



Minutes of Birtley Parish Council meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021  
at Birtley Village Hall

Present:

Ernest Coulson, Tony Brotherton, Anne Lowes, Bill White, David Burn, Sarah Crone

Clerk: Iris Leadbitter

Declaration of interest: None

Update from the previous meeting:

Ernest Coulson agreed the minutes from the previous meeting

Ernest Coulson advised after a question asked by a parish council member that the grass at Dinley Hill is due to be cut as from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July as various parish residents have raised the issue of the height of the grass verge whilst driving in the area.

B4RNTR

Update on the installation not been received however Bob Neilson a parish resident has advised that the contractors have yet to be assigned, a start date is still to be agreed. Birtley is to be the first site for the installation, a question was asked if it would be installed into the Village Hall – clarity to be provided by the village hall committee. Should any further information be required Paul Eastgarth at the Tone Inn can advise or information can be obtained from the website

Local plan

A copy of the local plan has been received and was sent out electronically to all parish council members

### Roads

No communication has been received from NCC from an email sent to Jeff Oliver so it was agreed that another complaint would be logged for the road from the end of Wark bridge up past tree tops over the railway bridge Ernest Coulson advised that he has spoken to County Hall who advised that once a complaint is logged it has to be investigated by the council within 14 days

### Village Hall

A member of the village Hall committee advised that currently the hall is not fully operational once they are able to fully open for everyone to use the facility everyone will be informed

### Saint Giles Church

David Burn advised the church is now open for services. A design is in the process of being put together for the installation of the toilet on the north west corner of the building. Once received the costs for the construction will go out to tender. A grant application will be made to fund some of the costs.

### Finance

Payments approved

Tony Brotherton battery for grass cutter

Ann Lowes Village flowers

Coulson Construction fuel for grass cutter

Northumberland Estates playing field rental

I Leadbitter expenses for election

Zurich Insurance renewal

### Any other business

Letter received from a member of the public in Wark re the bin along the riverside which is very small and always overflowing. IL asked to contact NCC to arrange a larger bin

Issue mentioned re flooding beside Linda Platers house, council came out and advised the drain was blocked NCC operative advised her that the issue would be reported however nothing has happened to date Tony Brotherton advised her would chase it up

Safeguarding policy for the parish council – Tony Brotherton put in place and sent it across to the grant body who accepted it. The Parish Council all agreed to accept the safeguarding policy as from the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 to 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Tony Brotherton enquired about the tree surrounds being replaced – EC advised a grant had been offered from the Ray Wind Funds for £400.00 and 2 contractors had supplied quotations

Tony Brotherton asked if a bush cutter could be purchased by the parish council to be used around the village he has investigated the costs and one can be purchased for around £250 parish council agreed for the purchase to go ahead

A member of the village has asked if the football goals purchased with a grant from the wind farms can be stored in either the hall or the storage container the parish council advised they were not happy to let people have access to either storage options as they are kept locked at all times for security. A suggestion was made to purchase 2 locks and chains so the goals can be stored securely outside.

A request was also made for the existing goal posts to be removed this was turned down as they form part of the playing field Tony Brotherton offered to refurbish them and the parish council agreed to pay for the paint

The matting on the playpark was raised at its beginning to look worn around the roundabout- EC advised he had received a quotation for the refurbishment which was going to cost £2500. The matter was to be discussed at a later date with the possibility of trying to get a grant

The asset list currently on the Parish Council insurance was discussed as it appears some of the items currently listed are no longer in existence and new purchases not included – it was agreed IL would get in touch with Zurich ask them for a copy of the current list and then with the assistance of the information given to her by Tony Brotherton plus invoices received a new list will be approved by the parish council

EC advised that a proposal for recycling bins to be installed up towards the Heugh road end should be investigated EC advised he had an email contact which he would send to IL to contact to ask if this would be possible

Meeting closed at 8.45

Date of Next meeting 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at 7.30pm Birtley Village Hall

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