

Minutes of ordinary meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council held at 730pm on Tuesday 6th July 2021 in Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall

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

2021/45 Apologies for Absence

E Rogerson

2021/46 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

2021/47 Public questions

There were no public questions.

2021/48 Minutes of previous meeting held Tuesday 11th May 2021

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 11th May 2021 be accepted as a true record, following the removal of the word Electronic in the first line, as the meeting had been held physically in the Village Hall.

2021/49 Matters arising from previous meeting held Tuesday 11th May 2021

- **B4RN rural broadband:** Only ten people in the village had expressed an interest in the service, and a door knocking exercise would be carried. Additional parishioners were urgently required to register their interest for the scheme to go forward, and this did not mean a contract had to be entered into.
- **Grasscutting:** New grasscutting personnel had settled in well, and who would be carrying out weedkilling with the necessary licenses in place.
- **Tree works at entrance to Meadowlands car park and tree on corner near to small ford:**
Item to be removed from agenda.
- **Strengthening of village entrances:**
Land had been reinstated and there was currently a reduction in vehicular activity, as works had been suspended due to a shortage of materials.
- **Environmental proposals:** The village show would not be held 2021 but would have been an opportunity to speak to parishioners about environmental issues. A Palmer suggested a scheme could be run in conjunction with an educational programme for the school summer holiday. Cllr Thornton to speak to County Cllr J Riddle and Cambo school headteacher, A Palmer to investigate organisations who could be involved.
- **Tree planting scheme:** Clerk had registered interest in the tree planting scheme, however County Council had confirmed the parish had been unsuccessful and would not be included in their bid as an area for additional tree planting.
- **Children playing signage:** There had been an increase in children cycling in the village. Children Playing signage was insitu at the village entrances, and additional signage could be purchased, however M Neale of the opinion children should be taught to be aware of traffic danger and there is already a large amount of signage in the village. It was resolved to publicise road safety issues/children playing in Chimes magazine and on the Parish Council facebook page.
- County Cllr was to liaise with County Council Officer regarding drainage at Meadowlands, and it was anticipated works were to be carried out, due to chalk markings on roads. Jet machinery had also visited the site.

2021/50 Correspondence

- City & County – Northumberland & Newcastle Society

2021/51 Finance

2021/51/01 Bank Balance: £20184.45 as at 30/06/21

2021/51/02 The following payments are to be authorised:

- Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall – W/C maintenance - £255.50;
- C Miller – May, June salary/expenses - £285.80
- HMRC – PAYE on above - £58.80
- Robson & Cowan – £99.54 – repairs to Husqvarna; rosate spray - £36.00; fuel - £78.61
- RoSPA – annual play area inspection - £107.40
- The Parish of Kirkwhelpington with Kirkharle – rent of church for May 2021 meeting – amount to be confirmed

It was resolved to authorise the payments.

2021/52 Planning Matters

2021/52/01 Planning Applications received

No planning applications had been received.

2021/52/02 Approval of Planning Application received

No planning approvals had been received.

2021/52/03 To receive update on Eastlands Development

Discussed earlier.

2021/52/04 Northumberland Local Plan Examination – Consultation on Main Modifications

A further public consultation was being held, as in the present form, the plan would not pass the examination stage. However there did not appear to be of anything of relevance to the parish.

2021/53 Update on Ray Fell Wind Farm/Community Interest Company

The financial year end was 31/7/21, with a small portion of funding left. The CIC did have a small grant fund of £500 for each individual parish within the catchment area, and applications submitted were assessed immediately.

2021/53/01 Proposed bus shelter at Knowesgate

Information from Land Registry still awaited.

2021/53/02 Improvement to lighting at bus shelter in Kirkwhelpington

Additional street lighting would be beneficial, as opposed to lighting in the bus shelter, and R Thornton would speak to County Cllr for advice as to how to take the request forward.

2021/54 Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981: Review of the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way, Informal pre-order consultation

County Council were consulting on a change to upgrade a route within the parish, and it was agreed to seek clarification as to what the restricted byway would be, as it wasn't clear from the documentation.

2021/55 St Oswald's Way Footpaths and walker's safety

The Ultra marathon had been diverted due to concerns with cattle in fields. In future it would be beneficial for the Parish Council to be consulted on such events due to the number of participants, and the event did appear to be an abuse of a public footpath. R Thornton had contacted Northumbria Police to ensure they were aware of the event and had confirmed they were satisfied with the relevant Risk Assessments. Farmers were not made aware of the event and there had been a field gate left open in error by a steward. In future it would be courteous for relevant parties to be informed of any future events.

An incident had occurred with two walkers having been alarmed by bullocks, however there were procedures and guidelines for walking in fields containing cattle, and any incident would be the responsibility of the landowners.

2021/56 To consider findings from Annual RoSPA Play Area Inspection Report

A number of minor issues had been raised including the need for seat preservative and an overflowing rubbish bin. The carousel bolt cap replacement would be actioned, and the equipment inspected by the Parish Council before the next meeting. Matting under the Birds Nest swing could be addressed, or sand placed as an alternative. No Dog signage not as visual as it should be and it was resolved this R Thornton would organise replacement, and notice displayed on Parish Council Facebook page as a reminder that no dogs were permitted on the playing field.

2021/57 Urgent Business

- Northumberland Rivers Trust – River Wansbeck Catchment – the Trust would be delivering a community centred awareness raising project over the next few months focusing on the River Wansbeck Catchment. The project was aimed at engaging with the local community, raising awareness of the Wansbeck and the wildlife which call it home, including one of the best populations of the protected white clawed crayfish in the UK. Clerk to confirm Parish Council interest in the project.
- November Club – request for use of village green for 2-3 performances of a 20 minute show for members of the community. The event is part of a wider project, Walk In Our Shoes, as November Club undertakes walking along St Oswald’s Way to visit different communities in Northumberland, hear their stories and tell them how they can work together in creating new community led art and theatre. It was agreed to state the Parish Council had no objections to the proposals, however Northumberland Estates, the landowner, should be contacted for permission to use the land. If the event did go ahead, it could be publicised on the Parish Council facebook page.
- K Fortune had received a report of problematic honeysuckle encroaching the path, which had previously been a problem involving a Karbon property.
- A picture of the parish would be uploaded onto the Parish Council web-site.
- Football posts had been installed with the help of residents of 6 Meadlowlands and a letter of thanks would be forwarded.
- A proposed new resident of Gilbert Grange had mentioned he may wish to place a portacabin in his garden, and as long as size restrictions were adhered to, this would be permitted by the County Council.
- Fence repairs at Eastland’s and The Croft to be carried out by K Fortune/R Thornton, with posts having been in storage for several months.
- The size of vehicles travelling over Kirkwhelpington bridge were of concern, and sat navs directing unsuitable traffic – Clerk to report to County Council
- Ash trees believed to be the responsibility of Northumberland Estates an ongoing concern, with additional trees having fallen down - Clerk to report to Northumberland Estates. The ash trees that are the responsibility of Eastlands developers also of concern, and a site meeting would be arranged once Covid-19 restrictions had lifted.
- Smell from the parish sewage works had recently been strong, and the additional houses may cause extra problems which would require additional emptying – Clerk to transmit concerns to Northumbrian Water.
- The back of Knowesgate Hotel was once again infested with rats – Clerk to report to County Council.
- The grass verges on the main road had been trimmed back, and R Thornton was extremely grateful to the County Council for this, however the verges on byways were getting increasingly overgrown - Clerk to report to County Council.
- The current state of the old National Trust Headquarters was considered unacceptable - Clerk to contact National Trust and confirmed Wallington Demesne Parish Council had similar concerns.
- Northumbria Police were believed to be in the process of placing speed cameras that rely on noise. M Neale had witnessed motorcyclists going well over 100mph, and there was ongoing concern with the Knowesgate area, which would once again be added to the Local Transport Plan database for the next financial year, 2022/23.

2021/58 Date of next Meeting

The next meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 7th September 2021 commencing 7.30pm in Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall.



The meeting closed at 9pm.

Claire Miller, Parish Clerk

DRAFT