

Stamfordham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 18 November 2015 in Stamfordham Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present : Councillor Fitzpatrick, Vice Chairman
Councillors: Boylan, Green and Wilson

In Attendance: I. Humphries - Clerk
Cllr V. Jones - Northumberland County Council
Nicola Balfour - Friends of Stamfordham Play Park

38. Apology for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Trevelyan.

39. Minutes of Meeting held on 16 and 30 September 2015

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16 and 30 September 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Vice Chairman.

40. Friends of Stamfordham Play Park

Nicola Balfour was present to update members on progress made with regard to the plans for the refurbishment of the Play Park. She advised members that the preferred contractor was Kompan who had also been involved in the play areas at Corbridge and Bellingham. The total cost of the works amounted to £60,000.

Members were shown a plan of the Park and illustrations of the play items proposed to be incorporated, including a meandering path linking the various items.

A fundraising event had been held the previous Saturday with around 80 adults attending.

There was an opportunity to obtain grant aid from Tesco / Groundworks which required both confirmation of the land owner and the owners agreement to the works. Evidence of public liability insurance was also required.

Members supported the grant aid bid, however it was made clear that the

Parish Council was only leasing the land from Northumberland County Council. Councillor Jones agreed to seek support from the land owner (NCC) while it was agreed that the bid would be submitted stating the support of the leaseholder, responsible for management and up-keep of the Play Park (Parish Council)

Resolved: that the Parish Council supports the grant aid bid submitted by Friends of the Play Park to Tesco / Groundworks as outlined above.

41. Planning Matters

Members noted the following planning approval –

15/02705/FUL: Replacement of pitched roof and creation of loft conversion, The Beeches Hawkwell

Members commented on the current application in respect of the Bay Horse, noting revised plans had been submitted following objections on highway grounds.

42. Expenditure Matters

- **Budget 2016/17**

Members considered the tabled budget predictions for the next financial year and agreed that the precept remain at the same level.

Resolved: that the Precept for 2016/17b be set at £5,500

- **Payment authorisation**

Members approved the following payments -

Stam Comm	£86.13
Hall hire	£20
Clerk salary	£480
HMRC	£120

- **External Audit of Accounts**

Members received the report of the external Auditor, BDO and noted that everything was in order.

- **Additional grass cutting**

Members agreed to NCC's offer of additional grass cutting between October and March at a cost of £732.55

43. County Councillor's Report

Councillor Jones reported on the following –

- Cheeseburn Grange road had been included in next year's highways works for re-surfacing although the exact detail of where was unknown.
- Grass verges – NCC had acknowledged that it was not possible to undertake all verge work "in house" and would contract some of the work out in the new financial year.
- Drainage gullies may require some work
- Relocation of County Hall would be discussed at the next meeting of the County Council.
- Ponteland School – while a new school was required, Councillor Jones was not in favour of the proposed new site at Dobbies Roundabout.
- Library – the existing library in Ponteland was for sale with the library likely to be re-located to the Leisure Centre.

44. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received –

- CPRE Newsletter
- CAN / NALC Newsletter

45. Bus Service

Members noted the contribution of a resident in the recent edition of Stamfordham Communicator regarding the poor provision of bus services in the village

46. Village Seats

Members agreed that the seats were in need of refurbishment or replaced and suggested that the clerk enquire of Matfen Parish Council regarding who had undertaken work to their seats.

47. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 20 January 2016 at 7.30pm

Chairman.....

Date.....