**Minutes of meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall, Kirkwhelpington on Tuesday 5th September 2017 at 7.30pm**

**Those Present** R Thornton (Chairman), E Rogerson, P Senior, J Brown, C Miller (Clerk), County Cllr J Riddle, three members of the public

**2017/62 Apologies for Absence**

A Purves, K Fortune

**2017/63 Declarations of Interest**

P Senior declared an interest in Meadowlands Wall.

**2017/64 Public questions**

No public questions.

**2017/65 Minutes of previous meeting**

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

**2017/66 Matters arising from previous meeting**

* **Grass Verges:** Verges had been attended to.
* **Meadowlands Wall:** Contractor had not yet attended site to carry out exploratory works, a budget of £600 had been agreed for this, Clerk to re-contact contractor. There is now an added problem with Health & Safety due to fence starting to move and being near a play area. Ray Wind Farm funding scheme had not yet opened.
* **Overhanging Trees:** Nothing to report regarding PCC who were to carry out additional inspection.R Thornton had met NCC representative regarding overhanging trees near to his residence.
* **Sulphur Well:**  County Council had confirmed works to be completed in next couple of months.
* **Dumping of wood:** No more incidences had occurred.
* **Seats:** Works to complete.
* **Potholes:** County Council had carried out pothole repairs.
* **A696 flooding:** Acknowledgement of request had been received from County Council.
* New lawnmower would require servicing at end of the season; Robson & Cowan account still in credit due to credit note of £350 for old grasscutting machinery.

**County Cllr Update**

Public notices relating to planning/road closures etc. had been reinstated in Hexham Courant; cabinet system continuing at County with six Cllrs controlling budgets. Cllr Riddle’s portfolio covers all issues regarding planning, council owned housing, public protection, fire, licensing, food regulations and trading standards. Core strategy had been withdrawn from examination, with new figures for housing needs under discussion with officers predicting figures of 14,000 as opposed to 19,500, and Dissington village proposals now requiring further discussion. Exam results had been pretty poor – although early years above average, middle/high school age lacking, and morally, Cllrs are corporate parents. There are concerns over insufficient school places with numerous housing developments underway. Arch Development to be re-branded, with concerns over the purchase of Manors Walks shopping centre in Cramlington. 300million had been slashed from Arch budget who had never paid any dividends back to County Council, with each million pound borrowed costing £65K/annum in revenue. Active Northumberland had not created a business plan with some staff being moved on and new staff recruited. 100million to be invested in roads. Tour of Britain had been well supported and it was pleasing to see it back in the County. Five local area councils had been resurrected. Planning Committee meeting every month, with area committee sitting bi-monthly.

**2017/67 Youth Club**

Training night to take place.

**2017/68 Correspondence**

* Northumberland County Council – 11/7/17 – notice Sulphur Well path works to be completed within next couple of months – discussed above
* County Council – LTP 2018 – 19 – to agree/discuss priorities – Priorities listed 2017-18: clearer junction layout to encourage reduced speed and improve sight lines at Knowesgate junction; concerns over Kirkwhelpington bridge strength (County Council had confirmed appropriate warning signs would be provided if assessments show that the bridge requires a weight restriction); A696 Little Harle corner – improvements to improve safety, and it was agreed to retain these requests for 2018-2019. A further area which would benefit would be the installation of passing places at the side of Sweethope Lake.
* County Council – joint meetings with town/parish councils – Monday 9th October.

**2017/69 Finance**

**2017/69/01 Bank Balance:** £5547.95 as at 31/08/17

**2017/69/02 Invoices for payment**

* Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall – W/C maintenance - £255.50
* C Miller – July, August salary and expenses - £256.89
* HMRC - PAYE on above - £54.60

**2017/70 Planning Matters**

**Withdrawal of Planning Application had been received for the following**

* 17/01722/RENE: Mrs A Purves, installation of biomass heating plant for St Wilfrid’s Church, Kirkharle.

**2017/70/01 Planning Applications received**

* 17/02796/FUL: Mr J P Anderson – Kirkharle Courtyard – demolition of existing extension to north west elevation – no objections
* 17/02533/FUL: Mr J P Anderson – Kirkharle Cottages – demolition of existing outbuildings, resurfacing of existing hard track with tarmac, new access and formation of new gardens – no objections.

**2017/70/02 Approval of Planning Application:**

* None received.

**2017/70/03 Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy – withdrawal from Examination**

* Discussed earlier.

**2017/71 Play Ground**

* Person interested in old slide, and it was agreed they could take it away.

**2017/72 Ray Fell Wind Farm/Community Interest Company**

* Committee had not met for over a month.

**2017/73 Adoption Parish Council Standing Orders**

External audit no longer a requirement for smaller Parish Council’s with greater transparency required – Clerk had amended NALC Standing Orders which included Grievance Policy for smaller Parish Council’s and which would be displayed on web-site once amended/adopted. Job Contract to also be updated for Clerk, to be discussed further at next meeting.

**2017/74 Urgent Business**

* Clerk to contact insurance company regarding cover for bonfire night and Lord Stevens to be approached for use of field.
* Slow Sign road markings had disappeared from Walk Mill Road – Clerk to contact NCC
* Overhanging branches on property within the parish of concern – E Rogerson to make site visit.

**2017/75 Information Items**

* No information items.

**2017/76 Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 7th November 2017 commencing 730pm in Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 815pm.

Claire Miller

Parish Clerk

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