

## DUDDO PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held on 24 July 2023 at Duddo House, Duddo at 7.00pm.

**Present:** Parish Councillors Anthony Carroll, Stuart Breckons, Stephen Cockcroft, John Kelly and Clare Dakin (Chairman)

### **1: Opening of Meeting**

The Chair opened the meeting at 7-08pm.

### **2: Apologies**

No Councillors were absent.

### **3: Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest.

4: The formal co-option and welcome of John Kelly as a new councillor took place. We now have a full complement of Councillors.

5: Minutes of the meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> May were formally approved and the Chair authorised to sign copies as ratified.

6: The delayed internal audit of our AGAR was received and approved by Cllrs. Cllrs discussed the matters arising from the internal audit report and formalities overlooked by the temporary clerk were noted. All corrective action is being taken at this meeting. It was noted that we need to do all we can to find a professional permanent clerk although now a full cycle has been achieved with full finance available all templates for future governance are in place.

7: Cllrs approved the payment of Claire Miller's invoice in the sum of £50 for internal audit services which was considered very reasonable.

8: **Risk Assessment:** The Chair had prepared a new risk assessment which Cllrs had had the opportunity to look through ahead of the meeting and this was approved as drafted and authorised for publication on the website.

9: **The Asset Register** was updated to include a document storage box which has been discovered as having been purchased in December 2012.

### **10: Further Matters arising from the minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> May meeting**

10.1: The search for a paid permanent Clerk continues, the post is advertised on the parish website and in the most recent NALC news. Any Cllrs with any potential candidates in mind are asked to encourage applications.

10.2: Cllr Dakin reported that the new sign had gone up at the Grindon Rigg/Tiptoe crossroads at long last. Cllrs all reported satisfaction that a number of potholes reported since the last meeting has been attended to. However a few more have been identified and Cllrs will continue to report as and when spotted. The Back road from Grindon to Tillmouth is noted as being particularly bad.

10.3 Cllr Breckons reported on his visit to the recycling centre at West Sleekburn. He had been disappointed with the standard of the presentation made to him and 9 other participants but had found the trip around the plant fascinating and eye opening. He was

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initialled by Chair

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amazed by the number of people employed to sort through the recycling running through the plant on conveyor belts. His take away lesson was that the only type of plastic NCC will recycle is plastic bottles, nothing else. He feels that this is a message not well communicated to residents, Cllrs agreed. Cllr Breckons was thanked for his attendance and report.

Cllrs asked whether there had been an update on the badger hole issue – not so far, Lord Joicey to be consulted.

**11: Any other business** – Cllrs noted that this meeting was an extraordinary one convened to address the delay in getting the internal audit done.

Various matters are to be discussed at the next meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> September.

Cllrs were asked to give some thought to the issues for discussion for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan ahead of the next meeting – Chair to circulate the note prepared by Sarah Brannigan the NCC support officer.

Cllrs discussed the Local Transport Plan Capital Programme consultation and agreed that for our parish the priorities should be keeping open the bus routes serving the parish with an agreement with the provider that passengers should be able to hail the bus if waiting along the route. Cllr Cockcroft reminded the PC that Border Buses have removed the Felkington stop from their timetable. It would be helpful to be able to establish with Border buses whether or not the bus would stop there for passengers.

Pingo operating a bus service from Scotland but crossing the border with a request service for rural passengers has been seen as a great success and Cllrs feel that a similar scheme could be useful in our parish.

The Cycle routes should be encouraged and a request that sustrans route 58 be reinstated.

Public EV charging points in the parish could be of use. At present the only public car park in the parish is by Twizel Bridge. This could be investigated as a location when the next round of funding is announced.

All above points to be made in response to the consultation.

Cllr Carroll mentioned some difficulties and frustrations he has experienced in relation to his planning application for holiday accommodation. Cllr Cockcroft reported that he understands that there is no longer a legal officer at County Hall and that all legal services were being put out to tender – Cllrs expressed concern at this, it seems an inefficient and patchy approach to delivering a proper overview of the County council functions. Perhaps Colin Hardy could be informed of our concerns.

### **13: Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.00 pm

Confirmed as a true record

and signed by the Chairman..... Date.....