

Floors, Makerstoun, Nenthorn and Smailholm Community Council

Minute of Meeting held on 14th January 2025, 19:00, Smailholm Village Hall

Present

Councillors

Nicholas Biddulph

Andy Carter

Tony Kime

Via MS Teams (left after item on correspondence)

Ian Malcolm

Jane Roberts

Veronica Ross

David Stark

Ian Topping

Public

Betsy Barker

Via MS Teams

Roddy Martin

Apologies

Philip Green

FMNS Treasurer

Euan Robson

SBC Councillor

Tom Weatherston

SBC Councillor

Minutes

The minutes of 16th October were approved with one clarification to the item on Nenthorn Main Road.

Matters Arising

Veronica requested that Andy work with Euan to understand specifically what grass the council will maintain through the village.

Finance

Philip had provided a finance summary in advance of the meeting (Appendix 1). It was agreed that these funds could be used for path maintenance work, or to pay for materials costs for renovation of the Makerstoun phone box, or similar projects where costs can be paid to help local voluntary efforts.

Reports

There was some discussion of the death of horses owned by Nenthorn stables who were in a field in Sproston. We will await the outcome of the current investigation with interest.

Placemaking

Smailholm has received the draft place-making report, and this is currently being reviewed. It is expected that the final draft will be presented to the village at some point in February.

Roads

Andy reminded everyone that the council are very responsive to reports of potholes, and if people are not happy to submit a report then please let Andy know so that he can submit one on behalf of the CC.

There was then some discussion of Nenthorn main road (A6089). David outlined the issue with water running on to the road. The source of the water appears to be field drainage, road runoff and the tail pipes from a number of septic tanks on the NE side of the road. There is a piped drain on the road side that previously emptied into the Burnbrae brook just north of Burnbrae cottages. Since the creation of a

hardstand/loading area in the field entrance this drainage has been blocked and has instead flowed on to the road. The owners of the field entrance and hardstanding are aware of the problem.

During the recent cold weather this water froze, creating an additional hazard.

There was also some discussion of speeding on the road. The general observation was that the south facing speed sign appears to have had some effect, and that we look forward to a sign in the opposite direction having a similar calming effect. However, Ian Topping noted that there had been another accident on the corner adjacent to his house, and that this new sign will have no impact of this situation. There was general support for the concept of a village gate at the beginning of the 40mph limit to further encourage traffic to reduce speed. Finally, we agreed that Andy will work with Euan on these road issues and request a further speed survey to get objective evidence of whether the changes in signs have had the desired impact on speed.

Planning

Andy noted that he had contacted planning enforcement re the site behind Burnbrae Cottages. David Stark confirmed that the site currently appears vacant and that no further work has been carried out. We are still waiting for a planning application for this site.

AOCB

Ian Topping asked whether we wanted to create/print and deliver a CC leaflet. AMC agreed to work with Ian to produce a revised version which will be circulated for approval. The aim would be for a leaflet distribution in late summer to support and future CC election.

Ian Topping asked when the next CC elections were due as he felt it was possibly 2025. Roddy Martin agreed to ask Fiona Henderson at the Council. We agreed that the schedule for creating the CC leaflet would depend on the timing of the election.

Ian Topping had been asked to note that there is a growing problem with dog fouling in Nenthorn. David Stark and Betsy questioned how significant the change had been as they had not noticed a major problem. It was agreed that a notice would be added to the village WhatsApp to ask people to ensure that they cleared up after their dog.

Ian Topping was concerned that the Nenthorn Village noticeboard was locked, preventing the easy display of new notices. It was pointed out that the design of current notice boards means that the only way of securing them closed is by two small locks. It was agreed that those in Nenthorn would work together to find a suitable location for the key near the notice board in order that notices can be added by anyone. Andy thanked Betsy for ensuring that the notice board has been erected, and that notices are kept tidy and up to date.

Ian Topping noted that there has been little updating on the website and asked that relevant material be sent to him so that it can be included on the website.

Ian Topping noted that in the past there had been a Fund in Nenthorn which supplied a sack of coal each winter to those who needed it. After discussion it was thought that the Fund was small and was probably now exhausted. It was last known to operate some time ago – and was managed by Major Thompson. It was possibly amalgamated into Council Funds when a rationalisation effort was undertaken some years ago – but so far not trace of the Fund has been found. David Stark thought that the Fund was probably totally exhausted at some time in the 1970's, and it was agreed that further efforts to trace it were unlikely to bear fruit.

Veronica Ross asked whether we could pay the costs of replacing a small information sign located near the church. It was agreed that this could be paid for from CC funds.

Roddy Martin updated us on the drinking water situation on the Floors estate. He is still without a safe drinking water supply. This has been ongoing since May. Andy agreed to ask Tom/Euan what the legal situation is, and what the council can do to ensure that all houses in the area have a safe drinking water supply.

Future Meetings

We agreed to avoid the second Tuesday of the month in order to avoid clashes with Kelso CC.

Based on this the following dates were proposed

Tuesday 1st April 19:00 Smailholm Village Hall

Tuesday 3rd June 19:00 Smailholm Village Hall

Tuesday 7th October 19:00 Smailholm Village Hall

Tuesday 3rd Feb 2026, 19:00 Smailholm Village Hall

Appendix 1

Floors Makerstoun, Nenthorn and Smailholm Community Council

Finance Statement for the Period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Income and Expenditure				
Source	Details	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Balance brough forward				£479.43
05/04/2024	Hall Hire Refund	£80.00		£559.43
09/04/2024	Wreaths		-£105.00	£454.43
24/05/2024	Smailholm Village hall hire		-£20.00	£434.43
30/05/2024	A Carter mileage		-£39.00	£395.43
03/06/2024	Annual Grant	£693.00		£1,088.43
03/06/2024	Hall Hire Refund	£60.00		£1,148.43
04/06/2024	Website costs		-£80.40	£1,068.03
25/06/2024	chippings		-£148.80	£919.23
31/07/2024	Grasscutting		-£360.00	£559.23
05/09/2024	Owl Grant	£1,168.20		£1,727.43
06/09/2024	Owl Payment A Carter		-£1,298.00	£429.43
				Payment in process from
09/09/2024	Grounds Keeping refund from SBC	£536.51		SBS 14 10 2024 approved
	Wreaths		-£105.00	£965.94
	Path maintenance Samilholm		-£13.82	£860.94
				for payment
				to be invoiced
				£847.12
Petty Cash Balance				£27.53
Total Funds Available				£874.65