



Vice chairman David Burn

Clerk Iris Leadbitter

Minutes of Birtley Parish Council meeting held on the 15th February 2022

At Birtley Village Hall

Present:

David Burn, Sarah Crone, Ann Lowes, Bill White, Ernest Coulson

Visitors: Nick Morphet – NCC

Colin Hall – Environment agency

Clerk Iris Leadbitter

Declaration of interest None

Update from the previous meeting

David Burn Vice Chairman agreed the minutes from the previous meeting

B4RN

Email received from Lynn Rawles stated that B4RN have received confirmation that their requests for Barrasford, Kirkwhelpington & Woodburn to be taken out of the regional tender process (and thus give them the ability to request vouchers know as Voucher Priority Status) has been approved by DCMS. That is very good news, however they are still waiting to hear the top up Borderlands scheme or voucher extension.

There is a pencilled in in date of August 2022 to start the dig but this date is dependent on a number of factors including the Borderlands scheme and voucher extensions being agreed

A small number from the B4NTR volunteer group are meeting with the B4RN management team early in March to discuss the project in detail

A member of the Parish Council asked what involvement Borderlands had with B4RN another member advised it could be discussed at the B4RN strategy meeting what the involvement actually was

Roads

The clerk advised no further update received from NCC re the resurfacing of the Birtley to Wark road

Nick Morphet confirmed no plans to resurface in the 2022 -2023 programme

A member of the Parish Council asked the clerk to contact NCC re the give way lines at the Creil which are now totally worn away, he witnessed a near crash as a car came from Blindburn Hall straight into the path of a vehicle coming down from Birtley

The white lines at both ends of Wark bridge also needs to be replaced as they are not clearly visible

Nick Morphet advised that a traffic calming speed survey was going to be undertaken in the next 1 – 2 weeks once the information had been analysed then a decision would be made if the village needs traffic calming measure put in place

Village Hall

No updates from a committee member

St Giles Church

No updates

Finance

The Parish Council agreed to donate £50.00 to the Air ambulance, The Hospice at Home and the Citizens advise the chairman asked the clerk to arrange

The annual Parish Council Insurance premium due to be paid £634.48

The insurance of the War Memorial was mentioned David Burn advised it has never been insured but thought it should be investigated. The clerk advised she would contact the insurance company to discuss how this could be achieved

Any other business

The replacement of the defibrillator case was raised and the committee agreed for the clerk to contact the Wind farm trust to discuss obtaining a grant to cover the cost and installation

The possibility of putting a committee together to celebrate the Queens Jubilee was mentioned the committee were asked if anyone would be willing to assist no one offered any assistance

The casual vacancy on the Parish Council was mentioned Ernest Coulson mentioned a member of the village had shown interest in possibly joining the Parish Council he advised that he would invite them to attend the next meeting to observe what the position entailed

Colin Hall from the Environment Agency spoke to the committee to discuss any issues with flooding which may occur in the Birtley area

Ernest Coulson advised the only flooding issue was with a blocked drain which resulted in the play area becoming flooded the issue is resolved by contacting NCC to come out and clear the drain

Colin Hall from the Environment Agency also discussed the possibility of the village hall becoming a Community Hub and the setting up of a severe weather plan to enable residents in such times especially when no electricity is available due to severe weather conditions to be able to access the hall which would have a generator installed to provide light and heat to the villagers until the matter was resolved. The possibility of contacting the Ray Wind Fund and asking for financial assistance for the generator was raised

In addition purchase of a satellite phone that could be made available to villagers was also suggested

The installation of an electric vehicle charger being installed at the village hall was mentioned

Ernest Coulson advised that the Village Hall committee would need to contact Northumberland Estates to enquire if they would allow this to go ahead

If it was approved a survey of the existing electricity supply would have to be undertaken to ascertain if the electricity supply was suitable

The setting up of an emergency plan was raised by Nick Morpeth, a parish council member asked what exactly this was and how it could be set up. Nick Morpeth advised he could work with the council to set this up but had no details currently

The chairman advised Nick Morphet that all Parish Council members are volunteers and are involved for the good of the village and all the policies and regulations he is mentioning are spoiling how the Parish Councils are being operated

Chairman Ernest Coulson after 37 years on the Parish Council resigned at 20.45pm on 15th February 2022

The meeting closed at 21.00 pm

Date of Next meeting 10th May 2022 at 7.30pm Birtley Village Hall

Minutes agreed

David Burn 10.5.2022