**Minutes of electronic meeting of Thropton Parish Council held at 715pm on Monday 11th January 2021**

**Those Present:** Cllr Foggon (Chairman), Cllr J Carr, Cllr J Sutton, Cllr I Webb, C Miller (Clerk), one member of the public

**2021/01 Apologies for absence**

Cllr D Oliver

**2021/02 Declaration of Members Interests**

There were no Declaration of Members Interests.

**2021/03 Public Questions**

There were no public questions.

**2021/04 Police Report**

There was no police report.

**2021/05 Minutes of previous meeting held Monday 9th November 2020**

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 9th November 2020 be accepted as a true record, further to amendment of date of next meeting from 12th January to 11th January.

**2021/06 Matters arising from previous meeting held Monday 9th November 2020**

* **Village nameplates:** County Council had advised they can only fund nameplates through the Local Transport Plan, however the County Cllr could be asked to contribute through their annual budget, or the Parish Council could fund signage themselves. It was agreed to invite Richard McKenzie of the County Council to the next PC meeting to discuss options.
* **Parking and speeding issues within the parish:** Cllr I Webb had produced a document regarding parking and speeding issues within the parish, as follows, and which would be forwarded to Richard McKenzie.

“The Village was not designed for the combustion engine and the wide ownership of the car.

1. The number of cars owned increases year on year.
2. The volume of commercial traffic, including the largest vehicles, also increases year on year.
3. The number of homes with garages are limited, as are off road parking spaces.
4. The width of the highway is not sufficient.
5. The inevitable parking on the road further reduces the road width.
6. This makes it impossible for traffic to pass in many places through the Village.
7. Through traffic has a restricted view with consequent accidents.
8. View from junctions is limited or impossible, again with consequent accidents.
9. Another result of the above is the wholesale parking on the pavements.
10. The blocking of pavements restricts the access of pedestrians, prams, buggies and wheelchairs. It further reduces vision from junctions.
11. The aesthetic of the village is affected.
12. The traffic signs are appalling. Not are they not cleaned by the County Council but they are shabby and ill maintained.
13. The speed of the traffic is inappropriate for the obstructions and limitations of view.

**Solutions**

Imaginative ideas are needed and long term planning is required so that each change fits into an overall and understood plan, not least because funds are unlikely to be available in the short term to solve all problems.

It has been shown that the more cared for a village looks has an effect on vehicle users. The 2021 plan to replace overhead power cables is a step forward.

1. Some villages in Northumberland have 20 mph speed limits. This would be a simple and very significant effect on many of the above problems.
2. Parking is a major problem and will get worse year on year.
3. No housing or other developments should receive Planning approval without off road parking.
4. Some householders in Thropton, without previous off road parking, have created this on their existing property. This is to be encouraged and because this is a benefit to the community it should be encouraged with CC cash payments or a reduction in Council Tax.
5. Where appropriate e.g. between Burnside and the entrance to the Catholic Church the footpath should be removed. This would free up parking and may allow additional parking if cars can be parked at right angles.
6. Areas of land need to be identified as community car parks. It is obviously possible to set up larger car parks similar to that adjacent to the School. Possibilities for satellite parking should be explored.
7. Traffic calming measures may be helpful in the short term
8. If it is not possible to make a a significant impact on the main road parking it would be possible to have traffic lights at either end of the village.
9. Assistance with less invasive help would be to establish recognised passing places where parking was prohibited.

This is a complicated issue but ignoring it is not an alternative. Short term solutions are likely to lead to the next problem. It would be nice to think that a consultant, expert on these issues, could be employed to provide a comprehensive long term plan but the funding is unlikely. I have made preliminary enquires as to whether Newcastle University could appoint an under/post graduate student to be used to investigate this, but I am currently awaiting a reply.”

* **Footpath works from bridge to school**

No further action had been taken.

* **Damage to verges**

County Council had not yet actioned the repair.

**2021/07 Finance**

**2021/07/01 The following accounts are to be approved:**

* Kidd Garden Design – grass cutting/play area inspection/new bin key - £163.75

It was resolved to approve the account.

**2021/07/02 To receive update on repairs required at play area**

Gardener had advised repairs to the play area would be carried out in the near future.

**2021/07/03 To approve budget 2021-2022**

It was resolved to approve the budget for 2021-2022.

**2021/07/04 To approve precept requirements for 2021-2022 of £8792 as TPC’s contribution to the Joint Burial Committee precept and £4,000 for TPC’s parish precept**

It was resolved to approve the precept requirements for 2021-2022 of £8972 as TPC’s contribution to the Joint Burial Committee precept and £4,000 for TPC’s parish precept.

**2020/07/05 To consider request for grant from Bailiffgate Museum & Gallery Alnwick**

Bailiffgate is an independent, charitable organisation, who rely entirely on income generated by themselves, with volunteers running the museum. It was resolved to grant £100 to the organisation.

**2021/08 Planning**

**2021/08/01 Planning Applications received**

* 2003909/FUL & 20/03910/LBC: The Barns – Conversion of Barns to form four dwellings – no objections.
* 20/01442/FUL: Proposal for shop/fuel station at garage site - amendments – no objections.

**2020/08/02 Approval of Planning Application received**

* 20/02342/FUL: School House – Ground and first floor extension to extend kitchen on ground floor and provide additional bedroom with en-suite on first floor.

**2021/08/03 Mid Coquetdale Neighbourhood Plan – to receive update**

The Whitton & Tosson representative who had taken the lead on the project, had suddenly resigned from the role. It

was envisaged a further informal meeting would be held February 2021.

**2021/09 Rothbury Joint Burial Committee**

**2021/09/01 To receive update on staffing and current work required at burial ground**

New part-time employee had commenced work and was carrying out an excellent job. Twenty tonne of spoil had been

removed from the site with the assistance of temporary staff. Several favourable comments had been received from

parishioners regarding the improvements being made.

**2021/09/02 To consider approving updated Rothbury Joint Burial Committee Constitution**

Joint Burial Committee had agreed amendments to the document as follows:

8. Number of meetings – to approve changing from “no fewer than 2 occasions per year ,”to six

11. Finance – (3) – To approve amendments to precept percentage splits for 2021-2022

11. Finance – (6) – Payment of Invoices – To approve amendments for RPC to authorise all payments

12. Property – To approve amendment for RPC to act as the agent when letting the cemetery lodge

It was resolved to accept the document.

**2021/10 Correspondence**

No correspondence had been received.

**2021/11 North East Transport Plan, information and survey available at transportnortheast.gov.uk**

On-line survey available for completion.

**2021/12 To consider issues of concern within the parish**

Footpath had collapsed near to bridge which was the responsibility of Northumbrian Water - no action had been taken to date, but vehicles were swerving needlessly where safety barriers had been placed. The dilapidated lodge had been reported to the County Council, and the chimney and part of the roof had now been taken down, with further work expected.

**2021/13 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of Thropton Parish Council will be held on Monday 8th March 2021 commencing 7150m.



C Miller Parish Clerk

The meeting closed at 740pm

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