

DRAFT MINUTES OF KNARSDALE WITH KIRKHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING HELD MONDAY 13TH MARCH 2017 IN KNARSDALE WITH KIRKHAUGH COMMUNITY HALL

Meeting commenced at 7.00p.m.

Present: Cllrs M Mennie, J Grieves, T Moore, JJ Raine, J Reed, W Watson & I Hutchinson (NCC).
Apologies: Cllr S Makepeace.

Also Present: Twelve parishioners

1. Northumberland County Council Planning Officer – Mark Kettley

Mr Kettley was asked to attend the meeting to give an update on the issues arising from the South Tyne Railway development. A formal notice has been issued, they have been given 14 days to remove the 'heaps of soil etc' from the Village Green or they can be taken to court. It was questioned as to whether or not some of this soil was contaminated, and if so this raised other serious issues (licence required). The heaps on the railway line are permitted development. The nuisance/hassle aspects, working at a weekend, soil/mud on road, trees felled, road verges churned up etc were discussed. NCC own the line but are in the process of 'assert transferring' it to STR, suggested this could be the lever to stop STR riding roughshod over everything (NCC passing on assets to save money). STR will have to re-instate the Village Green to a proper state. Although STR have the Light Railway Order this does not cover everything, they will require permission from the Secretary of State which they do not have, NCC are closely monitoring the situation. Car Park discussed – one way traffic, screening, whether or not the communal wheelie bins would be sited there, also widening of the road (which STR say they have permission for but no evidence has been produced). Pennine Way – STR were going to carry out some work as a good will gesture, this has not been done. The anticipated funding did not all come through therefore the project had to make cutbacks which is apparent by the changes made to the original plans, less money – short cuts. The Lottery Funding has to be spent by a specific date but STR will be able to request an extension, although they still hope to have this phase completed by late Spring/Summer.

Mr Kettley will keep in contact and feedback any information to I Hutchinson and M Mennie. M Mennie thanked Mr Kettley for coming along, he felt the discussions had been very helpful and perhaps he could make a return visit in a few months time.

2. Minutes of the last meeting (14th March 2016) were agreed and signed.

3. Matters Arising

Village Green – Everything mapped out and in place ready for the re-registering when required to do so. You cannot build or have hard standing on a Village Green, there was no permission given for a house which has been built on the Village Green and this will cause problems if/when it is to be sold. In some cases it is possible to own part of the Village Green (as STR have purchased the field) but it will always be village green and as such you are not allowed to build on it or have a hard standing, it must be kept for the enjoyment of the people.

Highway Issues: Cllr Hutchinson continues to pass on all concerns/issues raised to NCC.

Old School: Ongoing, solicitors who have all the documentation are looking into the matter.

4. Financial

Monies: : £296.49 + £5,151.25 = £5,447.74. Finance figures for 2016/17 were circulated.

5. Any Other business

The Hearse House : A member of the Church reported that the roof was not safe. The Parish council do not officially own this building, looking through old records it was noted that maintenance on the building was paid for by the Parish Council (that was when the hearse was pulled by horse). The Parish Council have drawn up documentation to register this small plot of land with Land Registry and until this has been authorised the Parish Council cannot legally take on responsibility for the building.

Highway Issues: Eals Bridge – soil piled up from flood, blocked drains, Slate House drain (cattle grid, pot hole (Merry Knowe), Sanders Close – slabs back, cutting back trees/bushes, Caravan Park – stabilisation of road, surface dressing of road, footpath – re-instatement following work carried out by Cybre Moor (photos to be e-mailed to I Hutchinson).

Enclosure Award: Church gave these over to Woodhorn (they did not have the authority to do so) but not able to get them back as the person/organisation who signed them over is the only ones able to authorise this, also there will be a cost for the storage whilst at Woodhorn. Nowhere secure or suitable to store them in the Parish.

Notice Board: Maintenance required (new door).

Rents Paid To Church: There is 2 accounts, one is currently used to provide a meal and administered by a local committee, it appears the other is going to the Church Diocese which should not be happening – M Mennie has contacted the Vicar who is going to supply a copy of the paperwork to rectify the money leaving the parish.

Parish Council Elections: Reminder that Parish Council elections were coming up in May, anyone wishing to stand to contact the Clerk or NCC Election Office for further information.

There was no other business. The meeting closed at 8.45p.m.