**Minutes of the electronic annual meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council held at 730pm on Tuesday 11th May 2021**

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

**2021/32 Apologies for Absence**

There were no Apologies for Absence.

**2021/33 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

R Thornton proposed and seconded as Chairman, and duly elected.

A Purves proposed and seconded as Vice Chairman, and duly elected.

**2021/34 Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**2021/35 Public questions**

There were no public questions.

**2021/36 Minutes of previous meeting held Tuesday 2nd March 2021**

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 2nd March 2021 be accepted as a true record.

**2021/37 Matters arising from previous meeting held Tuesday 2nd March 2021**

* **Seat repair:** Seat repairs had been actioned, with letter of thanks to be forwarded to D Hofmann for his assistance in this.
* **B4RN rural broadband:** Circular to be forwarded to all residents regarding the proposals. Parishioners were still urged to register interest in the service.
* **Flooding at Hollyburn and A696:** Matter to be taken off the agenda.
* **Knowesgate traffic control:** Nothing to report.
* **Grasscutting:** Large mower being repaired due to an oil leak, with part awaited, and major service had been carried out earlier in the year which had proved costly. K Fortune struggling to cut the grass with the smaller mower. There had been one person showing interest in carrying out grasscutting duties and E Rogerson would speak to them.
* **Tree works at entrance to Meadowlands car park and tree on corner near to small ford:** Northumberland Estates had visited the field regarding a drainage problem, but it did not appear as if they had looked at the trees.
* **Strengthening of village entrances:** Work had been carried out by Eastlands contractor, with verges reinstated, however vehicles were still causing damage, with the inside left hand side of the verge mostly being hit.
* **Environmental proposals, area for wildflower:** There had been no great interest from parishioners, however the village entrances, or an area of the play area or churchyard would be suitable for a wildflower patch.

**2021/38 Correspondence**

County Council – findings from Library Consultation

<https://northumberland.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s2141/Public%20Library%20Service%20Consultation.pdf>

<https://northumberland.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s2143/App%202.pdf>

**2021/39 Finance**

2021/39/01 Bank Balance: £19267.14 as at 30/04/21

2021/39/02 The following payments are to be authorised:

* Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall – W/C maintenance - £255.50;
* C Miller – March, April salary/expenses - £263.02
* HMRC – PAYE on above - £58.60
* Robson & Cowan – postcrete - £20.84; fuel - £64.74
* NALC – annual subscription fee - £98.70
* Came & Company – annual insurance premium - £795.82

It was resolved to approve the payments

**2021/39/03 Acknowledgement of grant received from Citizens Advice Northumberland**

Acknowledgement noted.

**2021/40 Planning Matters**

2021/40/01 Planning Applications received

* 20/04394/VARYCO: Land East of Eastlands – Variation of Condition 8 to 19/04041/VARYCO in order to amend boundary fence detail – no objections.

**2021/40/02 Approval of Planning Application received**

No planning approvals had been received.

**2021/40/03 To receive update on Eastlands Development**

* Notice of withdrawal of planning application 20/03721/ADE, Land at entrances, advertisement consent for 2 V board signs and 1 single sign.

**2021/41 Update on Ray Fell Wind Farm/Community Interest Company**

There were still a lot of applications being received for those affected by Covid, however there may be a small amount of cash left over for non-Covid grant applications. New funding pot to be open July 2021. R Thornton had been a member of the Community Interest Company for seven years, wished to stand down Summer 2021 and proposed M Neale as his replacement. A Palmer would also be interested in joining the CIC and there were vacancies for further Directors.

**2021/41/01 To discuss bus shelter proposal**

Land Registry had not yet confirmed who owned the land.

**2021/42 Audit of Accounts year ending 31/3/21**

**2021/42/01 To consider and agree any actions arising from the report of the internal auditor**

There were no matters arising from the report of the internal auditor.

**2021/42/02 To approve the Governance Statement**

It was resolved to approve the governance statement.

**2021/42/03 To approve the draft annual accounts for 2020/2021**

It was resolved to approve the draft annual accounts for 2020/2021.

**2021/42/04 To approve the Accounting Statement and explanation of variances**

It was resolved to approve the Accounting Statement and explanation of variances.

**2021/42/05 To approve the Exemption Certificate**

It was resolved to approve the Exemption Certificate.

**2021/42/06 To approve public right of inspection dates**

It was resolved to approve the public right of inspection dates of 14 June to 23 July 2021.

**2021/43 Urgent Business**

* R Thornton apologised for not welcoming A Palmer to the Parish Council at the beginning of the meeting.
* Water was coming through the wall near the new development - Northumberland Estates had repaired the drains and discovered two field drains which were blocked but not connected to the existing gulley drain, which were the responsibility of the County Council. R Thornton would speak to County Cllr J Riddle.
* Comment had been made regarding parishioners permanently parking motor homes in visitor spaces at the top of Eastlands, with Clerk having informed Coast and Castle housing association.
* Comment had been received about poor lighting in Winter at and walking up to the bus shelter, which could possibly be a project for the Ray Wind Farm. There were panels with light bulbs and charge up batteries that could be acquired.
* There had been an increase in children playing within the village, and it was agreed there should be additional Children Playing signage erected. The goalposts were still to be placed in playing field.
* There was a scheme for tree planting through the County Council and Clerk would express an interest in this.

**2021/44 Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 6th July commencing 730pm in Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall.

The meeting closed at 830pm

Clerk signatory


Claire Miller, Parish Clerk