**Minutes of ordinary meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council held at the Memorial Hall, Kirkwhelpington on Tuesday 5th November 2019 commencing 730pm**

**Those Present:** R Thornton (Chairman), E Rogerson, M Neale, P Senior, C Miller (Clerk), B Watson (Energy Advisor)

**2019/67 Apologies for Absence**

K Fortune, A Purves

**2019/68 Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**2019/69 Meeting with energy advisor**

Brian Watson, Energy advisor present who works alongside Community Action Northumberland specifically for implementing underground heating for village halls. Kirkwhelpington is a traditional village with a lot of energy inefficient buildings in the parish, but also modern dwellings, and in terms of underground heating, a ground source heat pump could be installed. The principal energy is harvested, with liquid in ground warming up and coming back into a compressor and put usually into a tank of water which is used to heat the building. County Council have been active in putting ground source pumps into non domestic buildings. A heat network can be placed which is a central source of heat and then circulated, and there is a large fund across the country where heating networks are put in. However in Northumberland proclivities are limited, and a large proportion of the villagers would need to be interested. There is a rural community energy fund which will provide feasibility funds to look in more detail at properties, who would give an honest appraisal and which could be fully funded. A heat network approach usually works where this an anchor user, such as a commercial enterprise, who take the risk with the bulk of energy produced, however this would not apply in Kirkwhelpington. There are small scale set ups that use ground source, solar panels or wood chip. Underground heating would entail one or two boreholes and a building harvesting the heat with a pump house and each dwelling having a meter, and an approximate cost for one borehole would be circa £300K. Advisor had looked at some energy performance certificates lodged for Kirkwhelpington parish, and small improvements could be made to improve individual utility bills, such as solar panels and insulation. The scheme would need capital funded, and it is difficult to say how much the service would cost per dwelling, however there is virtually no return on capital work carried out to improve energy.

As there would be no energy savings, and the scheme could cost in the region of one million, parishioner views would be sought.

**2019/70 Public questions**

There were no public questions.

**2019/71 Minutes of previous meeting held Tuesday 3rd September 2019**

The minutes of the previous meeting held Tuesday 3rd September 2019 were accepted as a true record.

**2019/72 Matters arising from previous meeting held Tuesday 3rd September 2019**

* **Seat repair:** No action.
* **Play area/playing field fence:** The fence was not the responsibility of Northumberland County Council or Karbon Homes, and it was discussed whether the fence was essential as there is also a hedge there. It was agreed a site visit would be carried out to assess what is required to remove/replace.
* **Reflective posts:** Supplier Glasdon had provided a quotation for supply of four bolt down with adjustable depth concrete in anchor posts, extended base post fixing and bolt down fixing, at a total cost of £604.68; a cheaper option being plastic structures at £19.74 per bollard. It was agreed to order two posts at the cheaper option for delivery to Kirkwhelpington Post Office.
* **Overgrown honeysuckle – to receive parishioner complaint regarding honeysuckle and overgrown shrubbery/grasscutting:** Further to complaint received, honeysuckle and rose had now been cut back and issue suitably rectified.
* **Grasscutting:** It was agreed a schedule of works would be created for gardener with areas of action to be stipulated.
* **Garden waste service:** Clerk had contacted several personnel at County Hall with no response received to date.
* **B4RN rural broadband:** Windfarm group had met with B4RN. Phase one mapped out to start at Barrasford. Scheme to cover approximately 1350 properties, and cost in the region of 2.5million. However public buildings have been identified by the newly elected North East mayor and people had signed up to an alternative service. One individual had donated £40K to the B4RN scheme, and investors need to leave funds in the scheme for three years minimum. It does appear to be better value for money than British Telecom, and it is expected Kirkwhelpington parish would be completed end of 2021.

**2019/73 Correspondence:**

Community Foundation – Playing field grant – notice of conclusion

**2019/74 Finance**

2019/74/01 Bank Balance: £16012.76 as at 31/10/19

2019/74/02 The following accounts require authorisation:

* Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall – W/C maintenance - £255.50;
* C Miller – September, October salary and expenses – £254.11
* HMRC - PAYE on above - £57.20
* Robson & Cowan – £63.10 – petrol
* R Nevin – grasscutting - £1305
* W Birdsall - £684

It was resolved to authorise the payments.

**2019/73/03 To receive request for grant from Sport Tynedale; Tynedale Hospice at Home; Community Action Northumberland; Citizens Advice Northumberland**

No grants to be given

**2019/74/03 To approve precept requirements 2020-2021**

Draft one of precept requirements discussed, with Clerk advising current amount of £6500 be retained, and it was therefore resolved to retain the precept for 2020-2021 at £6500.

**2019/74/04 Additional bank signatory**

Identification documentation and change of mandate form to be forwarded to Santander.

**2019/74/05 To receive grant request from Community Action Northumberland; Citizens Advice Northumberland**

Discussed above.

**2019/75 Planning Matters**

**2019/75/01 Planning Applications received**

* 19/04041/VARYCO: Land East of Eastlands – it appears original specification is being lowered to improve profit, and it was resolved to object to the application as there was no evidence the changes would offer any other benefit than financial to the developer.

**2019/75/02 Consultation on smart metering base stations**

A network to be installed relating to smart metering initiative and which the Parish Council had no objection to.

**2019/75/03 Wannies Ascension sculpture**

Nothing to report.

**2019/76 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 – Pre-order consultation**

Request to add a public bridleway from the northern end of parish in a general northerly direction to join the C195 road, north of Whitehill Farm. R Thornton to speak to County Council and landowner J Brown regarding the application.

**2019/77 Update on Ray Fell Wind Farm/Community Interest Company**

There is now a small donation fund of £10K with £1200 allocated to each of the six main parishes. Grants had been made to Chollerford School for an athletics track.

**Underground heating proposals:** – discussed earlier.

**Feasibility study regarding engaging with youths:** - application had been forwarded to Community Foundation.

**Floral scheme:** Parishioner had not supplied two quotations as requested, therefore application could not be submitted to Community Foundation.

**Bus Shelter:** Planning permission would not be required, however permission would be required to place a shelter in the highway at Knowesgate. Clarification of who owned the land to be sought, however it could be placed on land at the garage which would not require County Council permission. Bus shelter in village had been reported as leaking, however P Senior could not find any evidence of this, but would check that he had looked at the correct structure.

**2019/78 Request from PCC to place Christmas tree on green**

It was resolved the Parish Council would give permission for this, as long as the PCC take responsibility and provide insurance details for the structure and neighbouring residents had been informed of the proposals.

**2019/79 Urgent Business**

* Complaint received about mess/rubbish behind Knowesgate Hotel and garage, and it was agreed R Thornton would visit the premises to discuss the matter.
* Water had been reported coming out of the corner of the paddock near to Albion Terrace and causing disruption. R Thornton to make enquiries as to who owns the structure.
* Flooding on A696 to Ponteland an ongoing problem, which would require gulley sucker and road sweeper equipment. Flooding at bottom of Hollyburn also problematic – Clerk to re-report to County Council.
* R Thornton reported further incident near to his property due to lack of passing places.

**2019/80 Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 7th January 2020 commencing 730pm in Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 9pm.



Claire Miller, Parish Clerkc