

# WARK PARISH COUNCIL

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Annual Parish Meeting Stonehaugh  
Meeting held at 7pm on 21<sup>st</sup> July Stonehaugh Community Hall

## APPROVED MINUTES

### 1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence:

**Present:** Councillor Steve Batey (SB), Councillor Sean Miles (SM), Councillor Judith Weir (JW), Councillor Jason Riches (JR) Councillor Brenda Murray (BM)

**Apologies:** Councillor Edward Jeffrey (EJ), Councillor Lisa Lorraine (LL),

**SB** was chair for meeting.

**Members of the Public present,** County Councillor Antonia Azocar-Nevin (AAN), A Hutchinson, A Hickson, A De Cruz, P De Cruz.

### 2. Appointment of Chair for the meeting. SB was appointed chair for the meeting. Proposed by JR seconded by SM.

### 3. County Councillor Report.

1) *Long dropped curb at River meadow. I emailed Phill Hall (Highways development officer) and he emailed me back with two Road safety audit report, and an out of scope report. All of which don't seem to address why it's the length that it is. They've addressed the heigh saying:*

*'Whilst the kerbs are conspicuous, ideally the kerb heights would benefit from being increased. It was noted elsewhere (downstream of the works) there were long lengths of dropped kerbs, so similar in layout. In addition, there seems to be some ironwork, which may be a side-inlet gully, which is ineffective because of surfacing levels and kerb height. However, there appears to be no drainage issues.' I've emailed again to ask for a clearer understanding of the length of the dropped kerb.*

2) *Planters at Café 1897. I emailed David Haley about his planters suggesting to add visible tape for visually impaired people, but he believed this wouldn't look good and that they are on private land that also protect the seating area and prevent cars mounting the kerb. He also said they haven't had any issues as of yet. I have had a reply to my suggestion of painting the planters and he has decided to do this instead of tape.*

3) Warksburn with no grid connection. I was directed to Northern power grid and they informed me that each house without connection would have to fill in an application for which I have a copy of in my emails and there's also a link to the website where you can find it there. There have apparently been some houses in the area already applied so it would be a case of checking exactly which houses have applied and who else needs help.

4) Bus stop change at Nunick. I have enquired about this but had no response as of yet.

4. **Chairmans Report. EJ had sent report-** Chairmans report 2024-2025 The parish council had another busy year. The first major development was a car park on Hexham Road for up to 5 vehicles and free hoggin to make a hard stand for parking opposite the Battlesteads Hotel. The hoggin was kindly donated by Mott, McDonald and Bentley who were modernising the sewerage works, and by way of a thank you to Wark village, the works were done free of charge. The hoggin was spread by the Monday men. Councillor Jason Riches was the lead in this work. Our next major project was to buy and install two Moving Vehicle signs. The North and West side are now up to speed. We hope to do the same for the South side. Dog fouling has been a major problem in the village and the children of Wark Primary School were asked to design signs suitable to display around the village. This has greatly improved the issue. The toilets in Wark were often left dirty with cleaning being only once per week, so the cleaner is now paid for two hours per week, cleaning Monday, Wednesday and Friday. This has greatly improved the cleanliness. The Star Gazing centre at Stonehaugh has ongoing work to strip off rotten flooring which is being replaced with hoggin to make a permanent base. The roof is in a similar condition and this will need addressing in the future. At the end of our working year our clerk resigned due to other work commitments. We thank Louise for her hard work in the past. My next accolade goes to Annie Hutchinson who is standing down as a councillor after 40 years' service. Chairman, stand-in clerk, Wark Parish council, Warksburn fund raiser, grant application applier, you name it, she did it. We are all very grateful for your service. The local elections take place in May so Wark Parish council will have a new council and also a new Northumberland councillor as Nick Morphet is standing down. My thanks to Nick for his support during his tenure. Edward Jeffrey

In respect to the Road Safety Audit on the low kerbs on Church Lane Wark, ANN to send report to SM for review and comment at next meeting.

5. **Grass Cutting-** SB and BM reported that the village was looking great and a good job was being undertaken.
6. **Parking-** BM highlighted the issue that the Parish owned track behind Kern Green was developing potholes and parking was add-hock and in some instances permission from the Parish Council had not

been granted. A few residents had sort permission to park on parish land and had made their own hard standings. But it is believed that not everyone on that side of the street is aware they can park there and ask the parish council for permission to park on that land. Proposal to write to all residents reminding them that they required permission to park on the verge and it is a requirement of using the track that the residents maintain and fill potholes. SM to draft letter. Proposed BM second SB

## **7. Questions from members of the Public .**

**7a) Trees on approach to the village.** The trees owned by Northumberland Council need trimming back., AAN to enquire best route and contract to arrange, Proposed BM Seconded JR

**7b) Signs for Totem Poles.** SB suggested we need surrounds to the signs at the Totem pole site. Sb to find volunteer carver to make sign surrounds. Proposed JR Seconded JW

**7c) Tractor parking on road** Limiting access to properties concern will restrict emergency access. SB will enquire with VOSA if vehicle has permission to park as larger than 3.5tonnes. Proposed JR Seconded SM

**7d) Speed of traffic through village with it being national speed limit.** AAN will enquire, if possible, to apply for 30 mph limit and if request could be added to the LTP for 2026/27. ANN also to determine costs from Highways Authority for noticing etc. Parish Council will then review when facts are known. Proposed JR Seconded SM

**7e) Ford at Whygate –** Concern over flooding and that the depth marker posts don't show true depth of the water. AAN to investigate with the Highways department if some form of bridge could be constructed and added to LTP for 2026/27. Proposed JR Seconded BM

**7f) Fur tree in village needs felling.** SB has identified contract who will remove for the timber, agreed will be removed. Proposed JW Seconded BM

**7g) Tipper Wagons speeding on Ward Lane (205).** Proposed that EJ writes to Forestry to ask them to speak with their contractors to abide by road conditions and speed limits. Proposed SB Seconded JR

**8. Pavillion-** Long discussion about formulating a working Party to move the hogging. Agreed the EJ will inform Liam that the Parish Council will advertise in the Stonehaugh Gazette for volunteers for a working party to move and place the hogging. Proposed SB Seconded JW

## **9. Any other issues.**

**9a)** BM raised concern about water usage and about making villagers aware that only two tankers a week are sent to the village. No confirmed date when water supply would be restored to the village. AAN will investigate with Northumbria water. NBM to place notice in Gazette. Proposed SB Seconded JW.

**9b)** Advert and job description to be sent out. Closing date will be three weeks from when Ann places advert. Interview dates to be agreed by EJ SB and SM. no salary posted on advert or in job description. Proposed SB Seconded SM

## **10.**

11. **Close Public Meeting/ Agree Date for Next Meeting.** Meeting closed at 2017 hours. Next Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025 7pm Wark Town Hall. JW to book.

**Clerk to Wark Parish Council**