

Minutes of meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council held at 730pm on Tuesday 2nd November 2021 in Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall,

PART ONE

Those Present: R Thornton, (Chairman), E Rogerson, M Neale, A Palmer, W Plosazj (County Council), C Miller (Clerk)

2021/74 Apologies for Absence

A Purves, K Fortune, County Cllr J Riddle

2021/75 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest

2021/76 Meeting with County Council Cabinet Member, Wojciech Plosazj

Wojciech Plosazj, Cabinet Member for Business present, and whose portfolio involves projects such as the Borderlands Place Programme (funding for Town's in Northumberland and the Scottish Borders), and he advised a master plan for farming and agriculture is currently being discussed.

In response to a question from A Palmer, he confirmed that his remit covered rural bus services, which can in theory be subsidised by the County Council; Town forums can be established to consider regeneration/business plans; a gigabyte broadband scheme had been announced two months ago via Central Government. A Palmer asked if the service provided by the council was proactive or reactive, Mr Plosazj confirmed that it is reactive, it can only consider proposals and applications, it does not make suggestions about worthwhile schemes.

Mr Plosazj confirmed that new arrangements had been made by the county council for snow clearance and gritting. Councillors reported that There was consternation in the village regarding snow clearance and gritting, with new contractors engaged, and local person(s) having been pushed out. It was explained that There had been a large amount of paperwork for the tender process, with the Cabinet still to discuss procurement concerns. Councillors noted that In the past the winter services had been good, as local contractors had been used, however it appeared this Winter the contractor was from Bedlington, and local knowledge would be advantageous. It was also pointed out that there would be a delay if snow clearers had to get here from Bedlington, especially if the same contractor had to go to other, far flung places from Bedlington.

Mr Plosazj said that There is a glass kerbside recycling programme, with Cabinet to discuss extending this. Councillors were concerned that while There are two recycling banks in the area, however they are often overfilled, which leads to debris being dumped on the surrounding ground. Also, it is hard to see how people without cars can get to the bottle banks, which are not in the village. They added that A garden waste service is not currently available in the parish, and that the nearest recycling site(Kirkley West Thorn) is only open four days a week. Again, it is hard to see how people without cars can get there.

A 40mph limit through Knowesgate of great importance to the Parish Council and there are issues for residents at Marycastle concerning speeding traffic. The Parish Council would have to fund any interactive signage. Draft County Council priorities, Visions & Aims, distributed, covering goals for the next twelve months.

Wojciech thanked for attendance and then left the meeting

2021/77 Public questions

There were no public questions.

2021/78 Minutes of previous meeting held Tuesday 7th September 2021

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held Tuesday 7th September 2021 be accepted as a true record.

2021/79 Matters arising from previous meeting held Tuesday 7th September 2021

2021/79/01 B4RN rural broadband

Government decision still awaited as to whether the broadband voucher scheme can continue in Northumberland.

M Neale recommended the broadband "Star Link" service for business owners.

2021/79/02 Grasscutting

Nothing to report.

2021/79/03 Tree issues; to consider location for oak tree offered to the village

Parishioner wished to donate and plant an oak tree in a significant part of the parish, in memory of her late husband, with the footpath that follows the old road down to Kirkharle suggested by A Palmer, who would also donate a tree. She said that the path is currently tree-lined, but as the trees are all elderly, a significant number are lost with every gale, and they need replenishing. Whilst it was accepted this might be a good place, it was noted that however permission of the landowner would be needed. It was also noted that this is not within the main part of the village, and not everyone visits the path. The village green also a possible area, although it was feared that oaks might grow too tall to be positioned there. It was resolved E Rogerson would discuss further with parishioner, including whether she would expect a plaque.

2021/79/04 Strengthening of village entrances

To be actioned on completion of Eastlands development, however kerbstones or plastic meshing would be more appropriate.

2021/79/05 Environmental proposals

Grassed areas could be left longer, with matter to be considered further in the Springtime. A Palmer will continue to look for guidance about this, and possible organisations who might assist.

2021/79/06 Encroaching honeysuckle

Encroaching honeysuckle no longer an issue, however there was a lot of dog fouling at the front of Allbion Terrace. M Neale had contacted Chimes regarding inclusion of Parish Council information and they would welcome a Parish Council report.

A Palmer said the deadline for contributions to the December issue is 10th November.

A Purves had arranged for hedgecutting at West Farm.

2021/79/07 Fence repairs

Fence repairs not yet actioned.

2021/79/08 Vehicles using Kirkwhelpington Bridge

Signage "Unsuitable for Heavy Vehicles," would be beneficial, however the Eastlands development is nearly finished and the problem was not as prevalent. Matter to be taken off the agenda.

2021/79/09 Parish sewage works

The works are attended to frequently, however there is still often a strong odour. It was resolved to voice concern the problem would worsen when Eastlands development is complete.

2021/79/10 Knowesgate Hotel, speeding traffic and rat infestation

County Cllr J Riddle had advised rat treatment had been completed on 23/9/21, with no current rodent infestation, and a County Council Officer is to review the situation. There are builders on site and the hotel may be opened December/January.

2021/79/11 Old National Trust Headquarters, Cambo

Wallington Demesne Parish Council were meeting with the National Trust 22/11/21 at Wallington Hall, where the building would be discussed.

2021/79/12 Problems with dumped hedge cuttings

Warning signage to be placed to state dumping not permitted.

2021/79/13 Problems with dog fouling on village green

Warning signage to be placed to state No Dog Fouling, and further signage to be purchased and located in Albion Terrace area.

2021/80 Finance

2021/80/01 Bank Balance: £21572.22 as at 31/10/21

2021/80/02 The following payments are to be authorised:

- Northumberland & Newcastle Society – annual membership - £35.00
- Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall – W/C maintenance - £255.50; rental for hall - £45.00; request for grant of £500 towards maintenance and upkeep of hall – E Rogerson & M Neale declared an interest – grant authorised.
- C Miller – September, October salary/expenses - £235.00/£23.42 = £258.42
- HMRC – PAYE on above - £58.80
- Robson & Cowan – £27.50 – fuel
- Mr R Nevin - £807.50
- Mr A Steel - £532

It was resolved to approve the payments

2021/80/03 To consider request for grant from Great North Air Ambulance

The parish do currently raise a lot of funds for the GNAA through clothing banks, however the air ambulance had visited the parish several times and after discussion it was resolved to grant £250.

2021/80/04 To consider budget and precept requirements 2022-2023

First draft of budget and precept requirements 2022-2023 considered, with Clerk advising precept should remain at the current level of £6500.

2021/81 Planning Matters

2021/81/01 Planning Applications received

- 21/03718/FUL: The Stable Block, Little Harle Tower, convert groom's accommodation and stable into residential apartment with works inc. internal alterations to granary apartment, roof repairs, restoration of clocktower/water pump and external work including raised planter and resurfacing of courtyard – supported.
- 21/03719/LBC: The Stable Block, Little Harle Tower – Listed building consent to convert groom's accommodation and stable into residential apartment with works including internal alterations to granary apartment, roof repairs – supported.

2021/81/02 Approval of Planning Application received

No approval of planning application had been received.

2021/82 Update on Ray Fell Wind Farm/Community Interest Company

Market research to be carried out for parishioner views on what they wish to see funds spent on. A new tranche of funding now available for applications. Interactive signage at Knowesgate would be a possible project to fund, with R Thornton to discuss the possibility of a 40mph speed restriction with County Cllr J Riddle. If this was possible, interactive signage would be beneficial.

2021/82/01 Proposed bus shelter at Knowesgate

Clerk had written to the suspected owner of Knowesgate Hotel to ask if they were indeed the owner of the land where the proposed bus shelter would be sited, with reply awaited. Ordnance Survey map required for application to Land Registry, with R Thornton to attempt to secure relevant map.

2021/82/02 Improvement to lighting at bus shelter in Kirkwhelpington

To be considered under Local Transport Plan 2022-2023.

2021/83 Nomination of trustee of the Kirkwhelpington Educational Trust

R Thornton and A Palmer declared an interest. It was resolved to re-nominate Mr C Thornton as trustee of the Kirkwhelpington Educational Trust.

2021/84 To consider parking issues within the parish

M Neale to organise article for inclusion in chimes. Complaint had been received about lack of supervision of personnel on Eastlands site and careless parking habits, with increased activity related to signing off the project. The parishioner had spoken to workers, and had further complaints about carers not being able to park. However, Parish Council opinion being the developers were courteous, and they were coming to the end of the construction work. However if the Parish Council had any reason to speak to the site manager, the issue would be raised.

2021/85 To receive resident correspondence relating to problems with fencing/tree near to play area

Complaint had been received regarding problems with fencing, however this was not something the Parish Council could assist with and the Housing Association would need to deal with the complaint. Clerk to transmit this to letter writer.

2021/86 Playlist for Life – free resources for people with dementia and their families

Playlist for life were an award-winning music and dementia charity who could provide free packs to share with people living with dementia, or their carers. Article to be placed on facebook page and to be forwarded to Chimes for inclusion.

2021/87 Transport North East Bus Services Forum

A Palmer had attended zoom forum, which had included various presentations from transport organisations. Transport North East were currently preparing a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) to submit to the Department of Transport with a view to obtaining funding for improvements. A possible solution for small parishes would be a Dial a Ride Service.

2021/88 Northumberland County Council – Statement of Ilcensing policy consultation

Statement of licensing policy reviewed on a four yearly basis, however there were no issues the Parish Council wished to comment on.

2021/89 Urgent Business/Items for next agenda

- A Palmer reported that the Planning Inspectorate had this week allowed an appeal against the refusal of planning permission by Lord Devonport, meaning that the Ascendant could go ahead, in doing so, the Inspector had stated the Wannies was not a valued landscape due to the existing wind turbines.
- Parishioner concerned that Eastlands housing is gas central heating, however it is to be a metered estate, with a central gas tank.;
- A Palmer had made an application to the Ray Wind Farm small grant funds for £500 to fund a Christmas concert in the village hall 19/12/21, with the Ashington Male Voice Choir to be present, and the “On Angel Wings” display of angels from Hexham Abbey to be re-erected on the rafters of the Hall.
- The lane to Albion Terrace was falling into disrepair, which could cause damage to the bottom of vehicles. The area was thought to be the joint responsibility of one private homeowner, Karbon Homes and Northumberland Estates. Clerk to report the problem to Karbon Homes.
- There had been a lot of publicity about a person having a heart attack at St Jame’s Park, and CPR would be of benefit to parishioners. R Thornton to speak to parishioner who may be able to carry out CPR training in the parish.

2021/90 Date of next Meeting

The next meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 4th January 2022 commencing 730pm in Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall.

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 to hold private session.

2021/91 To agree grasscutting pay rates 2022 – discussed in private due to personal information

Grasscutting rates for 2022 agreed as £10/hour

2021/92 To review Clerk Salary – discussed in private due to personal information

It was resolved to raise Clerk Salary to NJC Scale 14 @ £12.00/hour.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'C. Miller', on a white rectangular piece of paper with a black background.

Claire Miller, Parish Clerk

The meeting closed at 910pm.

DRAFT