

WARK PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr Edward Jeffrey Contact: clerk.wark@gmail.com

Draft Minutes of Meeting held, Thursday 23rd June 2022 at 7pm in Wark Town Hall.

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence
2. Notification of Other Business
 - 2.1 Asset Register
 - 2.2 Toilet
 - 2.3 Clerks Expenses – none submitted.
 - 2.3 Dene Burn, Whygate sign is incorrectly spelt.
3. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest - None
4. Approval of Minutes
 - 4.1 10th May 2022 – Annual Parish Meeting and Wark Parish Meeting – Approved, Propose AH, Seconded JW
 - 4.2 19th May 2022 – Stonehaugh Ward Parish Meeting – Approved, Propose AH, Seconded JW
5. Report from County Councillor
 - 5.1 Issue at school – traffic on Hexham Road is fairly slow moving, Head Teacher (HT) felt that if 20mph was imposed this should be permanent rather than temporary. HT cites one child currently crosses the Hexham Road. Parking was felt to be more an issue for the GP surgery not the school, Discussed the surgery using the parking available opposite The Battlesteads. Neil Snowdon wants PC to choose from the two options – Neil to speak to HT Flashing lights are not enforceable. EJ and LK to meet with HT.

Pump Track at Stonehaugh – emailed Albert at Community Hall – was a question

about insurance, EJ queried would this be covered under parish council insurance. AH said it would probably be covered if PC added to assets. Maintenance costs are minimal for first ten years. Installation would be funded by grants. Nick to set date for presentation at Stonehaugh – to be sent to LK.

EV chargers – Stonehaugh asked if own charger can be installed – NM said this is an option. NM to send information on to Stonehaugh. Warks EV charger will be installed to side of War Memorial – PC object to this. Needs to be made clear to Richard McKenzie that War Memorial site is not viable, EJ feels defacing War Memorial. Opposite The Battlesteads was an option as was old petrol station however, EJ advised that this is now private land. NM to send contact details for opposing the option – Nick Johnstone.

Storm Arwen Review – all companies have been interviewed, report pending, Open reach did not agree to an interview, telecommunication issue has therefore not been fully understood, NCC have created a blank emergency proforma in the event of future events. NM has met with Nigel Fisher possibly making town hall community response hub (JW advised that Wark Town Hall is already registered) Stonehaugh to consider Community Response Hub is voluntary, Emergency Community resilience programme. Vulnerable Data – Adult Social Care will not share this.

Stonehaugh Picnic Bench – NM has permission granted for this. EJ queried if NM will install; NM in process of obtaining quotes for this. Soft/Hard ground.

Street Light consultation – pending. NM of view that this should go ahead. Consultation will consider whether improvements for example motion sensor would be beneficial.

Alex McClenaghan – Coldcotes road progressing. Edges Green, C205 – Wark to Stonehaugh, NM provided update – was listed for surface dressing, NM has asked if work is finished, some uncertainty as to when work was listed for completion. NM will provide update.

MOP, allotments out of Wark on Stonehaugh Road – road subsistence into allotment, traffic turning and wall is deteriorating/crumbling into allotment. NM agreed to inspect following the meeting.

County Council Climate Tool Kit – LK to check email. To circulate when received from NM.

Neighbourhood Plans – planning documents that PC's can use if they don't think NCC plan covers their parish. Humshaugh have just started on their plan, Wark Parish could undertake their own plan as could Stonehaugh. Every parish to have their own plan eventually. Locality is a grants body to cover cost of neighbourhood plan.

Colin Hall, Environment Agency – keen to visit, agreed to be invited, NM to action. Flood plans and Flood Wardens - EJ and JW are wardens for Wark who will assist in ensuring flood plan is up to date.

Governance Review of NCC – 3 civil servants independently undertook review. NCC described as dysfunctional, corruption and poor relations between officers and their councillors. Group leaders - establish task and finish group to implement actions within the report (NM one of the group leaders). Governance review document is a public document – NM to send to LK and to be circulated.

6. Matters Arising

- 6.1 Inspection Report – ROSPA Inspection Report for Stonehaugh Play Area – review/discuss. Thanks to Brenda and Michael Murray for maintenance/tidying of play area and Nick Tasker also assisting.
- 6.2 Reflection on the Queen's Jubilee events, to include expenses for celebratory toast and “thank yous” to The Shop and The Battlesteads for their kind donations. Letters have been sent to both The Shop and The Battlesteads in thanks of their donations. Neil Nixon also to receive a thank you letter. Well attended/represented. Beacon at Wark is anchored, EJ querying whether plaque can be erected with details – Agreed.
- 6.3 Stonehaugh Play Area – fence paint requested, Rocking Horse needs replacing, AH has obtained replacement costs – new one to be ordered from Playdale, Brenda suggested a spinner might be preferable – to be costed. £1500 coming to Stonehaugh from sale of land to Northern PowerGrid – this money is ring fenced to Stonehaugh. Play area could accommodate spinner however fitting would need to be completed by village – Brenda confident that village can fit.
- 6.4 Clearance of Storm Damage – Stonehaugh near Scott's yard. EJ to speak with Michael Murray and see if he will assist in clearing. Inspection of the woodland to be undertaken by Matt Fathers – LK to chase this up. Battlesteads and Oak tree to be included. Discussion on age of Oak Tree - 1867 planted.
- 6.5 Sale of Land to Northern PowerGrid – update. Chased up by AH, In hand of solicitor.
- 6.6 Stonehaugh, Repairs to Road into Picnic Site – FC believed to have this in hand, to chase up/review. Not yet completed. Alex McClennagn – AH to chase
- 6.7 Stonehaugh, Additional Picnic Tables – these have been requested, AH to update on

progress. Alex says they are struggling to obtain picnic tables. EJ querying whether recycled picnic tables may be an option (NBB). EJ has info to share with LK and to look up online.

- 6.8 Stonehaugh Allotments – brought forward from meeting of 19th May 2022 - fencing needed replacing, SB was to undertake assessment - update. Standpipe, residents would value one on Allotment site. PC agreed to explore viability of a standpipe on site – SB to update on any action. Invoice for allotment rental fee has been raised and sent to SAS. SB not present, update at next meeting. AH advised SAS will pay direct into bank – LK to check bank account for deposit.
- 6.9 Insurance Renewal for Wark Parish Council – 1 or 3 year policy renewal. All agreed 3 year.

7. Correspondence

- 7.1 Planning Consultation – Detached Garage, The Haven, Church Lane, Wark. No objections raised.
- 7.2 Holiday Home Development, Stonehaugh – review –Holiday Home development was raised at Stonehaugh Ward meeting held 19th May 2022 – potentially 16 chalets directly behind the Community Hall. Chair requested from MOP his email correspondence with the National Park Authority planning team from earlier in the year was forwarded, email correspondence received from MOP, circulated to councillors to review on 7 June 2022. Clerk confirmed that no email from December 2020 can be located in inbox notify parish council. No further action for PC.

8. Financial Matters

- 8.1 Accounts and Approve Payment Schedule – payments schedule read out (Payment schedule attached to signed minutes).
- 8.2 Approve and accept Governance Statement. AH read out statements – all agreed. Approve and accept AGAR – today's date, signed off. Variances to be worked out from previous year to this. AH read out figures of variances. Internal Audit – completed by Tyne Rede Accountant, Chris Ghillie. No actions. Exemption Form to be forwarded by 29 June 2022.

The Final Accounts for 2021/2022

The council considered the Internal Auditors report (a copy is attached to the signed minutes) and agreed the governance statement (A copy is attached to the signed minutes)

The final accounts for 2021/2022 were agreed and noted. The council resolved to agree the Accounting Statement and Explanation of Variances for 2021 (Copies attached to the signed minutes)

8.6 Risk Assessment – needs updating – LK to locate.

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

9.1 LED lights installed in Wark Town Hall, Loop system installed.

9.2 Stonehaugh Community Hall – flooring is a concern requiring repair.

9.3 Giles Heron Trust– nothing to report.

10. Highway Matters

10.1 Local Transport Plan Capital Programme 2023-2024 – Top Three Highways and Transport Priority issues for Parish – deadline 29th July 2022. Agreed will submit Storey Terrace, Wark – footpath, Hexham Road - layby, Traffic calming by school.

10.2 Update on Interactive signage, speed restrictions, EV charging points (Wark and Stonehaugh). Interactive Signage, AH asked if NM could ask NCC to assess whether actual sign type is acceptable/correct. AH to send NM the information and NM will check if it is suitable and what the timeline for installation of poles is? Public Liability insurance ? it is covered, will go down as a new asset.

Speed watch contact is Anthony Kirkbride.

11. Councillor Resignation – Robert Batey resignation has been received by EJ, Notice to be displayed for 10 days inviting applications. Notice to be displayed at Wark and Stonehaugh.

12. Other Business – Not for Decision. Bank details to be changed to reflect new clerk's details. Lloyds Bank.

13. Items for Discussion at Future Meetings. None

14. Date of Next Meeting: 6th September 2022 at 7pm at Stonehaugh Community Hall.

Meeting Closed: 9.15pm

Louise Keeney

Clerk to Wark Parish Council