**Minutes of electronic meeting of Thropton Parish Council held at 715pm on Monday 8th March 2021**

**Those Present:** Cllr Foggon (Chairman), Cllr J Carr, Cllr J Sutton, Cllr D Oliver, Cllr I Webb, R Mckenzie (Northumberland County Council), C Miller (Clerk)

**2021/14 Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2021/15 Declaration of Members Interests**

There were no Declaration of Members Interests.

**2021/16 Public Questions**

There were no public questions.

**2021/17 Minutes of previous meeting held Monday 11th January 2021**

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 11th January 2021 be accepted as a true

record.

**2021/18 Meeting with Richard Mckenzie, Northumberland County Council to discuss parking and speeding issues within the parish**

There were ongoing problems in the village regarding speeding traffic and parking which encroached on pavements exacerbating the situation. A reduction in the speed limit to 20mph would be beneficial to the parish, particularly past the school. Richard Mckenzie reported the school would be getting a 20mph speed limit, and this could be extended throughout the village with any proposals going to public consultation. Richard to take I Webb’s report as a starting base and draw up some proposals. Large wagons travelling through the village were a big problem, however a weight restriction would not be feasible, however Cllr Sutton suggested vehicles could be diverted onto the A697. In 2018 the average vehicle speed had been 28mph, however up to date speed data would be taken. Village gateway signage would also be included in the draft proposals, and the developer at Physic Lane was to provide new signage to that end of the village.

**2021/19 Matters arising from previous meeting held Monday 11th January 2021**

* **Footpath works from bridge to school:** No action had as yet been taken to footpath on bridge, and there was still a problem on the opposite side of the road where Northumbrian Water were working – Clerk to contact NW for an update. The bridge is checked by the County Council on a regular basis, however the road surface appeared to be sinking.
* **Damage to verges:** No repair had been carried out where the wagon had caused damage, however winter services and road repairs were the County Council priorities at the present time.
* **Dilapidated lodge:** Lodge becoming evermore dilapidated, however work was expected in the near future.
* **Village nameplates:** Discussed earlier.

**2021/20 Finance**

**2021/20/01 The following accounts are to be approved:**

* Coquetdale Cluster fee - £18.00
* C Miller – salary/cluster salary & expenses - £603.77
* HMRC – PAYE on above - £142.80
* Kidd Garden Design - £285.98

It was resolved to approve the accounts.

**2021/20/02 To receive update on repairs required at play area**

Repairs to rocker and repainting of goalposts carried out. Inspection report advised flattening of hills/removing soil on

general surfaces, painting over graffiti on rocker seesaw and freeing chain links on small swing seats – and it was

resolved this work would be authorised.

**2021/20/03 To receive acknowledgement of grant from Bailiffgate Museum**

Acknowledgement of grant noted.

**2021/21 Planning**

2021/21/01 Planning Applications received

* 21/00053/VARYCO: Land South of Thropton Demesne, Variation of Condition 2 to 17/03550/FUL to enlarge kitchen space, provide basement storage and plantroom to facilitate ground source heat pump – no objections.
* 20/04376/FUL: Sherbrooke, replace existing septic tank with domestic sewage treatment plant – no objections.

**2020/21/02 Approval of Planning Application received**

* 20/01442/FUL: West End Garage, Demolition of existing garage and associated infrastructure, erection of convenience store, petrol filling station including underground fuel tanks with associated access, car parking and landscaping

**2021/21/03 Mid Coquetdale Neighbourhood Plan**

No progress had been made.

**2021/22 Rothbury Joint Burial Committee**

**2021/22/01 To receive update on staffing and current work required at burial ground**

30tonne of brash had been removed from the burial ground; records/grave numbers were being digitalised and maps being redrawn. Tree stumps had been removed; quotes awaited for exterior wall and machine shed doors. Paths and plotted areas to be created; new employee and self-employed personnel carrying out a fantastic job.

**2021/23 Review of Internal Auditor**

It was resolved to re-engage A Winter as internal auditor year ending 31/3/21.

**2021/24 Review of Internal Controls**

It was resolved the internal controls were sufficient for the present needs of the Parish Council

**2021/25 Review of Insurance Policy**

Play area equipment valued at £32448; street furniture £16224; public and employers liability £10m; fidelity guarantee

£150K, and which was agreed as sufficient for the present needs of the Parish Council.

**2021/26 Review of Bank Signatories**

There were currently three signatories which was considered sufficient at the present time.

**2021/27 Review of Asset Register**

It was resolved the register was an accurate record of the assets of the Parish Council.

**2021/28 Review of Risk Assessment**

It was resolved the Risk Assessment was sufficient for the present needs of the Parish Council, and which included items

pertaining to Covid-19.

**2021/29 Review of Standing Orders**

It was resolved the Standing Orders were sufficient for the present needs of the Parish Council.

**2021/30 To consider issues of concern within the parish**

Nothing to report.

**2021/30/01 To consider comments received regarding lack of grit/bin(s) on Main Street**

It was resolved there was sufficient grit within the parish and County Council expect parishioners to carry out gritting

themselves where it is supplied.

**2021/30/02 To consider repairs or replacement of parish seats**

Benches at West end of Thropton had been repaired, however recyclable seating would be beneficial for the parish. It was resolved to carry out an inspection of all seats within the parish.

**2021/31 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of Thropton Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 25th May 2021 commencing after the Annual Parish Meeting at 715pm.



C Miller Parish Clerk

The meeting closed at 8pm

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