**Minutes of electronic meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council held at 730pm on Tuesday 1st September 2020**

**Those Present:** R Thornton, (Chairman), A Purves, E Rogerson, M Neale, C Miller (Clerk), two members of the public

**2020/44 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were accepted from P Senior due to electronic problems and K Fortune due to work obligations.

**2020/45 Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**2020/46 Public questions**

There were no public questions.

**2020/47 Minutes of previous meeting held Tuesday 7th July 2020**

It was resolved the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 7th July 2020 be accepted as a true record.

**2020/48 Matters arising from previous meeting held Tuesday 7th July 2020**

* **Seat repair:** One new seat had been installed with a further two to be located. Additional postcrete is required with M Neale to source the product.
* **Play area/playing field fence; to approve re-opening play area and risks associated with Covid-19:** It was confirmed the play area had been re-opened, further to Risk Assessment and advisory notices placed.
* **B4RN rural broadband:** Delays were due to landowners not being conducive to holding electronic meetings. Developers at Eastlands had been contacted to advise decent broadband should be provided for the new dwellings, and R Thornton would contact L Rawles, Chair of B4NTR about this.
* **Flooding at Hollyburn and A696:** Nothing to report.
* **Knowesgate traffic control:** Nothing to report.
* **Overhanging hedges:** There were several areas with overhanging hedges in the parish and A Purves would be organising maintenance to hedges that were her responsibility. Some areas had been cut and A Purves could speak to residents, however it was resolved formal letters would be more beneficial, Clerk would officially write to the households and a general comment would be made on the PC facebook page regarding overgrown shrubbery.
* **Grasscutting schedule of works/servicing of equipment:** Self-employed gardener able to re-commence work with K Fortune and P Senior having temporarily been carrying out grasscutting duties. E Rogerson to speak to gardener and request a schedule of works be drawn up regarding areas of grasscutting in the parish.
* **Fence at Eastlands and the Croft:** E Rogerson to confirm whether fence repair had been actioned.
* **Tree works at entrance to Meadowlands car park and tree on corner near to small ford:** Contractor had attended site and advised the tree is rotten at the bottom and requires felling, and many ash trees in the area have die back ash with deadwooding required. The land on the right hand side had been sold to Kirkwhelpington Developments, and the left hand side was thought to be Northumberland Estates land. Clerk to contact NE to state a qualified tree surgeon had carried out an *i*nvestigation and recommended felling of one tree, and also contact Kirkwhelpington Developments with concern regarding trees on their land. R Thornton to organise removal of tree debris at Meadowlands car park.

**2020/49 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence to consider.

**2020/50 Finance**

2020/50/01 Bank Balance: £18072.88 as at 31/08/20

2020/50/02 The following payments are to be authorised:

* Robson – Cowan – fuel - £57.48; nylon head - £37.98; repairs to Husqvarna - £225.14
* Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall – W/C maintenance - £255.50
* C Miller – July, August salary & expenses – £246.14
* HMRC – PAYE on above - £57.20
* Spanglefish – annual web-site hosting fee - £103.00
* Broxap – seating - £1192.80

It was resolved to approve the payments.

2020/50/03 To consider grant to the following

* Sport Tynedale – an organisation involved in supporting voluntary sport in the Tyne valley and Ponteland areas in West Northumberland - it was agreed to seek further information regarding areas they require funding for.

Section 106 funding could be available for infrastructure projects and sport and play areas, and it was agreed the Clerk would contact the County Council to ascertain what the Section 106 funding relating to Eastland developments could be accessed for.

**2020/51 Planning Matters**

**2020/51/01 Planning Applications received**

* Resubmission – 20/00675/FUL: Land South East of The Green, 2 No two storey detached dwellings with ancillary garages and associated access road - the County Council planning portal currently states the application is likely to be recommended for approval.

**2020/51/02 Approval of Planning Application received**

* 19/04041/VARYCO: Land East of Eastlands, Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans), Condition 6 (disposal of surface water), Condition 7 (engineering works) and Condition 12 (surface water drainage) in order to amend house types and car parking arrangement. Parishioner had complained to workers on site several times a day, as they had indicated they would screen the residents mobile home, however the Parish Council felt this would be the householders responsibility. M Neale commented the construction site is being kept in an immaculate condition.

**2020/51/03 Ascendant at Cold Law – appeal to Planning Inspectorate**

No further information received.

**2020/52/04 To receive update on Eastlands Development**

Member of the public had concerns with the volume of heavy construction traffic coming in and out of the village. Despite signage on the bridge entrance there were still wagons coming in that way and struggling to access the bridge. Wagon drivers had taken to parking up on the grass verges and stopping on the blind corner talking to each other causing traffic to back-up – Clerk had contacted the Site Manager and awaiting reply, however no vehicles had been witnessed by members present causing a disturbance. The Parish Council could request the contractor put right damaged verges after the project had been completed. M Neale had witnessed a Freelander parking on the corner which created problems.

**2020/53 Update on Ray Fell Wind Farm/Community Interest Company**

CIC AGM had been held with new Chairman elected. Three board resignations had been received and advertising for board members would be posted in the near future, however the independent review had recommended a smaller but more diverse board. A considerable amount of funding had been utilised to aid applicants in the Covid-19 pandemic. Shares worth £50K had been purchased through B4RN.

**Underground heating proposals;** A resident had previously suggested the project, and an advisor had attended a PC meeting to discuss the matter, however it was not thought to be a feasible project. An air source heat pump had been installed at Albion Terrace with no planning permission sought in the conservation area. E Rogerson stated it had been unable to be placed on the back of the property and was a standard piece of equipment. A Purves to seek further advice regarding the installation.

**Feasibility study regarding engaging with youths –** an engagement session had been held with youths at Kirkwhelpington playing field.

**Bus shelter -** nothing to report.

**2020/54 Web-site Accessibility**

Web-site was in the process of being upgraded to adhere to new accessibility requirements and would go live when the annual hosting fee is received. In due course an accessibility statement would be required with Clerk to circulate document for approval.

**2020/55 To approve items for Local Transport Plan 2021-2022**

* Inclusion for 2019-2020 had been as follows: Safety barriers on both sides of Little Harle Corner – NCC feedback stated safety improvements are being progressed on the A696 generally. This location may be included, depending on the accident record and other identified issues.
* Passing places on road past Sweethope Lake – NCC feedback stated passing places do not score highly enough to be included in the LTP programme. However last Winter an NCC gritter had gone off the road creating a hole and subsequently a large swamp, and there is a strip of road between two corners where there is no room for vehicles to pass. The road is getting increasingly busier due to cyclists, had recently been resurfaced and it was a shame passing places had not been created at the same time.
* Further traffic calming measure at Knowesgate, such as 40mph limit/continuous white lining – NCC feedback stated further safety measures are under consideration.

It was resolved to retain the above requests for inclusion in LTP 2021-2022.

**2020/56 Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

**2020/57 Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 3rd November 2020 commencing 730pm.

Clerk signatory


Claire Miller, Parish Clerk

Th meeting closed at 850pm.