**Minutes of electronic meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council held at 730pm on Tuesday 3rd November 2020**

**Those Present:** R Thornton, (Chairman), A Purves, E Rogerson, K Fortune, M Neale, C Miller (Clerk), L Robinson,

two members of the public

**2020/58 Apologies for Absence**

P Senior due to being unable to access zoom meetings.

**2020/59 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr R Thornton declared an interest in fence posts.

**2020/60 Public questions**

Lisa Robinson, Youth Development Worker for North Tyne present and who thanked the Parish Council for allowing her to speak. North Tyne Youth had supported the delivery of Kirkwhelpington’s well attended youth project over the past couple of years, and worked hard to provide youth zoom groups that are well attended which shows the need for continued provision. National youth agency guidance is awaited as regards face to face youth provision, however trustees do not wish to hurry into unsafe situations and feedback would be welcome as regards face to face delivery. A couple of years ago there had been a spate of anti-social behavior by youths at Corsenside and funding was subsequently secured from Ray Wind Farm to carry out youth engagement. Three consultation cafes had been held in the October half-term with the Ridsdale event well attended. A small bit of funding is still available and young people from Kirkwhelpington will be asked their opinions. Not all young people in the village attend the youth club and feedback from such youths would be useful.

**2020/61 Minutes of previous meeting held Tuesday 1st September 2020**

It was resolved the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 1st September 2020 be accepted as a true record.

**2020/62 Matters arising from previous meeting held Tuesday 1st September 2020**

* **Seat repair:** No action yet taken.
* **B4RN rural broadband:** Help was required for parishioners to sign up to the scheme and it is fairly evident engagement with Kirkwhelpington and Wallington is pretty low and it is felt people do not realise the importance of the scheme. It is also quite an involved procedure and people also assume they have to commit financially when registering interest, which is incorrect. There are no new residents yet residing at the new development - M Neale had contacted the developers regarding the new estate having the service, but had been met with no response. It was resolved the poster for B4NTR that had been placed on facebook page and web-site would be displayed in Parish Council noticeboard.
* **Flooding at Hollyburn and A696 –** Clerk had contacted County Council further to flooding on lane past Eastlands on 4/10/20, with Highway Inspector to see what needs to be done in the area. There was no information regarding flooding on A696.
* **Knowesgate traffic control:** G Sanderson had confirmed the issue would be discussed at County Hall.
* **Overhanging hedges; car parking on pavements; speeding on track leading to Walk Mill and Wallington:**
* Further to letters forwarded to several residents regarding overhanging hedges, a reply had been received stating cars parking on pavements throughout the village created problems, having the same effect as hedges, by making it necessary for pedestrians to walk into the middle of the road in order to avoid them and suggesting similar notices be sent to those drivers who continually speed on the track leading to Walk Mill and Wallington where residents walk their dogs, endangering both pedestrians and animals. The Parish Council have been alerted to this problem in the past, however it continues to happen with concerns an accident will occur. R Thornton was under the impression the speeding problem had abated, and problems with parking are common due to most householders having more than one vehicle. With more vehicles anticipated due to the new housing development problems would be exacerbated. It was believed the only solution would be to create a car park. As well as complaints, comments had also been received that the freelander parking on the corner leads to vehicles slowing down in that area, however it could impede winter gritting access, and may possibly park under trees by the church or in the gateway that goes into the church field, however asking one person to move their vehicle could lead to an impossible situation/domino effect. Altering the path could be a solution however this would be difficult and lead to environmental objections. Meadowlands car park is not busy at night, there is grass in the area which could be turned into car parking, however this had been attempted before unsuccessfully. There is also a small field behind the bus stop which would be an ideal place for a car park, however this would necessitate the landowner being prepared to sell the land. The linear of the village had been designed years before cars were prevalent, and residents also like to have their car parked beside their home. Some specific residents could be asked to park with more consideration, or be encouraged to talk between themselves to look at ways to ease congestion. It is part of the responsibility of being a householder to accommodate lifestyle and residents need to sort this out themselves. At Walk Mill Road vehicles park on both sides, however there is room for a wheelchair to pass. E Rogerson to speak to resident regarding freelander parking on the corner, and it was agreed all residents need to park with consideration to others. Article would be placed in Church Chimes, on Parish Council web-site and facebook page.
* **Grasscutting schedule of works/servicing of equipment:** K Fortune had drawn up a schedule of works/contract for grasscutting 2021 and which was agreed as acceptable. M Neale suggested annual hours should be stipulated, however honesty had been relied on in the past with the present gardener having carried out maintenance for 40 years. Submitting monthly hours would also be preferable as opposed to submitting one annual invoice.
* **Fence at Eastlands and the Croft:** Work had been completed, item to be taken off agenda.
* **Tree works at entrance to Meadowlands car park and tree on corner near to small ford –** Northumberland Estates and Eastlands contractor had requested site plans of the trees, however as landowners they should already have this information. NE querying why the Parish Council had organised a tree inspection when it was not their land, however this had been due to multiple complaints received about the state of the trees. It was resolved to offer to meet NE and the developer on site, if required, to confirm the trees in question.
* **Air source heat pump at Albion Terrace:** An observation had been received the pump was unusual within a conservation area. A Purves had information and it was believed the structure was not against planning law, and if painted a different colour would blend into the stonework.

**2020/63 Correspondence**

* No correspondence had been received.

**2020/64 Finance**

**2020/64/01 Bank Balance**

Bank balance as at 31/10/20 was £21124.10.

**2020/64/02 To note that following the conclusion of the 2021/21 NJC pay award, a 2.75% rise backdated from 1/4/20 is included in Clerk salary payment November 2020**

The above was noted.

**2020/64/03 The following payments are to be authorised:**

* Northumberland & Newcastle Society – annual membership - £35.00
* Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall – W/C maintenance - £255.50
* C Miller – September, October salary - £241.40
* HMRC – PAYE on above - £60.20
* R Thornton – fence posts - £56.40
* Robson & Cowan – fuel/postcrete - £53.93

It was resolved to authorise the payments.

**2020/64/04 To consider and authorise budget and precept 2021/2022**

Draft budget and precept proposals for 2021/2022 discussed and which would be confirmed at the next meeting.

**2020/65/05 To consider request for grant from Sport Tynedale**

The general justification for requesting support is that there is benefit at a local level across the whole catchment area of their work, and people from most if not every parish will benefit from the coaching provided. The awards night celebrates sporting achievement across West Northumberland. It was agreed supporting youth clubs in the area was of greater importance, and if the request was for a more specific project it could be considered in the future.

**2020/65 Planning Matters**

**2020/65/01 Planning Applications received**

* 20/02619/VARYCO: Winnie Hill Merryshields Farm – Variation of Conditions 2.2 to 18/00943/FUL to allow repositioning of access – application supported.

**2020/65/02 Approval of Planning Application received**

* No approval of planning application had been received.

**2020/65/03 Notice of Withdrawal of Planning Application**

* 20/00698/FUL: Land at Cold Law, construction of landmark to QEII.

**2020/65/04 Northumberland Local Plan - Notification of Phase 2 Examination Hearings**

Notification of hearings received, with anticipated adoption of plan March 2021. A response had been made on the planning white paper to central government.

**2020/65/05 To receive update on Eastlands Development**

The construction company had once again reiterated to sub-contractors that under no circumstances should deliveries enter the village via the bridge, with signage erected and delivery companies advised not to use this entrance. R Thornton had met with the site manager who had advised they were yet to appoint a landscape contractor, and grass verges and kerbs would be reinstated on completion of the development that had been damaged by wagons, with bollards and crowd control barriers to be installed in the interim. There is a generator running on the site 24 hours a day, residents were bound to hear it, and E Rogerson would make enquiries as to whether this was causing a nuisance.

**2020/65/05 Section 106 Agreement**

The contribution in the agreement at Eastlands is for affordable housing for Northumberland, however County Council try to allocate funds on a priority basis and encourage applicants for the funds in the parish/ward and then adjoining area and then to the whole of the County.

**2020/66 Update on Ray Fell Wind Farm/Community Interest Company**

From now to financial year at the end of June 2021 all money available to CIC would be spent on the Covid hardship fund. Three directors had retired with people skilled in public relations required with an advert to be placed on-line and in the local press. The group had been inspected at the behest of Vattenfall and who recommended there were skill sets lacking among the directorship, but also advised ten directors were sufficient, however one further director was to be sought.

**2020/66/01 To receive information regarding B4RN/B4NTR Broadband matters**

Discussed earlier.

**2020/66/02 To receive update on feasibility study engaging with youths**

Discussed earlier.

**2020/66/03 To discuss bus shelter proposal**

Bus services are still being used, and a shelter at Knowesgate had been discussed as a possible funding project, to be placed where the telephone box was, however it was unknown who the landowner was as Knowesgate Hotel had been sold again. It was agreed any new developer could be encouraged to install a shelter.

**2020/67 Urgent Business**

* Water problem ongoing at paddock and it was suspected the field drain that runs diagonally across it is blocked at the bottom which affects the drain down the road, and County Cllr J Riddle should be contacted and asked when action would be taken. There is water flowing through the drain, however there is subsidence on the path with water leaking from it, and R Thornton would arrange site investigation. Year after year the road is lethal due to freezing water and action needs to be taken. County Council Highways are responsible for water hitting road but not for water running from other areas.
* Leaf sweeping required in the parish and which would entail notice of visit from County Council in order for vehicles to be moved, with Clerk to contact NCC.
* Strengthening of area on entrances to village suggested as quite a bit of damage occurs each year, and kerbstones or membrane could be placed.

**2020/68 Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council will be held on Monday 5th January 2021 commencing 730pm.

**PART TWO**

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

It was resolved a private session would be held.

**2020/69/PRIVATE To agree grasscutting pay rates 2021 – discussed in private due to personal information**

Thanks were given to Parish Cllr’s Fortune and Senior who had assisted in keeping the parish in good order and had carried out a large amount of grasscutting. It was resolved grasscutting rates for 2021 would be set at £9.50.

C Miller, Parish Clerk 

The meeting closed at 920pm.