**Minutes of the meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall, Kirkwhelpington on the 3rd day of May 2016 at 8pm**

**Those Present:** Cllr R Thornton (Chairman), Cllr E Rogerson, Cllr E Purves, Cllr K Fortune, Cllr J Brown,

C Miller (Clerk), 2 members of the public

**2016/27 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr P Senior

**2016/28 Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**2016/29 Minutes of meeting held 1st March 2016**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

**2016/30 Matters arising from meeting held 1st March 2016**

* County Council had confirmed they would not have responsibility for providing a disabled parking bay outside of the Memorial Hall. Committee had also discussed this issue and were not aware it would be their responsibility. It was agreed there were several areas of bottlenecks within the village, and habitual parking on corner by hall problematic.
* ISOS had confirmed letters regarding weekly service charge for grass cutting/maintenance of shrubs and trees had been sent to tenants within the parish in error.
* Acknowledgement had been received regarding reports of flooding on A696.
* Cllr R Thornton had spoken to tree surgeon who had submitted planning applications for tree maintenance, however a parishioner had expressed concern over tree branches as it states in plan MAY cause a problem to higher vehicles, and it was agreed there are concerns of the severity of cutting the limbs. Gardeners would liaise with Cllr Fortune to confirm scale of cutting when planning permission received.
* Windfarm Steering Group in process of formation, with Cllr R Thornton representing this parish, and others to be interviewed to sit on Group. Turbine erection to commence June 2016 and site traffic would be avoiding rush hour through Ponteland. Sub-contractor would be responsible for restoring the road due to heavy traffic.

**2016/31 Youth Club**

Administration satisfactory, with successful grant from Community Foundation, and club now well established.

**2016/32 Correspondence**

* Forestry Commission – Sweethope Lough Roading screening consultation – no comments
* ISOS Housing – service charge – discussed earlier
* Northumberland County Council – Consultation on proposal for Ponteland Partnership – no comments
* Request to display advertisement for St Francis Xavier R.C. Chapel, Cheeseburn Grange, Stamfordham - agreed
* Northumberland County Council – flooding reported on roads – acknowledgement – discussed earlier
* Northumberland County Council – B6342 Sheilhill to Cambo Road – Wallington (Ancient Monument) Bridge. Advice being sought regarding timing of works and factors that should be taken into consideration. Some farmers use this bridge several times a day, and National Trust are requesting works commence September 2016 due to visitor season, however visitors could use alternative routes. Cllr R Thornton had spoken to persons who would be affected and the opinion was works should be carried out during the school summer holidays; Clerk to contact County Council with comments local farmers are busier in the Autumn and school bus would be disrupted.

**2016/33 Finance**

**2016/33/01 Bank Balance:** £10374.17 as at 18/4/16

**2016/33/02 Invoices for payment**

* Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall – W/C maintenance - £255.50
* Robson & Cowan – Fuel - £43.68
* Northumberland & Newcastle Society – annual membership - £25.00
* Came & Company – annual insurance premium - £578.41

**2016/33/03 Audit of Accounts year ending 31/3/16**

* **Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2015/2016 agreed and authorised; Section 2 Accounting Statements 2015/2016 confirmed and accepted.**

**2016/33/04 Any other financial matters**

* Current grasscutting equipment requires a new blade, and it was agreed this was necessary and gardener would organise. Application bid for new machinery ongoing, £3K received from Community Foundation with £2K grant application submitted to lottery funding.

**2016/34 Planning Matters**

**2016/34/01 Planning Applications:**

* **16/01226/FUL: Mr R Anderson, Little Harle Tower – glazed screens to archways:** no implications for listed building – supported.
* **Tree pruning (discussed earlier)**

**2016/34/02 Approval of Planning Application:**

None received.

**2016/34/03 Any Other Planning Matters**

Amendments to Eastland’s proposals (initially submitted over 12 months ago) displayed on web-site, however PC had not been informed of these changes, however PC had subsequently commented regarding the right of way through play area inaccurate (the fact there is no footpath, only grassed area).

**2016/35 Play Ground**

Swing in stock, however works delayed due to adverse weather conditions. Cllr K Fortune had spoken to resident with concerns over some equipment with suggestion swing be away from the wall, and as near to cricket ground as possible, site meeting to be held with contractor before installation. Slide improvements ongoing, and it was imperative soil be attended to as soon as possible, and back support for slide would be required.

**2016/36 Urgent Business**

* PC seats within parish require urgent attention, one seat by church, one at bottom of Meadowlands, one at bus shelter and one outside of hall, however it was thought there could be as many as seven seats. Quotations could be sought for repainting/varnishing and wood replacement if required, Cllr R Thornton to initially speak to Cllr P Senior who had offered to carry out seat maintenance.
* Parishioner had expressed an interest in becoming a member of windfarm Steering Group, however application date had passed.
* Person interested in rubber matting outside of hall, with PC wishing to retain ten and it was agreed person could have six.
* Goalposts in deplorable condition, netting had grown into posts, and metalwork should ideally be sanded and metal finish paint put on. Cllr K Fortune prepared to carry out remedial work, however it was agreed to confirm exact work required initially.
* Holly Burn drain still running, many rotten road signs within the parish, Joint Area Committee & Parish/Town Council meetings to be held next week where such issues could be raised, however it was agreed to forward details of areas of concern to John Riddle, County Councillor.

**2016/37 Information Items**

* Funding eBulletin 22/4/16
* CAN/NALC Enews April 2016
* Northumberland County Council – Joint Area Committee and Parish/Town Council meetings
* Northumberland County Council – Community Chest Scheme
* Northumberland County Council – Recycling information

**2016/38 Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 5th July 2016 commencing 730pm in Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall.



Claire Miller

Parish Clerk