**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Kirkwhelpington parish held on Tuesday 8th May 2018 commencing 7pm in Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall**

**Those Present:** R Thornton, A Purves, E Rogerson, P Senior, J Brown, K Fortune, C Miller, five members of the public

1. **Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

1. **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

R Thornton proposed and seconded as Chairman, all in agreement.

A Purves proposed and seconded as Vice Chairman, all in agreement.

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

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

1. **Reports:**

**A Indoor Bowls Club**

It had been a difficult year throughout the county, with no younger members coming in and competitions having to be cancelled.

**B Ceilidh Club**

No report given.

**C Educational Trust**

Monies originally invested and surplus income invested back into the fund. Any young person under 25 years of age is eligible to apply for a grant, and the trust also supports groups and projects benefiting young person’s in the parish. Mr Elliot had retired as trustee with the Parish Council nominating Christopher Thornton as his replacement.

**D St Bartholomew’s**

As far as connections with the community, the boundary had expanded last year becoming part of a wider grouping. Church continues to be open all day, every day, and many from the wider community attend regular services, and in addition many person’s attend the annual remembrance service. The Easter trail, which in 2017 had again been held in St Bartholomew’s, with groups of school children attending. A Service is held in marquee on the village green following the show, and as in previous years regulars attended as well as others from the wider community. Ancient church is surrounded by a churchyard which is both a historical document and a repository of memories, and the Parish Council were thanked for their contribution to the upkeep of the churchyard.

**E Memorial Hall**

The hall continues to occupy a central role in the village and surrounding community. Committee had considered reorganising to create additional meeting and storage facilities, hover it had been agreed not viable. Windows and doors had been replaced, new fridge purchased, and lights being replaced with modern LED fittings. Part of the floor in corner of the post office had been affected by rot which was treated and new flooring installed. Computer had been donated and printer purchased. The hall is well used by the community and trading income continues to show modest improvement, however traditional activities are gradually declining.

**F Kirkwhelpington Show**

No report given.

**G Royal British Legion**

Women’s Section continues to flourish, with 26 members and the group raise funds for those who have fallen on bad times, with such applicants not having to be members of the legion, and anybody thought in need of support can be nominated. The group meet once a month, except January and August. It had been an enjoyable and busy year with interesting visitors and trips, and they continue to provide tea service for the annual show. More members are welcomed, and there are presently no young people involved.

**H Parish Council**

Meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of May, July, September, November, January and March with members of the public encouraged to attend. Each year the County Council invite Parish Council’s to submit three priorities to their Local Transport Plan, with current priorities from Kirkwhelpington Parish Council being a clearer junction layout to encourage reduced speed and improve sight lines at Knowesgate junction; improvements to Kirkwhelpington bridge strength (County Council had confirmed appropriate warning signs would be provided if assessments show that the bridge requires a weight restriction); and improvements to Little Harle corner. A further area which would benefit from upgrading would be the installation of passing places at the side of Sweethope Lake. The Parish Council continue to lobby NCC on matters such as potholes, however the county has had to deal with a difficult winter of frosts and repeated rain and then the snow events in March. The resulting road damage carries a serious cost to the Council, with £420K allocated and further funding opportunities being sought. The snow events alone had cost an extra £1.2million in overtime.

Sue and Dieter Hoffman had retired from organising the annual Bonfire night event, with person’s sought to take over the duties from November 2018, and the many years of hard work in organising the event has been greatly appreciated. The Parish Council are working with Karbon Homes and affected residents to resolve the problem with drainage in the playing field which has resulted in the wall collapse at Meadowlands. Footpath to Sulphur Well had been legally established, and County Council had carried out maintenance to the area.

**I Ray Fell Wind Farm**

R Thornton a director of the CIC company which runs part of the allocated funds. There would be £272K per year, with £100K administered by the Community Foundation and £170K controlled and managed by CIC, and group had eventually signed the legal agreement with Vattenfall. 20 applications had been received for the first meeting of the community foundation at a total of £150K. CIC’s agreement had commenced June 2017 and £170K needs to be spent by June 2018, with the intention the CIC will pay for large community projects, such as public transport and broadband, however the group had agreed a large proportion of this funding should be allocated to the Community Foundation. A further tranche of funding is being built up as a reserve once the windfarm terminates so a large amount of money will still be available to the community. Directors have to be replaced after 2-3 years.

**J Youth Club**

Numbers had dropped considerably, from 25 to 10 children, with some concern regarding running costs, however if it were to shut it would be difficult to get up and running again. Regular safeguarding training is carried out, and the club will continue at the present time, however there are not the young families now in the parish. A professional youth worker had been secured until April 2019.

**K Kirkharle Courtyard**

Courtyard continues to attract a considerable number of visitors, but had suffered by the recent appalling weather. One workshop to become available in the next few months. Many residents are regular visitors, and improvements had been actioned with wild flowers and bulbs planted around the lake. Free concert held for elderly people which was much enjoyed by all who attended. Site used for Marie Curie fund raising event. It is hoped all local residents will use and enjoy the courtyard, and they would very much like to establish a friends group for the lake. One plan for next year is to try and employ a professional event’s organiser.

1. **Other Matters**

Annual reports discussed which are useful for giving information to the community, and it appeared most of the community groups had a common thread, being dwindling numbers, and a record of the life of the village is useful. D Pearson stated on the village hall wall there is a plaque regarding the environment, and the Parish Council should consider how to restore the environment, and upkeep and presentation of the village should be furthered, as at the present time, improvements are required, with leaves in Autumn requiring tidying being an example, and some sort of scheme, such as friends of the village, or an employee to carry out improvement works would benefit the parish. The British Legion co-ordinate a yearly litter pick, however it is usually the same few people who are involved with this. It was agreed the annual report giving would continue in 2019 and the future would be discussed further then.

The meeting closed at 740pm.