

## Kirkwhelpington Parish Council

Extraordinary Meeting minutes

Kirkwhelpington Memorial Hall, 27 June 2023, 7:30pm

Present: Anne Palmer (acting chair), Kevin Fortune, Eilíeen Rogerson, Mark Neale

Apologies: None

There were 5 members of the public present.

The Chair opened the meeting by explaining the purpose of the extraordinary meeting - to select the two new councillors to be co-opted to the council and read extracts from the guidance on the selection process. Kevin Fortune had confirmed with Northumberland Council that an election of councillors did not need to be called. The Chair explained there had been 5 submissions of interest for the 2 vacancies, which is an encouraging number of responses.

The Chair read out the applications received from the 5 candidates.

Councillors were asked if they had any comments before the voting began and Eilíeen Rogerson expressed the desire for the council to have representation from the wider farming community to ensure matters which affect this community can be reflected in the council. Kevin Fortune seconded this.

It was decided that each vacancy should be voted for individually, with each councillor having one vote (by show of hands) which would result in a majority.

### First vacancy vote

Applicant	First round	Second round
Ailsa Dickinson	1	0
Elaine O'Neill	1	0
Phil Lawless	1	2
Kevin Robson	1	2
Nick Brown	0 – removed from this vote	

### Second vacancy vote

Applicant	First round
Ailsa Dickinson	1
Elaine O'Neill	1
Kevin Robson	0
Nick Brown	2

The selected candidates were Phil Lawless and Nick Brown.

A question from the public raised whether the council could ask for additional councillors to help spread the load and enable some of those who hadn't been chosen to take up a post. Kevin Fortune explained he had previously been in contact with Northumberland Council on this point and had been advised that, although the village has grown in population in recent years, it has not yet reached the number of

residents required to meet the next threshold to increase the number of councillors. This will be something the council keeps under review in the future.

Anne Palmer then notified the council that she will be absent at the next regular meeting (Tues 4 July), and asked for a vice chair to be nominated. Eileen Rogerson nominated Kevin Fortune which was seconded.

The public left the meeting.

Other items of business conducted:

Signing off the financial audit form for 2022/23. These are to be submitted by the end of the week. The clerk will explore who they need to be sent to and get them onto the parish council website.

The new clerk was given her contract.

The agenda for the next meeting, Tuesday 4 July, was run through quickly with the Anne Palmer explaining the notes she has left in her absence.

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