

Minutes of ordinary meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council held at 730pm on Tuesday 1st November 2022 in Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall

Those Present: R Thornton (Chairman) A Purves, (Vice Chairman), E Rogerson, M Neale, A Palmer, C Miller (Clerk), 14 members of the public.

2022/112 Apologies for Absence

K Fortune

2022/113 Declarations of Interest

R Thornton declared an interest in agenda item **2022/127/02: To consider issues with developer vacating Eastland development.** 2022/127/03 **22/01909/CCMEIA: Land at Northside, Harle – Proposed extraction of 4 million tonnes of dolerite, importation of infill material and associated highway and landscape works.**

2022/114 Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday 6th September 2022

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 6th September 2022 be accepted as a true record.

2022/115 Public questions

There had been no update on drainage problems at Albion Terrace, with R Thornton to continue to attempt to arrange a meeting with County Council.

2022/127/03 **22/01909/CCMEIA: Land at Northside, Harle – Proposed extraction of 4 million tonnes of dolerite, importation of infill material and associated highway and landscape works** – a request to consider reversing the decision to submit No Objections has been received from Cllr's A Palmer and M Neale (as per Kirkwhelpington Standing Order below) 1. **Alteration or Reversal of previous decisions, 1.1.** Decisions of the Council will not be reversed within 4 months, except where a special item is placed on the agenda bearing the name of two Councillors, and is considered and approved by the Council.

A Purves took over as Vice Chairman, with R Thornton leaving the meeting for this agenda item.

Due to public interest, item moved up the agenda. There had been an extra ordinary meeting arranged to consider the proposals, however with two Parish Cllr's subsequently unable to attend the meeting, and the application to be heard at County Council Planning Committee January 2023 at the earliest, the meeting organised for 19/10/22 had been cancelled.

A Palmer had circulated lengthy comments to all Parish Cllr's, and believed there was a chance of judicial review due to the process followed regarding the Parish Council's decision of No Objections. A Palmer reported there had been further information displayed on County Council portal relating to the planning proposals, further to the July 2022 No Objection submission. A Palmer reported the Gilbert Grange contractor had submitted objections alleging the proposals were affecting house sales. On review of the evidence studied A Palmer thought it only right the PC change their submission. A further 118 objections had been submitted to County Council, 41 from residents of the parish and 5 from the immediate locality. County Council had requested a revised environmental statement from the developer.

Parishioner found it extremely sad the matter had become divisive within the parish. The applicant had to deal with County Council Planning Officers, and however many objections there were, the influence of a Parish Council in planning matters is very small. The PC had sought to represent the wishes of a large proportion of residents of the parish, and from talking to residents there is a very large number of people who believe the job creation is worth having, and who have no objections to the proposals. Many jobs in quarrying and forestry had disappeared in recent years, as quarries had closed, farmers and forestry jobs had been lost. The village is not only for retirees. Noise, dust problems and effect on house properties had been grossly exaggerated as they were during the wind farm project application, with similar

claims being made, and which is now a non-contentious issue. The quarry is to be sited beyond the horizon, modern quarrying is not particular noisy and dust suppression is very good. Such decisions were not the responsibility of the Parish Council and who should be supported in their decision. Further parishioner of the opinion there would be a lot of noise from wagons and carbon dioxide in the air. Further parishioner stated a large amount of tarmac had been led out of Divet Hill and he was unaware of any complaints having been received. He had dealt with North East Concrete, a family owned firm who were extremely helpful, and he cannot see what the problem is. If the quarry should go ahead this would result in fewer wagons to Divet Hill, and any disturbance would be due to weather conditions. Wagons would be leaving in the morning and would be already on the road, instead of going elsewhere. The company can only sell so much product at one time, and are being priced out of the market which is why they had gone down the route of attempting to open their own quarry.

E Purves reminded all present they were not planning experts.

Parishioner had looked at NEC's planning application to move their Newburn plant to Birtley, and there would be a net gain in transport.

M Neale stated there was a lot of anecdotal information and data should be taken from the County Council portal. Cllr Riddle had objected to Divet Hill extension with the opinion there was no requirement for additional product.

Parishioner asked where future stone would be secured from.

A Purves reported there had been a lot of intimidation in the village and which is driving a wedge. Some of the persuasion being used had been unacceptable, with one person advising they had been so sick of being bullied they had submitted an objection to the proposals. However parishioner replied they had been aware of people objecting being bullied. A Palmer had been confronted by a resident who had assumed she had been about to lobby them to submit objections to the County Council.

A Palmer proposed an objection, with M Neale seconding this. A Purves proposed not changing the original Parish Council objection, with E Rogerson seconding this proposal, but suggesting a submission be submitted pointing out there were some parishioners objecting. As Vice Chairman, A Purves had a casting vote and it was resolved the No Objection submission would stand.

Parish Cllr's Palmer and Neale and parishioners present were not happy with this decision.

A suggestion to carry out an anonymous parish survey was proposed.

Note: The result from any such survey has no legal standing and would not automatically reverse the decision of No Objections.

A Palmer then wished to consider lodging a complaint regarding the Local Plan Consultation process whereby it had not been made clear the area at Northside was included in future development land. Clerk advised this was not a specific agenda item, and if the No Objections decision had been reversed, comment could have been made in an objection submission. A Palmer was not satisfied with this response stating she had asked for this item to be added to the agenda.

At this point the Clerk left the meeting stating she had resigned.

Note: The contents of an agenda are at the discretion of the Clerk (Proper Officer). Parish Cllrs can ask for items to be added, however the Clerk (Proper Officer) has the final decision as to whether an item is included.

R Thornton resumed as Chair of the meeting.

The timetable for delivering B4RN was slipping. The voucher scheme to be extended, but other companies were now trying to step in to gain business

2022/117 To consider commemorative plaque for oak tree offered to the village

Plaque to be placed on donated seating.

2022/118 To consider quotation for fence repairs

It was resolved to approve the quotation of £252 for repairs to playing field fence.

2022/119 To consider issues relating to play area

The missing caps on play equipment had been replaced.

2022/120 To consider repair to retaining wall at the end of Meadowlands

It was still unclear as to whose responsibility the retaining wall was. R Thornton to make enquiries.

2022/121 To consider encroaching hedging on footpath from the Croft to Eastlands

It was still unclear as to whose responsibility the hedging was. R Thornton to make enquiries.

2022/122 To consider repair required on footpath from the Croft to Eastlands

It was still unclear as to whose responsibility the footpath was. R Thornton to make enquiries.

2022/123 To consider parish map detailing individual organisation responsibilities

A map showing responsibilities for the above items to be sought, with R Thornton to action

2022/124 To receive update regarding public transport within the parish

A Palmer had used the morning bus which had turned up at about 7.15am, the approximate time it was expected.

2022/125 To approve repair to seat near to Telephone Exchange

Seat to be repaired in due course.

2022/126 Finance

2022/126/01 Bank Balance: £21560.68 as at 30/09/22

2022/126/02 To consider computerised accounts package at £60/annum

No action agreed.

2022/126/03 The following payments are to be authorised:

- Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall – W/C maintenance - £255.50; Hall Hire 2022 - £75.00; Memorial Hall grant request - £500
- C Miller September, October salary/expenses - £286.04
- HMRC – PAYE on above - £63.60
- Robson & Cowan – grasscutting machinery service - £127.60; callout to husvqvarna grasscutter - £134.53; fuel - £31.25; grasscutter repair - £54.30
- Annual payment to village gardener(s) – £700 per gardener

It was resolved to approve the payments.

2022/126/04 To consider request for grant from Tynedale Hospice at Home

It was resolved to grant £150.

2022/126/05 To consider budget 2023-2024

It was resolved to accept the budget 2023-2024, however King Charles coronation figure of £1K queried.

2022/126/06 To consider precept requirements 2023-2024

It was resolved to retain the precept at the current level of £6500

2022/127 Planning Matters

2022/127/01 Planning Applications received

22/01267/FUL – New Forest Access road entrance 800m East of Ottercops Farm – withdrawn and resubmitted

2022/127/02 To consider issues with developer vacating Eastland development

2022/128 Update on Ray Wind Funds Community Interest Company

Mark Neale advised there was money available of £1500 pp for Education and training – computers, travel expenses etc. All information available on the Community Foundation web site.

2022/128/01 Improvement to lighting near to bus shelter in Kirkwhelpington

Nothing to report.

2022/129 To consider parking issues within the parish

An article had been placed in Chimes regarding consideration for others when parking in the parish.

2022/130 Lane repair/drainage issues at Albion Terrace

There had been no response regarding the drainage issues affecting the bottom of Albion Terrace.

2022/131 To consider action to address Climate Change

No progress had been made on this matter. No Parish Cllr had a toolkit with the required information.

2022/132 To consider Crises Management in the parish

A Palmer had attended two training sessions with Village Hall Committee Chairman present at one of the meetings. Training would be needed for local volunteers, and funding required for essentials such as oxygen supplies, chairlifts etc. This would entail securing a generator. The Memorial Hall was the obvious central point, however there was the question of who would be in charge. Grants could be obtained from Northern Powergrid and the Community Foundation, but an action plan would be required from the Parish Council, and forwarded to Helen Hinds at the County Council. A Palmer to represent the Parish Council working alongside David Pearson, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee

2022/133 Correspondence received

- City & County – The Journal of the Northumberland & Newcastle Society

2022/134 Items for next agenda

- Following Clerk's resignation earlier in the meeting, replacement Clerk to be appointed.
- Following road repairs there is a flood outside the Memorial Hall.
- The Footpaths Group are to attend to the maintenance of these, although it was noted that there was trespassing taking place over private farmland following Covid.
- A notice would be placed in Post Office to ask people to cheer on a runner from the Rhinos who is raising money for Motor Neurone disease. This would happen on Tuesday 15th November at 8.30 am, at the road end.

2022/135 Date of next Meeting

The next meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 3rd January 2023 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.

2022/136 To agree grasscutting pay rates 2022 – discussed in private due to contractual information

As resignation from Bob Niven had been received, enquiries would be made with Andy Steel to ascertain if he wanted to take over the complete job. Therefore it was decided that the rate to be paid would be deferred until that information was available.

A Purves to forward a letter of thanks to Bob Niven.

The meeting closed at 9pm

DRAFT