

Tuesday 2 January 2024

Meeting commenced: 19:48

Present: Cllrs Palmer (Acting Chair), Rogerson, Fortune, Brown, Lawless. 3 members of the public.

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

02/01/2024. 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 given.

03/01/2024. To approve the minutes of previous meeting held 7 November 2023

Approved & signed by Chair.

04/01/2024. To receive comments/ queries from members of the public. 3 members of the public present

A member wishes to share some thoughts about the potential Neighbourhood Plan (Item 08/01/2024 d)

05/01/2024. Parish Clerk's report

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

2023/52

- Meadowlands wall – awaiting date for repairs to conclude.
- The Crofts path – no clear way forward. Clerk to Ask SLCC for advice.
- Building works have resumed on Gilbert Grange. Some concern over how tidy the site will be left, but the Council will monitor the situation and re-visit as necessary.

Police can send update prior to meetings – nothing major to report since 1 Sept – only Knowesgate Hotel. Clerk will contact them before the next meeting for an update.

List of powers to be circulated which gives councillors an idea of what we can and can't engage with. Each item discussed on agenda should have a power listed with it to show the authority the Council is acting under.

06/01/2024. Exclusion of the public

To determine which items, if any, of the agenda should be taken with the public excluded.

Item 08/01/24 I – contracts review

07/01/2024. 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]

None received.

08/01/2024. Items for Consideration and Decision

a) Street lighting in the village

Clerk to chase NCC street lighting team to find out how the need for new lights is assessed. Some areas which require lighting are under different ownership and it would be too complicated and expensive for the Council to install lighting at these points. It was decided solar lights would be explored as an alternative option.

Cllrs Lawless & Fortune to explore & report back at next meeting.

b) installation of dog bin – recosting

Clerk has been advised the installation cost has increased to £320. Council agreed to this new price and have approved install to go ahead.

c) Defibrillator cabinet replacement.

Replacement cabinet costs £600 (inc VAT) and requires an electrician to fit it. Clerk to contact electrician for quote and apply to Ray Wind Fund for grant to cover the costs.

d) Neighbourhood plan/ future ambitions

- Generally takes 2-3 years, grants available, but can cost up to £20,000. Some councils have found by the time it's adopted, it's already out of date.
- Could ask NCC team to come and talk to us and explain the process
- Other options include 3-5 year plan, SWOT analysis etc.

Community Development Plan -

- Way to bring disparate ideas together
- Could be more integration between existing groups – Village Hall, Church, PC, improve communication
- Accessibility

Clerk to invite Neighbourhood Plan team to a meeting to given the Council more details and circulate links to the available information.

e) Bus shelter at Knowesgate

Too difficult and impractical to install a shelter in the layby. Advised that ownership of land in the may be changing so there may be opportunities to explore a bit further back from the road.

f) Tree safety

Northumberland estates have confirmed trees on the Village Green come under their responsibility, so they will action as needed.

g) Play area – remedial works needed

Cllr Fortune has looked into a replacement for the birds nest – approx.. £1400, plus replacement safety matting needed. Clerk to explore options for funding through Green Rigg community foundation. Discussion over desirable items for enhancing the play area – slide for younger children, or a pyramid climber. Need to consider the space carefully to keep football pitch. Cllr Fortune to provide Clerk with to get quote for repair/ replacement or birds nest. Further developments should be considered as part of the Neighbourhood Plan, if created. Proposed, Cllr Rogerson, Seconded Cllr Brown. New signage needed to advise no dogs allowed on playing field. Clerk to circulate design for approval & purchase, Cllr Fortune to install.

h) Support for Church grass cutting

Clerk to look back at historical records and see if money has been granted before. Need a formal approach from the Church to understand what is needed. Council feel the graveyard is a community asset, so should be cared for.

i) Speed limits in village & signage

Some concern that the speed limit in the village isn't advertised and there have been a few cats killed or injured recently. Children play in the streets and could also be at risk. Clerk to explore how go about getting signage and clarifying speed limit with Highways.

j) Parking in village

There are still some instances of anti-social parking, with many houses having more than one car, which is only exacerbated over holiday periods, such as Christmas with families visiting. To be considered in Neighbourhood Plan (if created).

k) Generator – insurance & storage/ maintenance

Awaiting information from Village Hall committee for asset register. Need to confirm who had access to shed and clarify with insurers the level of security needed – building is insured by Village Hall committee. Cllr Fortune to liaise with committee. Demonstration of generator to be shown at next meeting. Need to advise the wider community of the emergency plan.

09/01/2024. Items for Information Only

a. Correspondence

b. Items for Information

Ray Wind Fund update – large grant given to B4RN for fibre works. Advised larger grants (£5000+) may not be available until the new financial year.

Climate change toolkit – no update

c. Items to be included in next agenda

Youth Club & it's future

10/01/2024. Finance

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

Balance on all accounts as of 31.12.23 = £14,921.

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

Date	Description	Amount
31/12/2023	Staffing costs	£371.35
2/1/24	Play area equipment – signage x 3	Approx £20.
2/1/24	Fuel	£14.81

All payments approved.

c) Bank Reconciliation for approval

Accounts reconciled for year so far.

Cllr Lawless and Clerk to be set up as signatories and online banking to be set up for payments. Cost expected to be £60 per year.

Public were asked to leave the meeting

08/01/2024 l) contracts review

Cllr Fortune to provide specification for grass cutting contract, previously used. Clerk to contract contractor and get quote for coming year. Clerk to clarify with SLCC about insurance and contracts.

Meeting closed: 21:53

11/01/2024. Date & time of next meeting.

Tuesday 5 March, 7:30pm