

WARK PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr Edward Jeffrey

Contact: clerk.wark@gmail.com

Annual Parish Meeting for Stonehaugh Ward held 14 October 2024 at 7pm at Stonehaugh Activity Centre

APPROVED MINUTES

- 1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence: Present:** Councillor Edward Jeffrey, Chairman (EJ), Councillor Jason Riches (JR), Councillor Lisa Lorraine (LL), Councillor Brenda Murray (BM), Councillor Steve Batey, County Councillor Nick Morphet (NM), MOP x7 and Clerk.

Apologies: Councillor Ann Hutchinson (AH), Councillor Judith Weir (JW).

- 2. Appointment of Chair for the meeting:** Councillor Brenda Murray nominated and agreed.
- 3. County Councillor Nick Morphet:** Nick shared with those present the content of his report which is circulated with these minutes.
- 4. Overview of Warksburn Landscape Recovery Project**

Richard Wilson, Land Use Advisor at Forestry Commission spoke to those present about the project, reasons for it, his role and engagement thus far with those in the community including landowners/farmers.
- 5. Chairman's Report on activities of the Parish –** EJ read out his report.
- 6. Grass Cutting –** discussion with those present regarding the grass cutting in Stonehaugh. EJ confirmed that the PC are aware that the standard is not to expectations however understand this is due to contractors' ill health. Acknowledged that grass cutting in front of Kern Green is being cut by residents. Last cut in the village by contractor was 22 June 2024. Kern Green on both sides is resident owned however AH obtained written agreement that PC would maintain in front of Kern Green to keep the village uniform. Location is acknowledged as an issue impacting on tendering. Possible solutions discussed – EJ to approach local resident who may be interested.
- 7. Parking –** behind the play area side (Congested), A resident of the chalets could not access the pavement as cars were parked on land, not permitted to park on pavements (including motorbikes)– MOP asked can we utilise the spaces at the end of the village – yes. MOP asked about police, NM advised police are unlikely to do anything about it unless it has been abandoned. JR affirmed 1.2m is minimum. Could we do a polite letter and circulate, BM to speak with motorbikes. Raised that large vehicle is corner cutting into BullRing which is making it unsightly. BM to raise with residents then if no improvement PC will write a letter.
- 8. Questions from Members of the Public.**
 - 8.1** MOP querying if Defib at Stonehaugh needs registered, MOP said St John's Ambulance course said it wasn't registered. EJ and LR confirmed it is registered (EJ and LR are

guardians of this). EJ affirmed that if you ring Ambulance Service they will direct you. LR will raise with Circuit and advise that it is not showing on Apps.

- 8.2 MOP asked if planning permission has been given for electric substation. EJ/SB surprised that Northern Powergrid have not started yet.
- 8.3 Rats are a problem(BM) - Hens are causing issue, close to property, JR advised that responsibility comes down to individual households, Noted too by a MOP that there are less cats about.
- 8.4 Hall is temporarily closed at the moment due to insurance – small bit of paperwork outstanding. Normal service to resume in next couple of weeks.
- 8.5 MOP asking why road is 60mph – is it worth parish council installing signs. NM advised that this has been looked into and highways do not share the view that it needs a reduced speed limit, they completed traffic speed survey to inform their decision which gave an average. Options discussed including petition, LTP, Community Speedwatch, Signage – MOP to raise at next consultation meeting and NM will continue to push issue.
- 8.6 Dog Poo bins at picnic area – clarified this is a forestry commission issue.
9. **Any other issues:**
 - 9.1 Payment Schedule circulated, and bank account balance noted.
 - 9.2 Karen's Wood – Felling licence – update provided.
 - 9.3 Birtley Woodland – Determined as not of high-quality yielding land. JR has map, actual wood is in the red, no decent land there. Lucy Phillips replied to JR enquiry, rough grazing, not good arable land. Above The Creel, follows the railway line, 83 Hectares. EJ contacting Birtley Parish Council. MOP asked if there is a grey squirrel management plan for that woodland – Richard Wilson affirmed plan will not permit more than 10% seeding mix.
 - 9.4 MOP asked if any update on land owned by Mr D. Hall as you exit the village – no information.
 - 9.5 Community Resilience Meeting in Bellingham – MOP (WB) will attend.
 - 9.6 BM advised that generator needs started to ensure it is in working order for winter conditions.
 - 9.7 Gofton Planning application – no objections.
- 10: **Meeting Closed and Date for next meeting agreed:** Monday 9th December 2024. Wark.

Clerk to Wark Parish Council