route recorded and protected for future generations. To be completed Byway Open To All Traffic (BOAT), highest we can get is Restricted Byway – NM to update further when clear, need discussion to prevent it becoming a no access to motor vehicles.
- 10.2 Request for signage to the American Gardens, Wark – complaints received that parcels are not delivered as delivery cannot locate American Gardens via sat nav, Request to NM for signage highlighting location of properties.
- 10.3 The Chipchase Castle nursery does not exist anymore – Can the signage in Wark be updated to reflect this? JW confirms this has been blocked out with black tape. Permanent removal will have an impact on other signage located there.
- 10.4 Update on Interactive signage, speed restrictions, EV charging points. EV Charging points – NCC making no progress yet, PC said no to War Memorial site and NM has advised NCC of this.
11. Financial Matters
- 11.1 Accounts and Approve Payment Schedule – Final Balance as at 28 July 2022 as detailed on Bank Statement: £18,931.77. Payment Schedule as detailed below: AH proposes to accept, SB seconded.
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|--------------------------------------|--|---------|
| Stonehaugh Community Hall            | AED Electricity Reimbursement and Letting fee          | £65     |
| Playdale Playgrounds Ltd             | Outstanding balance on account                         | £8.41   |
| Wark Mechanics Institute & Town Hall | Letting Fee for 23 June 2022                           | £30     |
| Stonehaugh Community Hall            | Gas for lighting of Beacon (Queens Jubilee)            | £44     |
| N.Reid                               | Payroll to 31 July 2022                                | £76     |
| M. Stoker                            | Payroll to 31 July 2022                                | £76.2   |
| L Keeney                             | Payroll to 31 July 2022                                | £343.2  |
| TyneRede Accountancy Ltd             | Independent Examination for period ended 31 March 2022 | £192    |
| Thomas Armstrong                     | Repairs to Seat  | £30     |
| Edward Jeffrey                       | Reimbursement for purchase of Toilet Rolls             | £47.99  |
| The Monday Club                      | Grass Cutting in Wark                                  | £566.66 |
| T Bell Horti-Services                | Grass Cutting at Stonehaugh                            | £560    |
| Louise Keeney, Clerk                 | Expenses April to September 2022                       | £178.7  |
- 11.2 Option to opt out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements – decision

to be minuted. AH approves and SB seconded.

11.3 Apply to Giles Heron and Evans Trust – AH to apply this year on behalf of PC.

12. Reports from Representatives to Other Bodies (Wark Town Hall, Stonehaugh Community Hall and Giles Heron Trust)  
WTH – Warm Hub, Committee meets regularly, Coffee Morning in Aid of Macmillan (23<sup>rd</sup> Sept).  
SCH – Meant to be a representative of PC on committee for Stonehaugh Community Hall. AH to continue.  
GHT – Meets again in November, meets twice a year. Will update following the meeting.
13. Appointment of Councillor – To be advertised as per procedure and elections officer notified.
14. Other Business – Not for Decision. AH advised that cyclists are becoming a nuisance riding two abreast. Rule 66 read out by AH. AH asking if we should make a polite notice reminding cyclists of Rule 66 – Ward Lane (SB) All users should be aware of Highway Code.  
MOP complimentary of role of PC in the village, acknowledging the positive impact of councillors volunteering.  
MOP raising issue that individuals are throwing stones and sticks for dogs which is damaging the equipment used to cut grass. Dog mess also an issue – discussion about installing signage, Dog Warden van visit suggested (JW).
15. Items for Discussion at Future Meetings –MOP advised that AED was not collected for recall for update on software as was informed (5 September 2022). MOP to contact Well Medical to reschedule. Communication noted as poor from company.  
Greens Committee used to have responsibility for amenity, Sub Committee for raising funds for amenity land – to be on agenda at next meeting.
16. Date of Next Meeting: 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 7pm. December meeting will consider donations and Parish Precept – Wark Town Hall.

Meeting Closed at 9.30pm.

Louise Keeney  
Clerk to Wark Parish Council

