

Minutes of ordinary meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 3rd January 2023 in Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall

Those present: R. Thornton (Chairman), A.Purves (Vice Chairman), E. Rogerson, M. Neale, K. Fortune, A. Palmer and 6 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none at this stage

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 1st November 2022

The bus information supplied by A. Palmer, taken from the internet, was not clearly reported, the chairman would make enquiries to clarify the situation.

4. Public Questions

A parishioner enquired whether it should be the clerk's decision whether or not to include an item on the agenda on the day. It was suggested it was a misunderstanding, the Chairman stated he bowed to the clerk's training and knowledge of procedure.

5. To receive an update on B4RN rural broadband

There was very little to add to the last report, as not much progress had been made.

6. To consider issues relating to the play area

This was dealt with at the last meeting so the item would be removed from the agenda.

7. To consider repair to the retaining wall at the end of Meadowlands

Karbon Homes had acknowledged that they were responsible but were making further checks. They were to be contacted for a speedy response.

8. To consider encroaching hedging on the footpath from the Crofts to Eastlands

This is a Karbon Homes matter, as above

9. To consider repair required to the footpath from the Crofts to Eastlands

This again is a Karbon Homes issue requiring confirmation.

10. To consider parish map detailing individual organisations' responsibilities.

It is unclear as to who has this, the Chairman would ask the last clerk.

11. To receive update regarding public transport within the parish.

This was considered earlier under item 3

12. To consider flooding issues further to road repairs carried out near to the Memorial Hall.

There was also flooding near the telephone exchange. The Chairman would raise this issue with John Riddle and Northumberland County Council.

23. To consider applications for the Parish Clerk vacancy.

This item of the agenda was brought forward by the Chairman in view of the number of enquiries to be made. There had been no response to the advert and the Chairman had made a direct to one clerk by email but as yet had had no reply. Suggestions were made to widen the advertising field to include the Hexham Courant, the 3 Kirks News and the Morpeth herald. The Chairman would draft a job description and circulate it for comments.

13. Finance

13/1 Bank balance - £18516.46 at 30/11/22

13/2 The following payments were to be authorised:

C.Miller – back dated pay from 1/4/22 to 31/10/22 (NJC pay rise relating to that year, but not agreed until 1/11/22) - £72.80

Hmrc – PAYE on above - £18.20

Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall W.C. Maintenance - £255.50

It was agreed that £150 be paid to the Tynedale Hospice as agreed at the last meeting.

It was noted that C. Mill had not yet received her cheque possibly because of the postal strike.

It was resolved to authorise all the payments.

14. Planning Matters

Planning applications received

14/1 22/04496/FUL Land North and East of Sweethope Lough – proposed 58 No. car parking spaces for tourism facilities.

After clarification of where these were there was no objection.

14/2 To consider issues with the developer vacating the eastlands development.

As no-one knew now who the developer was it was impossible to make any progress. Anyone with any knowledge or contacts should report back to the Parish Council.

14/3 22/01909/CCEIA: Land at Northside – proposed quarrying.

As the project was due to go to the Planning committee this month, there was nothing to add to the information already given and no further discussion was had. The Chairman said that the proposed poll suggested at the last meeting was not viable.

15. Up-date on Ray Wind Farms Interest Company

M. Neale reported that there was still money to be applied for, for schemes that would benefit the Community .

16. To consider parking issues within the Parish.

This item was to be omitted from the next agenda as parking was generally being done considerately.

17. Lane repair/drainage at Albion Tce.

This had been improved.

18. To consider action to address Climate Change.

A. Palmer reported there was a Toolkit on the County Council website. Free trees, Composting bins for the village were discussed, but no decisions were taken.

19. To consider Crises Management in the Parish

A. Palmer understood that information had been sent to the clerks so C. Miller would be asked about this. A generator was required, and the Hall Committee had plans in hand to apply for a grant to buy one, although a free one might be available. Both lines of enquiry would continue. Northern Power Grid had offered to supply one in the event of a power cut, but it was felt to be prudent to have one permanently as well. Storage was an issue but that might be resolved if the

grass cutter was sold freeing the shed. The person to contact at the council for help and information was Steph Ellis.

20. Items for the next agenda

Climate change

Footpath Maintenance – A. Palmer invited to be the co-ordinator

Generator for the 'Warm Hub'

Wild verges

21. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of Kirkwhelpington Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 7th March commencing at 7.30pm 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 if business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

22. To agree grasscutting pay rates discussion in private due to contractual

Information.

The decision was deferred again as the Chairman had not spoken to Andy Steel, Although some figures were discussed.

A. Purves had sent a letter of thanks to Bob Nevin (whose name had been spelt Incorrectly in the Minutes.)

23. This item had already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9pm

