**Minutes of electronic meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council held at 730pm on Tuesday 2nd March 2021**

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

**2021/13 Apologies for Absence**

P Senior

**2021/14 Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**2021/15 Public questions**

K Smith present to inform the parish of Plant Swap Bellingham, a facebook page that had been set up in November 2020, being a group for gardeners and house plant lovers, new or experienced, to swap plants. All members can post spare plants and indicate the type of plant they want in return. Further details of group to be displayed in Parish Council noticeboard and web-site.

Reducing Plant Miles

A residents daughter’s wedding was planned for September, with the reception to be held in the Village Hall, and who wished to request camping be permitted on the playing field due to the lack of accommodation for overnight visitors. The large marquee which would be erected for the village show the weekend before would be utilised, however it would all be dependent on Covid-19 restrictions having been loosened. In principle, the Parish Council had no objections, however consideration to parking should be taken into account and resident to confirm insurance would be included in the hire of the marquee.

**2021/16 Minutes of previous meeting held Tuesday 5th January 2021**

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 5th January 2021 be accepted as a true record.

**2021/17 Matters arising from previous meeting held Tuesday 5th January 2021**

* **Seat repair:** Seat at Walk Mill road had been actioned. Further seat to be placed at the play area.
* **B4RN rural broadband:** Box had been installed at Barrasford. Additional parishioners were required to sign upto the scheme.
* **Flooding at Hollyburn and A696:** No action had been taken by the County Council.
* **Knowesgate traffic control:** No action had been taken by the County Council.
* **Grasscutting:** K Fortune could assist in the short-term, however an additional member of staff was required, and it was resolved a facebook advert be placed and applicants given a copy of the Code of Conduct. The gardener from last season was prepared to be re-engaged and would be taken into consideration.
* **Tree works at entrance to Meadowlands car park and tree on corner near to small ford:** Northumberland Estates had been forwarded a map of the trees in question.
* **Strengthening of village entrances:** Area continues to get clipped by wagons and requires gravel base/regrassed. Eastland Developer to commence landscaping, however at the present time there is still a lot of heavy plant entering the village.
* **Environmental proposals:** Part of some parishes allow areas to grow wild for the benefit of insects etc, and it would be beneficial for the environment, however if areas begin to look tatty, complaints were envisaged, and it would need carefully managed, with residents made aware of what is being done and why. Interested residents could assist with maintenance, and Cambo First school pupils involved. Proposals to be discussed further at next meeting, with Cllrs to canvass parishioner opinion.

**2021/18 Correspondence**

* November Club Morpeth – a publicly funded, arts and theatre company who work in communities across Northumberland, and who are currently planning a major project in Summer 2021 involving a number of rural and coastal communities in the county, with a number of events that include artistic sharing, hospitality and celebration, designed to forge new links. The group would like to start a discussion with the Memorial Hall or Parish Council – Clerk to forward details to all Cllrs to gauge opinions.

**2021/19 Finance**

**2021/19/01 Bank Balance: £21124.10 as at 28/02/21**

**2021/19/02 The following payments are to be authorised:**

* Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall – W/C maintenance - £255.50;
* C Miller – January, February salary/expenses - £242.92
* HMRC – PAYE on above - £58.80
* Robson & Cowan – Husqvarna servicing - £675.95
* Land Registry Fee - £7.00
* Northumberland Estates – RE: Village Green rent - £10.00

It was resolved to approve the payments

**2021/19/03 To receive notice of rent increase for village green from £10 to £15/annum**

Rent increase accepted.

**2021/19/04 To consider request for donation from Citizens Advice Northumberland**

After discussion it was resolved to grant £100.00.

**2021/20 Planning Matters**

**2021/20/01 Planning Applications received**

* 20/04210/FUL & 20/04211/LBC: Little Harle Tower, Open Porch on North Elevation – no objections.

**2021/20/02 Approval of Planning Application received**

* **20/03546/FUL:** Land South of Ottercops A696 District Boundary, New access track from development boundary of existing battery storage compound with capacity upto 20MW and ancillary equipment.

**2021/21/03 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.

**2021/22 Update on Ray Fell Wind Farm/Community Interest Company**

Covid hardship case applications being processed, applications for all other schemes to be re-opened in the near future.

A new director for the Community Interest Company being sought.

**2021/22/01 To receive information regarding B4RN/B4NTR Broadband matters**

Once Covid restrictions were lifted, M Neale would be prepared to carry out door to door canvassing to inform residents of the B4RN broadband scheme.

**2021/22/02 To receive update on North Tyne Youth**

Free online sessions available on Tuesdays in March between 5-9pm to “meet” and chat with a youth worker one-to-one or as a small group; 8-12 club; 8-16s Street dance and 13-18s Club being held on Thursdays during March, with Easter holiday programme launching at the beginning of March.

**2021/22/03 To discuss bus shelter proposal**

Clerk had submitted application to Land Registry for confirmation of who owned the land near to the bus shelter, however it was believed there was a large backlog of applications.

**2021/24 Review of Standing Orders**

It was resolved the Standing Orders were sufficient for the present needs of the Parish Council.

**2021/25 Review of Internal Auditor and internal controls**

It was resolved to re-engage internal auditor A Winter for year ending 31/3/21. It was resolved the current system of internal controls was sufficient for the present needs of the parish council.

**2021/26 Review of Asset Register**

It was resolved the register was a true record of the assets of the Parish Council. The football posts were still to be put in place at the play area.

**2021/27 Review of Risk Assessment**

An additional item covering Covid-19 had been included in the Risk Assessment and it was resolved the document was sufficient for the present needs of the Parish Council.

**2021/28 Review of Insurance Policy**

Current cover includes Public liability insurance £10m; Libel and Slander £500K; Officials Indemnity £500K; Employers Liability £10m; playground equipment £35808; sports equipment £2007; street furniture £4818.23. It was resolved the covers were sufficient at the present time.

**2021/29 Purdah Period and implications for KPC facebook page**

Some promotion of commercial activities had been permitted during the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, however it was agreed the page should only be utilised for Parish Council business and not for profit organisations, and particular care was required during the pre-election period, known as Purdah.

**2021/30 Urgent Business**

* Parishioner complaint had been received regarding Eastlands development causing road encroachment and inconvenience to residents as the boundary had been moved to enable groundworks to be carried out. It was resolved Chairman would speak to developer,
* A reporter from the Independent had contacted A Purves to ask why the Parish Council had objected to Lord Davenport’s proposals, with Parish Council opinion being the proposed monument to Queen Elizabeth was not conducive/aesthetically right for the area, and not considered of financial benefit to the parish.
* All Cllr’s were to stand down with Elections scheduled for 6/5/21. Parish Cllr P Senior had given notice of retirement.
* It was agreed the Annual Meeting of the Parish would be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, however the Parish Council would note any information submitted from community groups at their Annual Parish Council meeting.

**2021/31 Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 11th May 2021

 

Claire Miller, Parish Clerk, The meeting closed at 855pm.