

DUDDO PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held on 15 May 2023 at Duddo House, Duddo at 7.05pm.

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

1: Election of Chairman

Clare Dakin was elected Chair and returned her Declaration of Acceptance.

2: Election of Vice-Chairman

Stephen Cockcroft was elected Vice-Chair and returned his Declaration of Acceptance.

3: Apologies

No councillors were absent.

4: Update on the activities of the council over the last year.

Cllr Dakin reported that since last year the new bank account with Natwest bank is up and running and now has a healthy balance following retrieval of funds held by Barclays and the payment of the precept. Mr Cozens withdrew from the Clerk appointment and the Council continues to look for a new permanent Clerk. Cllrs have been involved in examining planning applications at Tiptoe and Felkington Farms, they have reported potholes requiring attention and engaged in the consultation on schools in the Berwick Partnership opting to support the switch to two tier education to support our local school at Norham. In the latter part of the year John Kelly from Duddo has kindly agreed to join the Council.

5: Appointment of Acting Clerk for this meeting

The Council agreed to appoint Cllr Clare Dakin as acting clerk for this meeting.

6: Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cockcroft declared an interest in item 9.1 on the Agenda.

7: Minutes of meetings held on 20th February and 28th March were formally approved and the Chair authorised to sign copies as ratified.

8: Matters Arising : The outcome of the schools consultation is that the two tier system will be implemented. Berwick Middle School will close, it is thought by summer 2025, and Ford and Norham Schools will become Primary Schools.

John Kelly, prospective Cllr was not able to attend this meeting to be formally co-opted due to being away on holiday and it is hoped that he will be available for the next meeting.

The search for a paid permanent Clerk continues, post to be re-advertised through NALC.

9: Planning Matters:

9.1 : Report following Extraordinary Meeting held on 28th March 2023 to consider 23/00724/FUL Land East Of Felkington:

Cllr Cockcroft confirmed that the application is in suspension pending further reports and information being submitted to NCC including a speed survey being prepared by a traffic consultant who is to make recommendations for access to the site. Lighting is being reviewed and he will speak to neighbours who have expressed concerns about their visual

amenity. The council will have an opportunity to examine the application when it is revived with more details submitted by the applicants.

9.2: Cllr Dakin encouraged Cllrs to consider issues for submission into the proposed Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Dakin has attended the joint PCs meetings and we are to look at matters we consider important. It was suggested that a community consultation be considered. CD to circulate the paper sent through by the NCC support officer Sarah Brannigan for Cllrs to consider.

9.3: Cllr Dakin proposed that in accordance with section 61G of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 Duddo Parish Council recognises that Ord Parish Council is the relevant body for the purpose of designating the Norham & Islandshire Neighbourhood Area this proposal was seconded and agreed.

10: Finance

10.1: Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2022/23 – Cllrs resolved to approve the draft accounts and AGAR return prepared by Cllr Dakin and duly circulated ahead of the meeting. Accounts and the draft AGAR could be published on the website but Cllr Dakin explained that her understanding is that this must now be internally audited and that unfortunately a further meeting will be required following that audit to finally approve the submission of the AGAR. This is an example of the urgent need to engage a professional Clerk fully trained in these matters.

10.2: NALC invoice – Cllrs approved the annual NALC invoice for payment.

11: Correspondence – Cllrs considered contact on the subjects of ev charging points, dog bylaws, woodland management consultancy for Tiptoe Farm (no comments) and a badger sett entrance which has appeared on the road from the Grindon Rigg crossroads towards Etal (Lord Joicey is pursuing the rectification of this with the relevant authorities), also the proposed electoral boundary changes (which Cllrs agreed did not affect this parish)

12: Any other business – Cllrs reviewed the parish asset register and confirmed that there were no changes to record since last year.

It was suggested that a GDPR compliant form be circulated around the parish to request residents emails with a view to creating a Parish Newsletter - CD volunteered to action

There are bad potholes to report at the Grindon Rigg Crossroads and in front of Mattilees Cottage – all Cllrs to action

13: Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 18th September 2023 at 7.00 pm it being recognised that a short interim meeting will be required to deal with finance issues mentioned above

Confirmed as a true record

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