**Minutes of meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall, Kirkwhelpington on the 13th day of September 2016 at 7.30pm,**

**Those Present:** Cllr E Rogerson (Acting Chair), Cllr P Senior, Cllr K Fortune, Cllr J Brown, C Miller (Clerk)

**2016/51 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr R Thornton, Cllr A Purves, County Cllr J Riddle

**2016/52 Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**2016/53 Sulphur Well**

Resident Nick Winslow present to discuss the Sulphur Well. It had been in use for 150 years, and up until 2011 parishioners had maintained the area, however it had become harder to access, and Northumberland Estates had now declared it was private land and there should be no access. Northumberland County Council then acknowledged it as a footpath and made an order for this, however Northumberland Estates objected and stated if they knew people were visiting the site it would have been closed, and at various times in the last two decades, Northumberland Estates had written statements to suggest there was no footpath in that area. The matter is now to go to the Planning Inspectorate with a hearing scheduled for 17/11/16 10am in Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall, with all interested parties to attend, and it was agreed PC representation would attend, and put their views in writing prior to the hearing, to state the path has been used for many years.

**2016/54 Minutes of meeting held 5th July 2016**

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

**2016/55 Matters arising from meeting held 5th July 2016**

* New sit on grasscutter had been purchased through funding obtained from Community Foundation and County Council.
* Cllr E Rogerson declared an interest in the following - small cutter had had to be replaced as an emergency measure, and it was agreed from next season to officially write to the grasscutters to stipulate grass should only be cut once a week.
* Problems occurring due to Wallington Bridge closure, with satnavs directing vehicles through the village, Cllr K Fortune had contacted County Council and clerk had contacted management at Wallington Hall. Diversion signs were now in place but there were still problems, and additional signage stating do not follow satnavs would be useful. Clerk to contact County Council.

**2016/56 Bonfire Night**

Sue Hofmann had enquired whether the PC wished to hold a bonfire this year, and if so, Dieter would welcome help with building the fire, it was agreed to add an inclusion in Chimes magazine for offers of help.

**2016/57 Youth Club**

Nothing to report.

**2016/58 Correspondence**

* Northumberland Association of Local Councils – future County Council budget cuts – possible future cuts to funding which may affect the parish could include grasscutting, public W/C’s and subsidised bus services.
* Northumberland County Council – public spaces protection order for the control of dogs – consultation available
* Northumberland County Council – household waste recovery centres – changes to opening days.

**2016/59 Finance**

**2016/59/01 Bank Balance:** £9796.02 as at 31/8/16

**2016/59/02 Invoices for payment**

* Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall – W/C maintenance - £255.50
* Robson & Cowan - Grasscutting machinery - £419.00/Fuel - £48.40 – new mower - £5845.83
* BDO – external audit fee - £120.00

**Approval and acceptance of annual return and matters arising report**

* Annual return received and accepted, with no matters arising further to BDO external audit.

**2015/59/03 Request for Donation**

* Community Action Northumberland - no donation to be given

**2016/59/04 Grasscutting machinery**

Northumberland County Council – notice of grant award

**2016/60 Planning Matters**

**2016/60/01 Planning Applications**

No applications received.

**2016/60/02 Approval of Planning Application:**

* 15/02054/FUL: Land East of Eastlands, 17 residential dwellings – Northumberland Estates.

**2016/60/03 The Planning Inspectorate – Definitive Map Modification Order (No 13) 2014 Footpath No 44 (Parish of Kirkwhelpington)**

Discussed earlier.

**2016/61 Play Ground**

Annual play area safety inspection report received, with several items identified as medium risk, which require appropriate action within resources and individual site assessment. It was agreed no repairs were required at the present time.

**2016/62 Urgent Business**

* Path infront of Hawthorn House had been raised as dangerous by a parishioner as it had had two channels cut into it, and the existing channel underground could have be cleaned out instead. Clerk to contact residents.
* Grasscutting discussed further, and it was reiterated letters stipulating grass cutting should only be carried out once weekly had to be adhered to. Area which had been levelled last year by M Todd required attention, Clerk to contact R Thornton who had arranged this work last year.
* Soil at play area had still not been removed, Clerk to contact R Thornton.
* Matting outside of Memorial Hall had been sold for £45.

**2016/63 Information Items**

* City and County - newsletter

**2016/64 Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 1st November 2016 commencing 730pm in Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 845pm



Claire Miller

Parish Clerk

**www.parish-council.com/kirkwhelpington**