

KIRKWHELPINGTON PARISH COUNCIL - MINUTES

Tuesday, 5 September, 7:30pm.

Present: Anne Palmer (Chair), Eileen Rogerson, Kevin Fortune, Nicky Brown, Phil Lawless, Natalie Warren (Clerk)

Two members of the public (one joined partway through)

2023/45 Apologies for Absence - None

2023/46 Declaration of Interest - None

2023/47 Public questions – None.

Mention of village hall development planning permission progressing.

2023/48 Minutes of previous meeting held Tuesday 4 July 2023

Minutes were agreed & signed by previous acting Chair, Kevin Fortune

2023/49 Matters arising from previous meeting held Tuesday 4 July 2023

None – some items will be discussed on this evenings agenda

2023/50 Resignation of Mark Neale

2023/50/01 Co-option of new councillor

No new expressions of interest in becoming a councillor were received. The three previous applicants wished to stay involved in process.

Applicant	Vote	Outcome
Ailsa Dickinson	0	
Elaine O’Neill	2	
Kevin Robson	3	Successful candidate

Clerk will notify the applicants of the outcome and invite Kevin Robson to join the parish council at the next meeting.

2023/50/02 Selection of new representative for Ray Wind Farm CIC

A member of the council is requested to sit on the board and assist with decision making and forward planning. Phil Lawless volunteered to take this on, which was seconded by Kevin Fortune.

2023/50/03 Northern Power Grid liaison

No action has been taken on this since the last meeting and there have been no reports of power loss. The Clerk will ask former councillor Mark Neale for his notes on this topic and

prepare a letter for the local MP. An email was received from the landowner stating they are awaiting a decision from Northern Power Grid on works to be undertaken.

2023/51 Correspondence

2023/51/01 Request for Council to fund repairs to defibrillator from Village Hall Committee. Current expenses are for replacement pads - approx. every 2-3 years. Parish Council agreed to fund this and ongoing maintenance. Training to learn how to use the defibrillator has been poorly attended in the past. Anne Palmer will draft a piece for The Chimes to gather expressions of interest in training via a sign up sheet in the Post Office.

2023/51/02 Request for Council for financial support for Sport Tynedale

The Council were unsure if funds had previously been given and felt there were limited benefits from the group to parishioners, so unanimously voted not to support.

2023/51/03 Annual Joint Town & Parish Council Conference, Thur 5 October, 2-6pm, County Hall, Morpeth

No one from the council can attend.

2023/51/04 Verbal request for dog bin in Kirkwhelpington

Parishioner requested a dog bin to prevent waste accumulating. Suggested location by stream at bottom of village. This has been broached before, but not for about 5 years. Clerk will contact Northumberland Council to understand costs and logistic and Council will discuss at next meeting.

2023/51/05 Parishioner query about BT and going digital

BT announced last year that they will be shutting off their analogue service and replacing it with a digital system. For some householders this may mean needing to replace handsets, but existing landlines should still work. Council were unsure of the details and if the timeline had been changed. There was also uncertainty about whether digital systems would work during a power cut, which would depend on the exchange having a back up power source. The Clerk will explore this and report back.

2023/52 Outstanding works in parish

Meadowlands steps -only one side has been completed. Clerk to contact Karbon Homes to ask when the other set will be repaired, along with the loose handrail and loose bricks in wall.

Overgrown path The Crofts to Eastlands – Duke of Northumberland Estates have been contacted and plan on making a site visit to assess the location. They suggest multiple landowners may be involved including the Council and Karbon Homes. Clerk to chase a response from Northumberland Estates and contact Karbon Homes about cutting back the hedge.

Gilbert Grange development – Clerk contacted Michael Nesbit who had updated the Council in June, but no reply has been received. It is known the current developer has ceased to trade and a new company - Oakwood Developments are now managing the site, still under the parent company of Hadrian Real Estate. Clerk to continue to try and make contact for an update and also contact the planning department to understand if any conditions were enforced relating to the timescale of works. keep trying to get response.

Albion terrace access – this is still an issue and needs to be explored with Karbon Homes about making repairs to the surface. Clerk to make contact.

2023/53 Finance

2023/53/01 Selecting new signatory for account

On the resignation of Mark Neale a second signatory is required for the Parish Council bank account. Anne Palmer agreed to perform this role. The Clerk had prepared a form to return to Santander which required all members of the Council to submit their details. As the new signatory Anne will be required to submit a couple of forms of ID. The Clerk will forward details of these and get the form submitted. Until these changes are made, no payments can be carried out.

2023/53/02 The following accounts require authorisation:

Robson & Cowan: £157

Parish defibrillator: £144

Spanglefish web hosting: £108

Clerk wages & expenses:

Expenses	SEPT
Laptop	£342.00
Stamps	£6.00
Printer ink	£11.62
TOTAL	£359.62
Hours 27 June-31 Aug - 32.5	

To support her in the new role the Clerk asked for the Council to fund the following:

Membership of SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks): £85 per year

Item	Cost (all excluding VAT)	Outcome

New Clerk training - SLCC (4 courses over a year)	£20 per session	Approved
VAT for unregistered Parkinson Group/ NALC	£30	Approved
New clerks finance Parkinson Group/ NALC	£30	Approved
Agendas & minutes - SLCC	£60 for 2 sessions	Approved

All the amounts above were approved by the Council for payment.

Kevin Fortune requested that the current balance of the account was shown in the meeting minutes going forward.

Once the changes to the bank account have been set up, the payments above should be made as soon as possible.

2023/54 Planning matters

2023/54/23/02576/FUL Wetland scrapes near Dene House Farm

No comments from the Council. Agreed Clerk would circulate planning applications from the parish as they arise and the Council can decide if an extraordinary meeting needs to be called.

Clerk asked to chase David Love about the comments previously submitted re: quarry (**22/01909/CCMEIA**). These have not appeared on the planning portal yet and the strategic planning meeting has been again pushed back.

2023/55 Footpath repairs proposal

Member of the public provided some background and outlined his proposal to do simple repairs and maintenance to footpaths in the parish and would like the Parish Council to be involved to help with communications with landowners and funding for materials. The Clerk had contacted the Footpath Officer from Northumberland Council, Tony and been provided with a helpful update. This included the offer of some materials from the central council's store. The Council voted unanimously to support the work. Member of public will provide the Clerk with a list of materials needed, which will be requested via Tony.

A request was made for a full map of parish footpaths to be made available. A piece for The Chimes magazine will be drafted to encourage those walking the paths to report any issues to the Clerk (use of what 3 words). Circulate Tony email to council.

2023/56 Review of social media & website

Clerk proposed setting up a new Facebook business page to allow multiple users to be administrators. This was agreed.

The website needs some refreshing - most notably the banner image is currently of Stamfordham. This should be changed to a suitable image/ images of the village.

2023/56/01 ADAPT & bus timetables

Anne Palmer researched this information and will create a piece for The Chimes to let parishioners know what is available and when. Details will also be put on bus stops and on the PC website.

2023/57 Play area safety review (RoSPA)

This was received in July. No major issues have been flagged. Some minor repairs to surfacing are needed, which Kevin Fortune will organise.

The play area should be checked each month. Kevin and Eileen agreed to take this on and report any issues. There may be previous paperwork linked to the monthly checks - Clerk to research.

2023/58 Climate change

2023/58/01 Free trees

Northumberland Council are offering free trees to individuals and council or community groups. The Council felt there was nowhere in the village for a community planting but will put some information in The Chimes magazine and on the Facebook page and website.

2023/59 Cleaning bus shelter

After an incident in the bus shelter at the entrance to the village there has been some staining of the concrete. This has now faded and the council felt no further action was necessary.

2023/60 Urgent business - none

2023/61 Any other business

Concerns were raised about Knowesgate Hotel – the windows have been covered up and rubbish is accumulating at the back and encouraging rodents. Clerk to make a report to the police voicing concerns.

Overgrown hedges in village. Some hedges have grown over pavements and force pedestrians to step into the road, particularly on dangerous corners. A piece will be put in The Chimes magazine asking hedge owners to keep footpaths clear.

2023/62 Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 7 November, 7:30pm

Meeting closed: 21:51.

