**Minutes of meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall, Kirkwhelpington on Tuesday 4th of July 2017 at 7.30pm**

**Those Present** R Thornton (Chairman), E Rogerson, A Purves, K Fortune, P Senior, J Brown, C Miller (Clerk), two members of the public.

**2017/48 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2017/49 Declarations of Interest**

P Senior declared an interest in Meadowlands Wall.

**2017/50 Public questions**

There were no public questions.

**2017/51 Minutes of previous meeting**

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

**2017/52 Matters arising from previous meeting**

* **Verges:** Despite verges being cut, there are still problems with vision, however County Council had stated they would be carrying out additional verge works this season.
* **Meadowlands Wall:** Two contractor’s had been contacted regarding drainage works with exploratory work to initially be carried out, quote to be secured and wind farm fund to be approached. Clerk to send email to contractor enquiring when work would be carried out.
* **Overhanging Trees:** Qualified arborists had carried out inspection on trees adjoining the old school property and had confirmed they are not a danger or likely to fall on anyone and in their opinion should not be pruned or cut as they are healthy specimens, however PCC had met and agreed to seek second opinion on this - in the meantime Clerk had forwarded a copy of report to the tenant of the property.
* **Sulphur Well footpath:** County Council had visited site and made a list of improvements required and are currently awaiting a response from the occupier of the field to arrange access.
* **Dumping of wood:** Notice had been placed stating No Dumping, with wood still insitu but out of sight, which would hopefully be used on bonfire night. Clerk to arrange article in next edition of chimes to deter dumping.
* **Village seats:** Seats in the process of being repaired.

**2017/53 Youth Club**

Nothing to report.

**2017/54 Correspondence**

* Mrs G Bristow, land east of Eastlands, proposed development – commenting she had been unaware of a public meeting to discuss the development on 30/5/15, referring to objections she had made to the proposals, and requesting update on proposed development – Clerk had forwarded copy of minutes whereby Mrs Bristow’s objections had been incorporated into the response to Northumberland Estates and had advised her to contact N/Estates directly regarding an update on the development
* Northumberland County Council – The Green Dog Walkers Responsible Dog Ownership Campaign – scheme to promote responsible dog ownership in Northumberland, focusing on dog fouling, dog control and public safety. The initiative will rely on volunteers for its delivery and uses a non-confrontational ‘keep it friendly’ approach to encourage responsible dog ownership. Talking to dog walkers, offering free poop bags and in turn encouraging them to also sign up the green dog walker pledge. Green Dog Walker support kits will be provided to local community groups, individuals and schools who want to take an active role. The toolkit includes a supply of campaign guides, pledge brochures, armbands, doggy bags and posters. Individuals who sign up the pledge will be provided with the armband and a supply of campaign poop bags and leaflets to encourage other dog walkers to sign up. Further information available at [www.northumberland.gov.uk/greendogwalkers](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/greendogwalkers); email: [greendogwalkers@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:greendogwalkers@northumberland.gov.uk). Information poster to be displayed in noticeboard.
* Northumberland County Council – Wannylaw road closure – resurfacing between 17 – 21 July, with whole road closed for one day.

**2017/55 Finance**

**2017/55/01 Bank Balance:** £6218.93 as at 30/06/17

**2017/55/02 The following invoices were authorised for payment**

* Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall – W/C maintenance - £255.50
* C Miller – May, June salary and expenses - £256.08
* HMRC - PAYE on above - £54.40
* Rospa – play area inspection report - £105.00
* Robson & Cowan – account in credit by £297.37 due to credit of £350.00 for Husqvarna Rider (invoice received for fuel at £52.63). E Rogerson declared an interest – as the mowers are now 12 months old it was queried whether they would require servicing, R Thornton to enquire with Robson and Cowan.

**2017/55/03 Acknowledgement of Donation**

* Rachel Batchelor of Kirkwhelpington and Kirkharle PCC had written to give thanks for the Parish Council donation towards annual upkeep of Kirkwhelpington churchyard.

**2017/56 Planning Matters**

**2017/56/01 Planning Applications received**

* 17/01722/RENE: Mrs A Purves, installation of biomass heating plant for St Wilfrid’s Church, Kirkharle – plan had been received too late to make comment – A Purves declared an interest.

**2017/56/02 Approval of Planning Application**

None received.

**2017/57 Play Ground**

Annual Rospa play area inspection report received, comments with a medium rating being projecting bolt thread on basketball post; grass matting; warning notice for goal posts and worn ground area under basket swing. These items had also been marked as Medium last year which means appropriate action within resources and individual site assessment, and it was agreed to secure Do Not Climb stickers. D Hofmann had asked for Parish Council support to build pyramid of wires (climbing frame), by submitting a grant claim to Ray Fell Wind Farm funding, however Eastlands Wall the initial Parish Council priority, Youth Club were keen to support the project, however they also had other items to claim first from possible funding pot – K Fortune declared an interest as he had attended site with D Hofmann to look at possible sites, however it was thought there was an increasing lack of children using the play area, and structure would possibly require planning application which could lead to objections. Request for additional picnic table also received, and it was agreed area where soil had been dumped would benefit from cleaning. Tarmac coming away in places at Basketball Net which was not mentioned on Rospa report, and it was agreed this work would be carried out – P Senior and K Fortune to action.

**2017/58 Ray Fell Wind Farm/Community Benefit Fund**

Now called Community Interest Company, with official opening of wind farm to be 8/7/17. Funding committee to meet quarterly to discuss applications. There may be an option to make decisions on smaller amounts between meetings, however the exact amount had not been defined.

**2017/59 Urgent Business**

* Complaint regarding sightlines at Marycastle with grass being too long, however the roadsides had been trimmed last week for the second time.
* No Dog Fouling notices requested by parishioner on fell, however not thought appropriate in this area.
* Both entrances into Kirkwhelpington require verge maintenance, and also Plashetts road entrance – Clerk to contact County Council and enquire when these would be actioned.
* Housing Association hedge unmanageable and requires removing which would need actioned Autumn, and area grassed. Hedge cutting for village show to be carried out as usual.
* Potholes required opposite gate of Middle Farm near to entrance to Old Vicarage; and around policehouse corner; little bridge going out of village would benefit from surface repair, clerk to report to County Council.
* Bus shelter window had been replaced and painted.
* Flooding on A696 from Ponteland to Kirkwhelpington extremely dangerous and which had been reported for many years – Clerk to contact County Council.
* Strimming to overgrown grass past A Purves house had been carried out by P Senior and K Fortune and thanks given on behalf of the community for all work carried out in the parish.
* Bottle bank had eventually been emptied.

**2017/60 Information Items**

* City and County – newsletter
* Correspondence received by several Cllrs regarding Superfast broadband in the parish.

**2017/61 Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 5th September 2017 commencing 730pm in Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall – A Purves and K Fortune gave their apologies.

The meeting closed at 830pm.

Claire Miller

Parish Clerk

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