

Falstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2022

Present – S Cowan (chair), J Richardson, A Mansfield and N Welton

No. Activity

1 No Apologies for Absence

M Halliday and S Jopling sent apologies.

2 No Public Participation

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Previously circulated, were agreed and signed as a true record.

4 Matters Arising

EV Charging Points

Awaiting response from K Hopper of NCC, who is expecting funding to be released, but not sure the implications for Falstone.

Improving Local Bus Service – Survey

No update available

5 Planning Applications - none

6 Village Website – nothing to report

7 Correspondence - None

8 Financial- Accounts FY 21/21

Bank balance at 18 May 2022 was £16285.54, which includes final repayment of loan from Falstone Tea room.

Invoices received and approved –

Grasscutting 1st Invoice for April, £310.00.

S Riley – internal audit, £25.00

E-OnNext Electricity, balance due for standing charge, £20.48.

Insurance renewal to Gallagher, £405.99.

Discussion took place on the level of cover, which seemed excessive in some areas. Josephine to check with the broker.

Accounts and Annual Governance Audit Report had been previously circulated. The following were agreed and approved accordingly, certificate of exemption, annual governance statement and the accounting statement.

9 Village Hall Update

A report from the last meeting, new members for the committee have come forward. They are progressing with sorting the bank changes with Lloyds. Bookings continuing to be taken and fund raising has started. They have a £2k invoice for insurance to pay but have requested funding from the parish council. Mainly to cover fencing and LED lighting.

After discussion it was agreed an emergency loan for the fencing be given, but funds for the LED lighting request will be considered later. The hall committee will be asked to produce a business plan, giving their priorities against outgoings and income, to give the parish council Confidence the village hall will continue to thrive.

Business Rates- It was agreed to investigate further following suggestions that local businesses donate to the parish council for projects, as their business rates do not contribute directly to the parish.

10 Village support during future powercuts

Rural Design Agency of Stannington, who support rural communities with renewable power and work with Community Action Northumberland. They seemed interested to look at Falstone given that the village hall has solar panels installed. Awaiting more details.

11 Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The picnic in the park held on 4th June was a great success. Thanks to everyone who gave their time to do some 'tidy up' work around the village before the event.

Clr J Riddle is still optimistic that some funding will be available towards the cost of running the event.

J Sanderson was given permission to pay invoices for those who had expenses for the event.

12 A O B

Andrew would seek information from Steve Jopling on the fast broadband issues, locally.

Concern was expressed on the speed of motor cycles on our local roads. Police Traffic would be contacted.

It was agreed Sandra and Josephine look at the ground works required in the Jubilee Park, to remove the rose bushes and garden strip.

Neil confirmed he will continue to install the underground electric cable within the Jubilee Park.

Date of Next meeting – Tuesday 5th July

Signed

Date

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