

Meeting opened: 19:30

1 member of public present

01/07/2024 **To receive, and approve if appropriate, apologies for absence and reasons given**
None

02/07/2024 **To receive declarations of interests**

Members are reminded to declare any interest in any item on the agenda, now or at any time during the meeting.

None

03/07/2024 **To approve the minutes of previous meeting held 7 May 2024.**

Approved & signed by Chair

04/07/2024 **To receive comments/ queries from members of the public with regard to items on the agenda**

None.

05/07/2024 **Parish Clerk's report**

An update of work carried out since the last meeting & relevant information.

Police update

Between the 07/05/24 and 20/06/24 there were 13 incidents recorded one of which was also recorded as a crime (this was a neighbour issue).

There were 2 road traffic collisions (one was a one vehicle only), these were on the B6342 near to Wallington and on the A696 near to Kirkharle. There was also a reported near miss by a motorbike north of Knowesgate on the A696.

Community Champion Awards – now open for nominations

Street lighting survey – response received from Gavin Barlow, Street Lighting Manager:

“we have been allocated some funding from the Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP) Budget to improve the lighting in the Village from the Vicarage to the A696.

The design work has been completed, and I would expect the new lighting which consists of 5 new street lights to be completed within the next 3 months.”

Clerk has responded to ask for further details of the survey area. Councillors concerned over density of new lighting. Clerk to chase again.

Swing basket replaced & safety matting installed – thanks to Cllr Fortune for co-ordinating and volunteers for helping to install. Clerk to create a news piece to share on website.

Information Commissioners Office registration completed. Set up as annual direct debit to save £5 per year.

Slow wording requested in Kirkwhelpington village and at Marycastle, with advice from Cllr Riddle. Clerk to ask whether it might be possible to have ‘slow’ by the telephone exchange in Kirkwhelpington coming into the village as well.

Neighbourhood plan – next steps

The parish has now been formally designated as the Kirkwhelpington Neighbourhood Area. Support Officer is preparing a profile on the Parish and an "options paper" which looks at some of the policy topics that the Plan could include.

Next step is for Cllrs to meet with Support Officer and decide the shape the plan will take and how members of the public will be involved. Clerk to set up date for mid to

late August.

Footpath volunteers update.

Work is underway and Footpath Officer has been given a list of items needed for repairs to take place, which will hopefully come from Northumberland County Council. Some cutting back has taken place, but a lack of footfall on the paths means quick regrowth is likely.

Update from memorial hall re: conveyance.

This is in progress, but happening slower than hoped.

Fix My Street reports submitted

Item	Outcome	Further action
Dog bin full	Bin has been emptied	Monitor going forward
Dangerous tree limbs on lane to Walk Mill	Reported 25/6	Awaiting response

06/07/2024 **Exclusion of the public**

No relevant items

07/07/2024 **Planning**

To consider planning policies, applications and appeals received and resolve to submit comments where appropriate. [Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Sched. 7, para.8]

Reference	Detail	Status
22/01909/ CCMEIA	Proposed extraction of 3 million tonnes of dolerite...	Closing dates for comments 10 July
24/01204/LBC 24/01203/FUL	Rear infill extension to create open plan kitchen/living space. Little Harle Lodge	GRANTED
24/01107/LBC	Listed Building Consent for replacement of existing windows. Barts's Cottage	GRANTED

22/01909/CCMEIA

At time of writing no other respondees have changed their positions with regards to the quarry. No date has been for NCC's strategic planning department to make their decision. The main changes have been updates to ecology and environmental reports. Cllrs reflected that through the various nuanced changes to the scheme there has been no community engagement from the applicants. Concern was raised over how restrictions with regards to noise levels/ traffic management will be enforced and in particular the reinstatement of the habitat. This is particularly poignant for the village when other controversial developments (Gilbert Grange) have left part of the community living with an eyesore and no means of redress.

08/07/2024 **Items for Consideration and Decision**

a) Reward & recognition in parish – to select trophy & approve spend

Cllrs agreed to purchase an engraved cup, which would not have winners names on it, but would be given with a framed certificate. Clerk to explore if Ray Wind Fund would be able sponsor or help fund the trophy. Over time the process can be reviewed as the information needed for nominations and the frequency of the process.

b) Play area improvements – design & funding options

Cllrs Fortune & Rogerson received a quote from the previous installer of the play area.

Slide for younger children (3yrs +) quoted at £4,117

Pyramid climbing apparatus for older children quoted at £18,000

Both quotes include installation and suitable safety matting.

Clerk to explore funding options for the improvements and to seek out quotes from two other companies for the council to discuss.

c) Footpath at The Crofts & general tidyness

Discussion over the lifted slabs along the front of The Crofts which are causing a trip hazard. The broken slabs may be caused by larger vehicles (bin lorry) driving over them. Clerk to request Karbon Homes again cut back the hedge to keep the path clear.

On Eastlands concern has been raised by councillors and members of the public about the neglected state of some gardens, the accumulation of waste and the increase of vermin in the area. Clerk to write to Coast & Castle housing association to raise concerns and understand the requirements for tenants to maintain their plots.

d) Policy for requests to speak at meetings

The council often receives requests from charities and third parties to come and speak at meetings about topics which may be relevant to the wider community. However, as council meetings are bimonthly, cover a lot of business and don't attract large numbers of the public, it was felt that unless a topic is directly relevant to the work of the council at that time or of significance to the wider community, and requests would be advised to seek other means of reaching the public. Clerk will draft standard response to be used.

e) Dog bin – access improvements

Cllr Lawless has been improving this area. Flag stones are due to be placed for better access.

f) Volunteer training – strimming course (£275) & equipment (steel toe cap boots c. £70)– approval of spend.

Approved. Clerk to advise volunteer and set up training.

Some spraying may be needed in the village to tackle weeds. Cllr Fortune to advise where this needs to happen and a volunteer with necessary spraying ticket will be asked to carry out the work. This will be reviewed in the future to understand the necessity or alternative options.

g) Funding request from Citizens Advice

Council have supported this cause in the past, but would like to understand how our community is being served by Citizens Advice in terms of the availability of the service, particularly to those without online access. Clerk to request more information.

h) Grass cutting planning.

Season should run March-October, with a start date of March 2025. Cllrs to explore options for insurance or putting the contract out to tender and feedback at the next meeting.

09/07/2024 **Items for Information Only**

a. Correspondence

None

b. Items for Information

Ray Wind Fund update – local businesses have applied for funding which shows the breadth of what the fund can support. About a third of the fund has been committed to supporting B4RN to bring fibre broadband to the community.

Climate change toolkit – Cllr Palmer still pursuing hot composting bins - awaiting update from NCC

c. Items to be included in next agenda
LTP highways planning – deadline 27 Sept.

10/07/2024 Finance

a. Account Balances – *To receive a report detailing account balances*

b. Accounts for Payment – To review and approve items of expenditure, including those received before the meeting.

Date	Description	Amount
May/ June	Robson & Cowan Grass cutting expenses Play area materials	£270.29
May & June	Clerk wages	£350.75 <i>(inc £70.20 HMRC)</i>
May & June	Clerk expenses NCC bulky waste collection Stamps	£20.80 £6.80
July	Memorial Hall toilet grant	£350

Approved

c. Budget review & forecast

For information

d. Approve & adopt new Model Financial Regulations – online banking set up & debit card for clerk.

Approved & adopted.

11/07/2024 **Date & time of next meeting.**

Tues 3 September, 7:30pm