

**Minutes of meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council held at 730pm on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 in Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall**

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

**2022/15 Apologies for Absence**

K Fortune

The Chairman announced thoughts were with those enduring appalling circumstances in Ukraine.

**2022/16 Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest

**2022/17 Public questions**

The Village Hall Committee were planning a church service, followed by a shared lunch (with the assistance of the British Legion) and possibly live music, at the green/village hall on Sunday 5/6/22 to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. Children's games and competitions planned, along with a flower festival in the church. Further ideas to celebrate the event being sought. The Committee were also proposing a Jubilee Garden be created, with a tree planted and patio created in the area in the corner of the playing field, opposite the French Doors, to provide a sitting or social area which could become a focal point for some memorial benches. A formal letter would be forwarded to the Parish Council outlining the proposal, however confirmation of ownership of the playing field would be required. The Show Committee, British Legion, PCC, Parish Council and Hall Committee to form a Platinum Committee. Hall Committee to apply to the County Council who were providing funding of £500 towards the Platinum Celebrations. Ray Wind Farm funding could be accessed, and the Parish Council could also provide funding.

Parishioners concerned about water continuing to run down the lane, frequently not reaching the gullies, and causing danger in Winter weather. The lane needs resurfacing and field works are required. Northumberland Estates had cleared the field drain up to the junction with the main drain, and had stated it is the main drain down the road that is blocked, being the responsibility of the County Council. R Thornton to arrange site meeting with County Council.

**2022/18 Minutes of previous meeting held Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 be accepted as a true record.

**2022/19 Matters arising from previous meeting held Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**2022/19/01 B4RN rural broadband**

Development at Barrasford to commence August 2022, with potential for network to reach Kirkwhelpington parish, however there is no definitive timescale.

**2022/19/02 Tree issues; oak tree offered to the village; dangerous tree at Walk Mill**

Oak tree had been planted at the road end. E Rogerson to ask if commemorative plaque is required. Clerk had reported dangerous tree to British Telecom, and which had been attended to.

**2022/19/03 Strengthening of village entrances**

To be actioned when Eastlands development completed. Agenda item to be renamed reinstatement of village entrances.

**2022/19/04 Environmental proposals**

A Palmer had contacted organisations for advice on rewilding areas.

**2022/19/05 Fence repairs**

Repairs outstanding.

**2022/19/06 Knowesgate Hotel, speeding traffic**

Large pothole had been actioned at Knowesgate. Speeding traffic problems continue.

**2022/19/07 Problems with dog fouling**

Dog fouling warning signage had been ordered.

**2022/19/08 Problems relating to Storm Arwen – County Council, Storm Arwen Review; M.P. consultation events**

R Thornton had written to M.P. regarding poor management of Storm Arwen, however power lines had been checked with a helicopter further to recent power outage, and generator and food truck provided in the parish. County Council were currently carrying out email consultation regarding failures during Storm Arwen, and it was resolved to comment the infrastructure had not been maintained to the required standard, personal checks on vulnerable person(s) should be carried out during emergencies, and parishioners should be kept up to date, other than by electronic means, during such times – Clerk and A Palmer to draft detailed response. The Village Hall Committee were looking into the hall obtaining a generator and becoming a welfare hub during emergencies.

**2022/19/09 Winter services – request for grit bin near to Meadowlands**

Further to query regarding gritting of B6342 from Colwell to Kirkharle – County Council had confirmed the A68 to A696 Kirkharle junction is a Priority 1 gritting route and as such was gritted at 4am and 5pm on 4/1/22, and 445am 5/1/22, and would like to give assurances it has not been removed from the Priority 1 gritting route. Request for grit bin at Meadowlands had been received, however there was already a bin in the area and request not considered a priority.

**2022/20 Finance**

2022/20/01 Bank Balance: £18087.93 as at 28/02/22

2022/20/02 The following payments are to be authorised:

- Northumberland Estates – rent of village green - £15.00
- Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall – W/C maintenance - £255.50
- C Miller – January, February, salary/expenses - £272.35
- HMRC – PAYE on above - £62.40

It was resolved to approve the payments

**2022/20/03 To consider request for grant from Citizens Advice Northumberland and Northumberland AgeUK**

It was resolved to grant £100 to Citizens Advice Northumberland, and £100 to Northumberland AgeUK.

**2022/20/04 To approve quotation for bus shelter roof repair**

It was resolved to approve the quotation of £360.68 for bus shelter roof repair.

**2022/20/05 To note acknowledgement of grant received from Tynedale Hospice at Home**

Acknowledgement of grant noted.

**2022/21 Planning Matters**

**2022/21/01 Planning Applications received**

- 22/00045/FUL: Police House, Kirkwhelpington – Proposed two storey extension to the rear to provide an enlarged living room with additional bedroom over, new store and extended rear porch – no objections.
- 22/00532/FUL: Ivy Cottage, Kirkwhelpington – Construction of porch – A Purves declared an interest – no objections.

**2022/21/02 Approval of Planning Application received**

No approval of planning application had been received.

**2022/21/03 Keep the Wannies Wild campaign**

Nothing to report.

**2021/21/04 To consider proposals for Northside Quarry**

R Thornton to attend electronic meeting with developer/County Council, where further information regarding the proposals would be considered.

**2022/22 Update on Ray Fell Wind Farm/Community Interest Company**

**2022/22/01 Proposed bus shelter at Knowesgate**

Landowner still unknown.

**2022/22/02 Improvement to lighting at bus shelter in Kirkwhelpington**

County Cllr had previously confirmed he would look into improvements.

**2022/23 To consider parking issues within the parish**

Parking on both sides of the road at Meadowlands occurring, and parishioner consideration required.

**2022/24 Lane repair to Albion Terrace**

Karbon Homes had confirmed they were responsible for the road and currently working with their investment team to identify a budget to undertake improvements works. As these are costly it is not something they can do on demand, with the aim to try and undertake works during the next financial year.

**2022/24/01 Drainage run off from paddock to Albion Terrace**

Discussed earlier.

**2022/25 Review of Internal Auditor and internal controls**

It was resolved to re-engage internal auditor A Winter for year ending 31/3/22. It was resolved the current system of internal controls was sufficient for the present needs of the Parish Council.

**2022/26 Review of Asset Register**

It was resolved the register was a true record of the assets of the Parish Council.

**2022/27 Review of Risk Assessment**

It was resolved the document was sufficient for the present needs of the Parish Council.

**2022/28 Review of Insurance Policy**

Current cover includes Public liability insurance £10m; Libel and Slander £500K; Officials Indemnity £500K; Employers Liability £10m; Playground equipment £36882.84; Sports equipment £2067.54; Street furniture £4957.63. It was resolved cover was sufficient at the present time.

**2022/29 To consider Queen's Platinum Celebrations**

Discussed earlier.

**2022/30 Urgent Business/Items for next agenda**

Northumberland Association of Local Councils – The Armed Forces Covenant - Northumberland County Council made a commitment to support the Armed Forces Community by signing the Armed Forces Covenant in 2012 and renewing their commitment in 2020. The Covenant is a promise from the nation that those who serve or have served, and their families, are treated fairly. NALC had arranged an electronic meeting, with M Neale to attend.

**2022/31 Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council will be the Annual Meeting commencing at 730pm on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022. The Annual Meeting of the Parish will commence at 7pm.



The meeting closed at 9pm

Claire Miller, Parish Clerk

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