**Minutes of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 5th May 2015 commencing 7pm in Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall**

**Part A Annual Meeting**

**Those Present:** Cllr R Thornton, Cllr J Brown, Cllr A Purves, Cllr P Senior, Cllr K Fortune, nine members of the public.

A minutes silence was held in respect of Ken Hodgson, who had been a long serving Cllr of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council.

**Official opening of new play area equipment**

Official opening cancelled and would be held in two months’ time. Thanks given to Dieter Hofmann for all his help regarding issue with Bird’s Nest.

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

* Cllr J Brown proposed Cllr R Thornton, Cllr K Fortune seconded, carried.
* Cllr P Senior proposed Cllr K Fortune, Cllr K Fortune proposed Cllr P Senior.
* Cllr K Fortune proposed Cllr A Purves, Cllr J Brown seconded, carried.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record, after minor amendments.

**Reports:**

**A The Art Club**

No report.

**B Indoor Bowls Club**

Cllr J Brown reported 35 members who had participated in 15 matches over the season and run 4 tournaments to invite people to attend, with visitors from as far afield as Gosforth, and 2.5K had been put into the village hall finances through activities of the Club.

**C Ceilidh Club**

Susan Hofmann reported club had been established for 5 years, however the number of dancer’s remain small at an average of 8, but there is always a strong turnout of musicians. All welcome to attend and club is in effect a monthly Northumbrian evening. A full report is held with these minutes.

**D Educational Trust**

Trust derives its income from monies invested in funds, with surplus income invested back into the fund. Any young person under the age of 25 with a parent resident in the parish is able to apply for a grant, and the trust also supports groups or projects benefiting young persons in the parish. Trustees had met three times during 2014, with 12 grants given to individual young person’s. Other expenditure had been hire of memorial hall for youth club and grants awarded to play and prayer group and Belsay school, total expenditure £3471.50.

**E St Bartholomew’s**

Church in the process of drawing together a parish profile for a replacement vicar following Dagmar Winter’s departure – this being an extremely long document which would be circulated to clergy to decide if they wish to apply for the position. Document would be finalised middle of June, then Diocese would advertise, however it would be a long drawn out process, and a replacement would be unlikely to be appointed until well into 2016.

**F Memorial Hall**

Continues to provide a venue for public and private events, maintenance and financial support of these facilities the main concern for the committee. The hall receives considerable support from a very successful indoor bowls club, a weekly draw, provision of photo-copying facilities, hire of tables and chairs and fund-raising events. A full report is held with these minutes.

**G Kirkwhelpington Show**

2014 had been an extremely successful show with sunny weather. Children’s sports had started the afternoon, with bouncy castle, coconut shy and several other events; birds brought by owl trust and display by Morris dancers. There had been a riot of colours in the magnificent entry of flowers, however many classes down in numbers. Village hall had been busy with the tombola, cake stall, and delicious teas served up by Women’s British Legion. A great and enjoyable day, made possible by the hard work of the committee. A full report is held with these minutes.

**H Royal British Legion**

Continues to flourish, branch membership holds up well with almost 30 members, and meet monthly, with programme set in June meeting. 2014 had been an enjoyable and busy year with visiting speakers, annual summer trip to Northumberlandia, and one theatre visit. All meetings and events publicised in chimes, and group organise annual litter pick. Additional members always welcome. A full report is held with these minutes.

**I Kirkharle Project**

2016 an exciting year nationally with the celebration of Capability Brown’s birth at Kirkharle with the National Steering Group having been awarded lottery funding of one million, up-to-date information available on web-site. Wallington Hall chosen as one of the twelve regional hubs, and project working closely with Wallington to co-ordinate activities. Funds would be used for literature etc, and if anybody wished to volunteer as a guide, training would be given - 35 events are planned through various groups. Local schoolchildren visit regularly, and a Heritage open day had been held September 2014, being a national event which had been fairly successful. Firework display and torchlight procession around lake organised 1/1/16. St Wilfreds Church PCC making plans for a festival weekend, series of 6 events planned, including concert where Alexander Armstrong would perform. Lake now established and well used, with improvements planned during Autumn along with alterations to Kirkharle Hall. Unfortunately, despite best endeavours, NCC Conservation Officer adopting a different view. In line with other visitor attractions, a few green shoots of recovery had appeared, two new business’s had set up and a new workshop is available to let. Biomass heating installed December 2014, and all local residents can enjoy the courtyard. A full report is held with these minutes

**J Parish Council**

New play area had been installed November 2014, with funding obtained through NCC house builders scheme and National Lottery, thanks given to all those who aided with dismantling of existing equipment. A working group had been established with the Youth Club whose representatives were to regularly attend PC meetings, housing for elderly persons of concern, with problems encountered for one person households not being eligible for two bedroom properties. A full report is held with these minutes.

**5. Other Matters**

* Further to a County Council review, it was confirmed the Parish Council were still to be involved in making comments on planning applications.
* Northumberland Estates had put forward plans for a new development at Eastlands, PC had initially expressed a few concerns, with the possible need for social housing for person’s only requiring one bedroom - there is provision in the 17 dwellings for 6 affordable two bedroom housing units. Plans would be displayed in Kirkwhelpington Post Office with a public meeting to be held later in the month.

**Part B Ordinary Meeting**

**Those Present:** Cllr R Thornton (Chairman), Cllr P Senior, Cllr K Fortune, Cllr J Brown,

Cllr A Purves, five members of the public

**Apologies for Absence** Cllr E Rogerson

**Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Senior declared an interest in Eastland planning application, due to neighbouring the scheme.

**Minutes of meeting held 3rd March 2015**

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

**Matters arising from meeting held 3rd March 2015**

* Regarding Knowesgate Hotel, still an abundance of rubbish and papers in the area and a further member of the community had made complaint about rats infesting their property for the first time they had been aware of. It was deemed unacceptable for a car park to be in this state, and agreed to request a site meeting with NCC which Cllr J Brown would attend, clerk to action.
* H Spence Northumbria Police had compiled a traffic report agreeing with PC traffic concerns, which clerk would forward to Highways NCC.
* Works to kerbstones had been carried out this morning by Northumberland County Council.
* West Farm, change from stable to house, had been granted planning approval.

**Correspondence:**

* Hilary Wells – The Old Vicarage – NCC had issued H Wells with a demolition order, further to her planning application, with problems encountered due to a neighbour making complaints.
* Alan Beith – Planning system/Rural housing alliance.
* NCC – consultation on street trading policy – document available to view on web-site.

**Youth Club**

Club being held on a Wednesday evening, public meeting held with constitution created, with information being used to open an official bank account.

**Finance**

**Bank Balance:** £6057.52

**Invoices for payment**

* Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall – W/C maintenance - £255.50
* Huck nets (UK) Ltd - £1609.20 – bird’s nest replacement frame
* Came & Co - £554.38 – annual insurance premium

**Audit of Accounts y/e 31/3/15**

Governance Statement authorised, with documentation to be passed to internal auditor.

**Year end 31/3/15, budget figures y/e 31/3/16**

Two Castles had contacted clerk to state they would no longer be cutting the two grassed areas to the entrance at Eastlands - they had unknowingly been maintaining this area, and new contractor would not be actioning. Clerk to contact Two Castles and ask for confirmation/exact plan of area.

**Planning Matters**

**Planning Applications received:**

* Northumberland Estates: Proposal for development for private and affordable homes, land east of Eastlands, Kirkwhelpington. Plans to be displayed in post office and public meeting to be held at the end of May.

**Play Ground**

* Comments received about climbing frame, with parents having to lift children up to use as no access for small children. Cllr Fortune had contacted Produlic who could possibly make bespoke equipment, however Dieter Hofmann had proposed revamping the old slide for younger children, Cllr Senior to research this and price for ladder to be secured from Produlic.
* Bird’s nest equipment discussed regarding concrete, which would cost approximately £120, if ready-mixed could be used for reinstating the slide and 1.2cubic metres concrete would be required. Initial date of 23/5/15 suggested, and agreed work be carried out by the Parish Council and sand/gravel to be ordered – Cllr Thornton to contact Mathew Charlton .
* Concern over pole hurting hands on a piece of equipment, new Produlic Area Manager to visit site and this would be highlighted.

**Any Other Business**

* After discussion with Educational Trust to ask if they would make up the shortfall on pantomime fees, clerk to officially write to Trust to request this.
* General state of benches reported, which are now shabby and require repainting and chair on green would also benefit from varnishing. Cllr’s P Senior and K Fortune to inspect.
* Parishioner had reported the gate into sewage works having a gap underneath which small animals could be trapped in. It was agreed to contact Northumbria Water and ask them to visit site to see if they had concerns.
* Potholes reappearing in village, between 3 and 4 Meadowlands and opposite West Farm entrance, clerk to contact NCC.

**Information Items**

Community Action Northumberland News

**Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 7th July 2015 commencing 730pm in Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall.