

## WOOLER PARISH COUNCIL

### **Draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council, Held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 at 7pm – a virtual meeting via ZOOM**

Present: Councillor Mark Mather (Chair) & Angus Murray (Vice-Chair). Councillors: Caroline Cumming (on telephone link), Joyce Robertson, Robert Donkin, Mark Napier, Tom Armstrong, Mark Trotter, Kevan Curry (via telephone link) Anthony Murray,

In Attendance: Kerren Rodgers (Clerk), Ian Smith (Press),

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

None

#### **2. PUBLIC STATEMENT**

Cllr Angus Murray read a statement to the meeting regarding an incident that occurred prior to the last monthly meeting. This had resulted in the police recording a crime and a parishioner was warned regarding their conduct at any future meetings. Enquiries had been made with NCC regarding this and what could be done in the future if necessary. It was noted that the Chair has the powers to remove everyone from the meeting and then reopen when the problem has been resolved.

Cllr Angus Murray proposed that in light of this event, members of the public should not be allowed into the meeting room until 5 minutes before the start of the meeting. Cllr Mather seconded and the meeting all agreed that a statement should be issued that bullying of any staff member of the Parish Council or any Councillors will not be tolerated and will always be reported to the police.

#### **3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

None received

#### **4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Cllr Mark Napier item 14

#### **5. LOCAL SERVICES UPDATE**

#### **REPORT**

Nothing received from police

Cllr MN made note that the police had been called to the COOP over an incident.

It was also noted youths had been caught ripping guttering of the bus station toilets and a fire had been lit in woods behind Oliver Rd – offenders and parents spoken to.

#### **6. CORONAVIRUS – Covid 19**

Cllr Mather reported on the meeting held with local community groups with a view to setting up a local response for vulnerable people regarding medications and shopping as well as telephone contact. The Parish Clerk is to be the point of contact for residents to register for help and the GGT are collating the register of volunteers. It was reported that the service has already been utilised 6 times and the system is working well. Glendale Connect are offering a telephone contact service to help with isolation. The Chair thanked all those concerned and also thanked Ruth Armstrong – NHS Co-ordinator for all her support. Daily briefings are being received from NCC and NHS and it was reported that £500 was to be given to WPC from small grants pot to help with costs of support. It has also been agreed with the Drs surgeries that anyone from Powburn through to the Borders that require medication and cannot collect, the PC will arrange for a contractor to deliver the medication. It was also noted that volunteers may need to check insurance to carry medication. A local taxi firm has agreed to do the deliveries at cost – all agreed. Cllr Mather also proposed that the WPC allocate a further £500 for staffing costs during this time – all agreed.

The GGT are to take on the food bank as this has to move from the local fire station.

Cllr KC made note that he may have to self-isolate and Cllr Mather stated that all must be careful at this time.

The system that has been put in place is very portable and thus if PC or MM fall ill, then it can be passed on easily to another person to administer. Cllr Robertson offered her services if needed.

It was also noted that the COOP and Farm to Freeze have been very helpful during this process.

## 7. PREVIOUS MINUTES

## REVIEW & SIGN

To be signed as a correct record minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council on 24/2/20.

The Parish Council read through the minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 24/2/20 were agreed to be a true and accurate record.

Cllr Ang Murray proposed the minutes and Cllr Curry seconded them. The Chair signed the minutes.

## 8. MATTERS ARISING

## REVIEW & DISCUSSION

To consider matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council –

No matters arising

## 9. PARISH REPORT

## UPDATE & DECISION

- Bus Station Toilets; Vandalism - Currently the toilets are closed as there is no hot water or soap provision to allow for hand washing NCC have confirmed they are happy for the toilets to be open. *(It should be noted that after the meeting NCC then reversed that instruction and closed the toilets)* The meeting agreed that it is important to get the camera for this area as further vandalism had occurred. NCC had been asked to lock the bottle banks as bottles were being removed from the banks and smashed in in the car park and toilets. Police are aware of the issue. Cllr Ant Murray asked if WPC could do anything to try and provide entertainment for the youths, NCC are putting together information packs. It was noted that updates are put on the WPC facebook page so all should share as much as possible. It was also noted that any local clubs (football etc) could produce a You Tube video.
- NCC Works – No further information has been received despite chasing again.
- Wooler Business Forum Meeting – It was reported that several Cllrs attended the meeting but not many businesses attended. The Newcastle BS & GGT gave a presentation although it was noted that a charge had been made for the room hire by the GGT. The meeting also agreed that a Retailers Assoc was required rather than a Business group as there were conflicts with some businesses being customers of the retailers. Cllr Napier made note that no retailers were at the meeting and the WPC agreed to carry this forward and investigate how they can help the shopkeepers group together.
- Glendale Connect – The meeting was informed that this group had been invited to attend a WPC meeting but had declined. However, several Cllrs attended a presentation and Cllr Trotter reported that a lot of good things had already happened and that both parties were keen to work together in the future and build a good working relationship.
- Slaters – This is ongoing as had changed the date but would now be likely to be cancelled.
- Insurance – PC presented asset list to WPC and all agreed on valuation of School Field Site as agricultural land.
- Parking Oliver Road – An email had been sent to NCC parking services but they claim no parking restrictions are in place (there are yellow lines on the corner of Ramsays Lane and Oliver Road) PC to email highways and request urgently - yellow lines as this is a safety issue.
- Pension Regulator – PC Confirmed that all paperwork had been completed for the next 3 yrs
- Funding Fair – Cllr Trotter read report on funding fair he had attended. God contacts made and received some useful advice. Cllr Mather proposed that once things were more “settled” Cllr Trotter proceed with exploring funding avenues for the playpark equipment and other projects.

## 10. FOUNTAIN SITE

## DISCUSSION & DECISION

It was reported that a cage was currently around the site as cement had been laid in readiness for the flower fountain. This was currently being sprayed. Cllr Mather proposed that as previously discussed, an additional bollard was purchased to match those ordered for this site, to be placed on the grass area on Church Street. Cllr Ang Murray proposed and Cllr Cumming seconded – all agreed PC to order.

## **11. BUS STATION EVENTS**

## **REPORT & DECISION**

It was reported the first 2 farmers markets had now been cancelled, and the offer to attend the meeting had been declined but would be invited to attend the next meeting.

## **12. WOOLER FIRST SCHOOL SITE**

## **DISCUSSION & DECISION**

The meeting was informed that despite requesting again to meet with NCC over this site, no response had been received. A further request is to be made.

## **13. WOOLER SPING CLEAN**

## **DISCUSSION & DECISION**

The national advice is not to carry out this initiative due to Covid 19. The meeting agreed that it would be too difficult at this time and perhaps a late summer campaign could be carried out. Cllr Cumming made note that individuals could always pick up rubbish as they see it.

## **14. SCHOOL FARM FIELD SITE**

## **DISCUSSION & DECISION**

- Purchase of Mower (£500) Cllr Mather reported that the WPC had been offered a mower that can be towed behind a quad, a small tractor or Kubota type vehicle. Discussion followed regarding costs of contractors (£35ph) to top the field and the benefits of being able to do this "in house" meant anybody could do it at a convenient time. Cllr Cumming questioned how much the maintenance costs would be and it was agreed that it was a simple task to maintain them and wouldn't be expensive. Cllr Ant Murray offered to buy them for WPC out of parish funds. The Chair thanked him for this kind offer and the meeting accepted. It was also noted that the Scouts had purchased a small ride on mower which can be used for the more awkward bits, around trees etc. the meeting agreed that the site is already developing well and it was pleasing to see how busy it was. The question was raised over parking as some temporary fences had been driven over. The WCFG had agreed that they needed to do work to the parking area and that traffic would slow down as allotments were established. Cllr Ang Murray is to "roll" the site as the grass is as yet too rough to cut.
- Leases – Draft leases have been sent and no comments received. Meeting agreed to go ahead, PC asked to contact solicitor and progress.

## **15. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

## **REPORT & DECISION**

Nothing of note to report as all consumed with Covid 19

## **16. SCOTTS PARK/BRYONS PARK**

## **UPDATE & DECISION**

- Play equipment-deferred to next meeting
- Inspection renewal – the meeting agreed to renew contract with NCC, Cllr Mather in contact regarding a rebate although nothing further to report.
- Lease Agreement – The meeting was informed about the option of taking Brysons Park on a long lease which would not incur any expensive solicitor's fees and could be handed back if the WPC could no longer maintain it.

## **17. PLANNING MATTERS**

- Application 20/00266/ADE – Advertisement Consent: Notice Board (re-sired) display cabinet and fascia sign. Wooler Evangelical Church, Cheviot Street, Wooler

## **18. PLANNING DECISIONS**

- Change of use to part of building from D1 to A2 (financial and prof), The Cheviot Centre, Padgepool Place - GRANTED

## **19. OUTSIDE BODIES**

## **REPORT, DISCUSSION & DECISION**

- None

**20. COUNCILLOR’S TASKS/QUESTIONS**

**REPORT, DISCUSSION & DECISION**

- Cllr Mather commented that if any questions regarding the WPC could be directed via email or over the phone rather than “ranting” on facebook. All polite requests for information or clarification will be dealt with.
- Cllr Cumming raised the question over the cost of the crimes and victim compensation. Cllr Ang Murray confirmed that this would be a police matter, not decided by the victim.
- It was agreed that the use of Zoom as a virtual meeting platform had been a great success and that if current restrictions were still in place for the next meeting, any member of the public could ask to be sent the link to allow for public access.

**21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm.

**22. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- Insurance

**23. FINANCE - Payments for authorisation – SEE TABLE BELOW**

Glendale Middle School – Kompan Meeting	19.20	Transfer
NCC – Feb 20 payroll costs	693.56	Transfer

Two signatories to authorise the above payments – the Parish Council agreed the payments and the Chair signed the invoices to authorise payment by clerk.

Signed: .....

Signed: .....

In CAMERA – Archbold Trust Meeting