

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council held at 730pm on Tuesday 6th September 2022 in Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall

Those Present: R Thornton (Chairman) A Purves, (Vice Chairman), E Rogerson, M Neale, K Fortune, H Hinds (Northumberland County Council), County Cllr J Riddle, C Miller (Clerk), nine members of the public.

2022/80 Apologies for Absence

A Palmer, due to long-standing holiday obligation

R Thornton did not arrive at the meeting at 730pm, therefore A Purves, Vice Chairman, chaired the following items.

2022/81 Meeting with Helen Hinds, Northumberland County Council Resilience & Emergency Planning Lead

H Hinds welcomed to the meeting. Northumberland County Council are classed as a Category One responder under the Civil Contingencies Act, which sets out the framework statutory organisations need to work to, with duties revolving around working in partnership, identifying risks, and planning for major incidents. Northumberland local resilience forum (LRF) covers the whole area of Northumbria Police, with a set of partners across the Northumbria patch. County Council obligated to work within the LRF structure, identifying well over 100 different risks, including severe weather. Utility companies are a category two responder. During a major incident partners come together with a Strategic co-ordinating group, quite often chaired by the police, and a tactical coordinating group, which met several times a day during Storm Arwen. Communication with Parish Council's an important element, with the Storm Arwen review indicating the importance of community response. Relations had developed between community groups and County Council organisation Northumberland Together during the Covid pandemic. County Council supported an asset-based approach by talking to communities about what is already available - such as a pre-identified building and what it would require to operate during a disruptive event - and for communities to understand what they need to do during a crises. Community hubs to be identified where people can receive information, keep warm etc, however a one size fits all is not being proposed, with tailored arrangements required for individual communities. A template Town & Parish plan is available to assist, and workshops can be arranged via the County Council. Northern Powergrid currently have a "soft launch" funding pot to assist communities in times of crises, ahead of a charitable organisation which is to be set up in the near future. Informal discussions had taken place in the community regarding crises management. There were a lot of elderly people in social housing, and due to the green initiative leading to solar power heating systems, some people were having difficulties with heating costs. This issue had come up under the Storm Arwen review, however it had not been addressed at policy level, with H Hinds to raise specifically. A definition of a cold home is a home with traditional central heating, ie. coal fires. Communication had been non-existent during Storm Arwen, and with a massive reliance on mobile telecommunications, without an independent power source problems would continue. Backup power on telephone masts of concern, and commercial organisations have a responsibility to ensure there is a backup system. On the back of Northern Powergrid funds, County Council were keen to work with a third party radio specialist organisation. Satellite telephone systems a possibility, however extremely expensive. The Village Hall would be the ideal starting point for a warm hub, which would need the permission and support of the Village Hall Committee. It was agreed the Parish Council would firstly create an action plan, and which would be transmitted to H Hinds.

H Hinds then left the meeting.

2022/82 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

2022/83 Public questions

Parishioners wished to raise issues regarding the Northside Planning Application, and it was agreed the item would be moved up the agenda.

R Thornton arrived at the meeting whilst the following agenda item was under consideration, took no role in the discussion and waited outside of the meeting room.

2022/98/0322/01909/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 had 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 Councilors, and is considered and approved by the Council.

M Neale reported 149 objections had been submitted to the County Council planning portal, with 49 from the immediate community. M Neale referred to County Cllr Riddle stating in the press there was no need for the Divet Hill quarry – County Cllr Riddle replied he was not in a position at the present time to confirm his views on the Northside proposals.

Parishioners made comment as follows. There were 56 local objections on the planning portal, along with 40 letters of support, with 39 of these being from the Tyneside area. The key issues revolved around the proximity of the quarry to the parish, being 750m, 2 to 3 times nearer than any other quarry, Divet Hill being 50% further away from Great Bavington parish. Excess traffic of concern and the adverse impact on tourism, heritage and landscape. Employment appears to be a key factor in the supportive comments, however parishioner questioned whether the damage to the tourism industry would outweigh benefits to employment, and was a risk that had to be considered. The environmental impact had received heavy criticism from the Environment Agency and the effect on the water table understated. Noise issues concerning and the proposals would definitely have a disturbing effect on the parish. One final point that should be recognised would be the impact on the quarry of property in the parish. A Purves had said at the previous meeting Gilbert Grange was of more concern to the community than the quarry proposals – Gilbert Grange developer had since submitted their own objection to the proposals by alleging house sales had been lost due to the proposals – parishioner wished to know if the Parish Council agreed with the comments raised that in light of the developers objections, there was a belief the Parish Council were inconsistent, showing concern about the unfinished development, but having no such concern about a proposed quarry. There was a belief the planning portal contained probably the highest number of objections ever received regarding a planning application. Parishioner asked if the Parish Council have any responsibilities to other users of the A696, people living next to it, schoolchildren living in the surrounding area(s). A concern had been raised about damage to buildings in Kirkwhelpington that sit on the Whin Sill, residents would have no recourse to claim for damage, and if an incident occurred, property insurance damage would then be problematic. Parishioner view being the opinion should have been a substantive response from the Parish Council, and asked is the Parish Council willing to submit a detailed response, and if not, why not? The implied representation of the Parish Council's response on the planning portal is inconsistent with the increase in parishioner views and number of objections, are the PC still content with No Objection, or willing to withdraw the submission and supply a detailed response. If the PC are still content, can they explain what benefit the quarry will provide to the community. A further parishioner spoke in support of the Parish Council, and on behalf of a great number of people in the parish, thanked the Council for not objecting to the proposals, and did not agree to personal attacks on families via community organisation KRANE, who in his opinion were peddling mistruths and lies. Parishioners are living in houses from quarry materials, and drive on roads made from quarry products, and if the Parish Council go back on their decision he would find this shocking. M Neale stated these comments were all anecdotal, however A Purves commented supportive views she had received from parishioners were from people not au fait with planning portals and putting a response in writing. M Neale wished to reverse the Parish Council decision, and asked is there actually a need for the quarried product. Parishioner stated the quarry would bring no guaranteed advantage to the parish. County Cllr Riddle advised from a planning point of view the value or devaluing of property is not a material planning consideration, and it is a statutory responsibility of the County Council to provide safe routes to schools, with the Highways Authority the statutory consultee for the use of roads. E Rogerson stated if the Parish Council decision is reversed, would it have any effect on the County Council's determination of the application, as the extension to Divet Hill Quarry had went ahead, despite Bavington Parish Council objecting. County Cllr Riddle advises Parish Council's to state they either Strongly Support or Strongly Object to applications, as this response holds more weight with the County Council. Parishioner asked are the Parish Council satisfied they are representing the views of the parish. K Fortune responded there are residents who do not support the quarry and residents who are not against the quarry, and as a Parish Cllr he represents parishioners who

have contacted him and takes a balanced view, with one parishioner personally calling at his home and offering to take him to the pub. Parishioner of the view the documented opinions on the planning portal have to be taken into consideration by the Parish Council. Further parishioner struggles with the Parish Council views, as no parishioner is stating they strongly want a quarry in the parish.

It was proposed and seconded that the proposal on whether the Parish Council should reverse their decision of No Objections would be deferred until a future Parish Council meeting, which would be held before the County Council Strategic Planning Meeting where the application will be determined – and provisionally agreed as the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council on 1/11/22.

A Purves wished to point out the Parish Council is run democratically.

R Thornton took over as Chairman for the following items.

2022/84 Minutes of previous meeting held Tuesday 5th July 2022

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held Tuesday 5th July 2022 be accepted as a true record.

County Cllr J Riddle had understood the village road resurfacing was intended to be structural patching works with the intention of putting the area forward in the Local Transport Plan programme for next Summer. There was a short stretch of road that would be revisited by the contractors, as it had either been missed or deteriorated further, with the area team making arrangements to revisit this. There was feeling patching work is counter intuitive, however road works carried out in small villages are more complex, as opposed to main roads.

County Council had to find between £20 – £30million pound savings, with voluntary redundancies likely.

2022/85 To receive update on B4RN rural broadband

Community Interest Company currently in discussion with B4RN, as works had not commenced at Barrasford, with revised timetable awaited.

2022/86 To consider commemorative plaque for oak tree offered to the village

Price for aluminum plaque had been received, however the tree is on a path which is not a right of way and could cause an issue for grasscutting. Two seats were to be donated in memory of the parishioner(s), to be located at the proposed new Village Hall patio, and a plaque could be placed on one of these.

2022/87 To receive update on fence repairs

Contractor to provide quotation for fence repairs.

2022/88 Knowesgate Hotel, speeding traffic

Flashing radar messages would be worth investigating. County Cllr had advised white lining would not be possible. Item to be removed from agenda at the present time.

2022/89 Problems with dog fouling, request for parish bin

After consideration, it was resolved not to take the request forward at the present time.

2022/90 To consider issues with overgrown honeysuckle at Albion Terrace

Gardeners were to remove the overgrown honeysuckle, however it had died down and was currently under control.

2022/91 To consider issues relating to play area

K Fortune to contact Produlic, the play area manufacturer, regarding missing caps on equipment.

2022/92 To consider repair to retaining wall at the end of Meadowlands

Clarification being sought by Karbon Homes as to whose responsibility the wall is, and were to confirm ASAP. Clerk to re-contact Karbon and chase up.

2022/93 To consider encroaching hedging on footpath from the Croft to Eastlands

Karbon Homes had confirmed residents had been asked to cut their hedges back, however this cannot be actioned until after September due to legislation in relation to bird nesting.

2022/94 To consider repair required on footpath from the Croft to Eastlands

Clarification being sought by Karbon Homes as to whose responsibility the footpath is and were to confirm ASAP. Clerk to re-contact and advise the path is now in a dangerous condition.

2022/95 To consider parish map detailing individual organisation responsibilities

Karbon Homes had produced a map showing the area they maintain, but had asked this be retained by the Parish Council and not shared.

2022/96 To receive update regarding public transport within the parish

Transport North East had been successful in securing additional government Covid-19 support funding for bus services. Whilst the funding had helped to support bus services in the main, it had unfortunately not prevented some reductions being announced by Go North East and it remains likely that further reductions may be announced by operators in the region, given ridership is still some way below pre-pandemic levels, and the government Covid-19 support funding will end in October. Combined with the effect of increased fuel and labour costs, the financial pressures on bus companies are significant. The North East had been awarded the largest allocation of Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) funding in the country at £163.5m. **Zoom meeting to be held on Thursday 8 September 2022, 8:30am-9:30am:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/389226586197> to consider the draft strategy.

2022/97 Finance

2022/97/01 Bank Balance: £19217.64 as at 31/07/22

2022/97/02 The following payments are to be authorised:

- Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall – W/C maintenance - £255.50
- C Miller July, August, salary/expenses - £281.57
- HMRC – PAYE on above - £63.40
- Robson & Cowan – fuel – safety clothing - £129.87
- Spanglefish – annual web-site fee - £103
- K Fortune – replacement gardening shed key - £50.10

It was resolved to approve the payments.

2022/97/03 To receive grant request from Sport Tynedale

It was resolved no grant would be given.

2022/98 Planning Matters

2022/98/01 Planning Applications received

No Planning Applications had been received.

2022/98/02 To consider issues with developer vacating Eastland development

Developer attempting to finish two properties which would release funds to complete two additional properties.

2022/99 Update on Ray Fell Wind Farm/Community Interest Company

Market research findings around community members would not be for public consumption. Broadband a major issue, with significant investment via B4RN. There was a large focus on the green agenda.

2022/99/01 Proposed bus shelter at Knowesgate

There was still no information available as to who owned the land. Matter to be removed from agenda.

2022/99/02 Improvement to lighting at bus shelter in Kirkwhelpington

County Cllr Riddle had been looking into the issue, however with County Council budget constraints, the Parish Council could finance solar powered lighting in the bus stop themselves, however it was street lighting to the bus stop that was of greater need. R Thornton to speak once more with County Cllr Riddle.

2022/100 To consider parking issues within the parish

Parking at the top of Eastlands unacceptable, Clerk had contacted Coast and Castle Housing Association with no response. A regular message in the Chimes reminding parishioners to park considerately could assist with problems.

2022/101 Lane repair/drainage issues at Albion Terrace

Housing Association to undertake lane repair. R Thornton to meet with Andy Olive of the County Council as regards drainage issues.

2022/102 Northumberland County Council Climate Change Toolkit

County Council had compiled a toolkit to assist Parish and Town Council's to address climate change.

2022/103 To consider parishioner concerns regarding bonfires in the parish

Parishioner had requested the help of the Parish Council to respectfully request that villagers are more considerate of others when they have bonfires in their gardens. Garden waste bins would alleviate problems, however the County Council had previously advised the parish could not be added to their schedule. It was agreed to place an article in Chimes to state when burning rubbish, consideration needs to be given to neighbours, and the old rubbish tip at Pearson's bank should not be used for disposing of rubbish.

2022/104 Items for next agenda

- Emergency repair to gardening shed had had to be actioned, with more secure lock possibly required.

2022/105 Date of next Meeting

The next meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 1st November 2022 commencing 7pm in Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall



The meeting closed at 930pm.

Claire Miller, Parish Clerk