

WARK PARISH COUNCIL

Contact: clerk.wark@gmail.com

Meeting held 13 May 2025 at 7pm in Wark Town Hall

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence:

Present: Councillor Edward Jeffrey (EJ), Councillor Lisa Lorraine (LL), Councillor Steve Batey (SB), Councillor Sean Miles (SM), Councillor Judith Weir (JW), Councillor Jason Riches (JR)

Apologies: Councillor Brenda Murray

2. Post Election – Councillor confirmation with Declaration of Acceptance of Office to be signed –

Completed and Members' and Co-Opted Members' Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests forms completed and signed too. Councillors are as follows:

Edward Jeffrey – Wark Ward

Lisa Lorraine – Wark Ward

Judith Weir – Wark Ward

Jason Riches – Wark Ward

Sean Miles – Wark Ward

Steve Batey – Stonehaugh Ward

Brenda Murray – Stonehaugh Ward

3. Nomination for Chairman and Vice Chairman – Declaration of Acceptance of Office to be signed.

Completed - EJ chairman, SB Vice Chairman

4. Public Participation (For Members of the Public to speak - Restricted to 10mins max) – No MOP present.

5. Notification of Other Business – None.

6. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest - None

7. Approval of Minutes (29 April 2025) – Accepted/Approved and Signed by EJ.

8. Welcome and Report from County Councillor – Nick accompanied Antonia who was welcomed to the meeting as newly elected County Councillor.

Antonia gave update on contact with CAFE1897– await to hear from them.

Hadrian's Wall wetlands are consulting on access – wheelchair uses, keen to hear of barriers (Walltown to

Repeater Station). Antonia has link and will forward this.

9. Matters Arising

- 7.1 Village Pride – Flower Tubs with reservoirs – JR update. Flower tubs as discussed at meeting before last. New financial year, JR will check same price (409 + VAT) additional cost will be to create hard standing, concrete or flagged base. School to adopt and also offer out to others in community. To consider one first. Discussed whether to put logo on? Agreed Wark Parish Council Logo to be on which will raise awareness of the contribution made to the village by PC and perhaps prevent theft.
- 7.2 Moving Vehicle Signs – EJ update. Pre-ordered third MVS. Seeking confirmation on model and costing.
- 7.3 Activity Centre Lighting/Electrics Certification and Invoice. Work completed by Park End Electrics. Certification available for viewing (stored in file held by clerk).
- 7.4 Stonehaugh Stargazing Pavillion Repairs/Invoice from Clarks– EJ. Volunteers needed. Chairs for interior, it is an asset, needs preserving. Costing to come out of reserves for Stonehaugh.
- 7.5 Stonehaugh Community Hall Request for funding (£2000) – Woodwork to rear of Community Hall. Agreed.
- 7.6 Felling of Ash Trees to rear of school, Quote received – discuss. EJ updated those present that trees do not look unstable. JR reminded that Matt Fathers had said he would do works for free, quotation received is substantial amount of money. Discussion re priorities and land ownership. If it is on school site, then it is Giles Heron. EJ to make contact with school head teacher to determine School boundary and if needed can approach Giles Heron – EJ to make an appt with HT to determine boundary/school. SM queried if PC have any maps? Land Registry/Archives. Suggest subscription for archive to land registry. NM looked into it - Antonia can ask trees and woodland officer.
- 7.7 Financial Regulations, Transparency Code and Standing Orders – Circulated, to be reviewed. Clerk reminded councillors that various policies including those cited have been circulated and need updating for WPC – the ones circulated are from NALC and will need only slight amendments. Noted that Clerk is leaving role end of May 25, councillors will need to ensure these policies are updated as well as asset register (to be updated and include MVS) and annual risk assessments.
- 7.8 Planning Applications – EJ to progress (Shanlea)

8. Financial Matters

- 8.1 Income and Expenditure - Approve Payment Schedule – To be circulated at meeting.
- 8.2 Bank Account – balance noted (£32672.24). Payments for invoices for MVS not yet cleared which are substantial.
- 8.3 AGAR/Audit. EJ has file from accountant to take to AH who has secured Independent Auditor. Clerk shared current arrangements and how this could be more efficient/streamlined (currently have two accountants). SM - Should have depreciation fund to cover assets renewal. Financial Plan, Grant

applications have been successful in the past by AH.

9. Reports from Representatives to Other Bodies (Wark Town Hall, Stonehaugh Community Hall and Giles Heron Trust).

Wark Town Hall: JR to be representative. AGM yesterday, last financial year been successful which has resulted in repairs and kitchen, events have used new area, two areas now, double the income. Waiting to get decoration of front room, agreed to move ahead with insulating room. Waiting for bat survey to progress with solar panels. Increase in bookings.

Stonehaugh Community Hall: Fish and Chips on Friday, food events working well. Publishing events.

Greenrigg and Giles Heron Trust: Judith to be representative. Proposed EJ and Seconded LL. Greenrigg met last week, fewer applicants which means funds are available.

10. Other Business – Not for Decision. SB propose we apply/set up land registry access. NM – JR asking if heard anymore about bus routes/extended. Bus stop at Simonburn on bank. NM has tried saying Wark and Simonburn PC want it returned to where it was.

11. Close Public Meeting/ Agree Date for Next Meeting. 13 June 2025 – AGM 7pm. 30 June – Stonehaugh (7pm) EJ to book Hall.

Clerk to Wark Parish Council