

MILFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

THE MEETING of MILFIELD PARISH COUNCIL was held electronically on FRIDAY 15 MAY 2020 at 7.30PM

The annual meetings usually held in May each year have been postponed until May 2021 by the Coronavirus legislation.

NB: NCC means Northumberland County Council

Present:

- Parish Councillors Allan Colman, John Fairburn, David Hughes (Chairman in the Chair) and Gillian Kozakiewicz
- County Councillor Anthony Murray
- Three members of the public
- Stephen Rickitt – Parish Council Clerk

1: Apologies for absence, declaration of interests, grant of any dispensations and co-options

- Parish Councillor Jean Adamson
- PCSO Alexandra Carr

2: Public Questions

The public had been asked to email any question to the clerk in advance of the meeting. No questions had been received.

3: Minutes and matters arising

3.1 The minutes of the electronic Parish Council Meeting held on 17 April 2020 were approved as a true record and will be signed by the Chairman.

3.2 Work on the old school site has not yet resumed. The clerk was asked to email NCC to raise the issue of conflicts between site traffic and the Electricity and Water Companies' separate works on Wheatriggs and the need to protect residents. **Action SER**

4: Coronavirus

4.1 Work is continuing to assist vulnerable parishioners. Wooler Parish Council are organising treat boxes for the vulnerable in the Glendale area, and a further delivery to those not included in the initial round, was to take place the following

day (Saturday 16 May). Councillors were happy to support this project and resolved

- a) To formally confirm the action agreed via email of donating £100 towards the costs being incurred by Wooler Parish Council
- b) To authorise the clerk, following consultation with Parish Councillors, to spend up to a further £300 on community assistance of whatever nature.

4.2 One issue discussed was the collection of prescriptions and the Chairman agreed to contact various individuals who had offered to assist with this. **Action DH**

5: Police Report

PCSO Carr was unable to attend but had sent the following report

Here is a report of the incidents of relevance to yourselves since the last meeting on the 17th April 2020.

There have been three incidents.

This includes two incidents of road traffic collisions. One incident where a woman on a bicycle was injured in a collision with a horse box and was taken to hospital, and one which is being dealt with primarily through insurance.

There was also a Covid 19 information log called in where there was a report of a large group socialising. When officers attended it was two households social distancing in an open space.

There have not been any crimes for your area.

Please let me know if you have any concerns or if any questions are raised in the meeting. Also, please remind everyone to stay safe whilst also staying alert and reporting suspicious incidents where possible.

6: County Council Report

Unfortunately, Cllr Murray's internet connection was erratic during the meeting, but he was able to assist when discussing other matters. The County Council had yet to hold a formal Local Area Council. Cllr Murray is happy to assist if there are any issues within the parish. During the National Emergency, it is best to email him.

7: The Playing Field

7.1 Actions have been in limbo due to the National Emergency but the clerk was asked to email Advance Northumberland (formerly ARCH) to see if they would provide the agreement in principle, to sit alongside that already given by NCC, in

order that applications could be made for Sports England grant funding. **Action SER**

7.2 Councillors gave some initial thoughts as to whether it would be possible to alleviate some of the parking issues on Wheatriggs avenue by use of a small portion of the field. No conclusions were reached as Councillors agreed that parishioners must be consulted. It was agreed to ask Cllr Sanderson and Iain Hedley (NCC) to visit the parish following the end of lockdown to discuss highway issues and the playing field. **Action SER**

Finance and Audit

8.1 The clerk was able to report that the Internal Auditor had contacted him to confirm that there were no issues she wished to raise, and her signed report was to follow in the post. Councils noted her emailed report. [A copy is attached to the signed minutes]

8.2 The Council approved the Annual Governance Statement. [A copy of the draft is attached to the signed minutes]

8.3 The Council approved the draft annual accounts for 2019/2020 [A copy of the draft is attached to the signed minutes]

8.4 The Council approved the Accounting Statement and Explanation of Variances [Copies of the drafts are attached to the signed minutes]

8.5 The Council gave retrospective approval for the following BACS payments

- David Hughes – Plants - £29.90
- HMRC – PAYE Q3 - £39.00
- Milfield Reading Room – Room Hire – £40.00
- Play Inspection Co – Annual report - £90.00
- HMRC – PAYE Q4 - £39.00
- NALC – Subscription & Website - £139.08
- Wooler Parish Council – Contribution towards treat boxes - £100 (see item 4 above)

8.6 The Council approved a cheque for £166.98 payable to SE Rickitt for the 2019 calendar year expenses.

8.7 The Council reconfirmed authority for the clerk to make BACS payments to The Reading Room up to a maximum of £5000 on the sight of receipts for the refurbishment of The Reading Room. This will be taken from the John Grey legacy.

9: Correspondence

Councillors noted an email regarding speeding as circulated prior to the meeting.

10: Date of Next Meetings

Councillors agreed that they should use the electronic format as a way of holding future meetings during the National Emergency and would next meet at 7.30 pm on Friday 17 June 2020.

[Additional meetings may be called if urgent issues arise]

Confirmed as a true record by the Council on

2020

Signed.....
Chairman

DRAFT