

WOOLER PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council, Held on Monday 22nd March @ 7pm – a virtual meeting via ZOOM

Present: Councillor Mark Mather (Chair) Councillors: Tom Armstrong (Vice chair), Rob Donkin, Joyce Robertson, Caroline Cumming, Anthony Murray, Helen Deane-Hall, Mark Napier, Helen Leighton-Rose,

In Attendance: Kerren Rodgers (Clerk), Ian Smith (JPI Media), Insp Swann – Northumbria police

21/41 APOLOGIES

P C Curtis Ritchie
Kevan Curry

21/42 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION – Maximum 5 mins per item

None

21/43 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cllr Mark Napier, Cllr Helen Deane-Hall Cllr Helen Leighton-Rose 21/49 Cllr Tom Armstrong 21/52

21/44 LOCAL SERVICES UPDATE REPORT

No report received via email from PC Ritchie

- Inspector John Swann – Operation Acorn update
Insp Swann updated the meeting on plans to allow for influx of visitors again. Weekly meetings with the Forestry Commission and National Parks to make plans for visitors. Also working with Mountain Rescue and information being posted regarding the Countryside Code as expect “staycationers” who would normally be abroad. Plans in place for car parking, extra officers working around the Coast and Ingram Valley. This is also a cross-border initiative and any problems can be reported via 101 or the website.

21/45 CORONAVIRUS – Covid 19 REVIEW & DISCUSSION

- Update – Age UK packs ready to be distributed with cards from the business forum. Still medication deliveries and also starting vaccine taxi service as 12 wks from 1st vaccine. Cllr Cumming asked protocol for booking a taxi ride, can either ask GP to contact PC or direct to Clerk.

21/46 PREVIOUS MINUTES REVIEW & SIGN

To be signed as a correct record minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council on 22nd February '21

The Parish Council read through the minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 22/2/21 were agreed to be a true and accurate record.
Cllr Leighton-Rose proposed the minutes and Cllr Robertson seconded them. The Chair signed the minutes.

21/47 MATTERS ARISING REVIEW & DISCUSSION

To consider matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council – Page 2
The Chair reported that Age UK were “over the moon” with the donation.

21/48 PARISH REPORT UPDATE & DECISION

- **First School Site/Cemetery Land** – The Chair confirmed that a licence had been received to allow the PCC to access the site to begin soil samples etc. Cllr Robertson asked if this meant it was going to be definitely handed over, The Chair confirmed that the permissions were being sought from Education Department to transfer land.
- **Tree - Horsenside** – Cllr Cumming reported that the resident was very happy as the tree work had been completed.

- **Elections** – Timetable confirmed with meeting, notification of election on 26th, Nominations then from 29th March and discussion followed regarding current Councillors completing of forms etc.
- **Sign Poles** – The Chair made note that number of old signs, broken and damaged signs. Has been in contact with NCC and looking hopeful that the upcoming financial year will see all the signs that needed replaced are dealt with. Report any damaged signs to the Clerk and we will compile a list of signage needing replaced.
- **Bins at the Bus Station** – Complaint has been made to NCC regarding the state of the recycling bins at the bus station, Bob Hodgson agreed new ones are needed. Also the clothes recycling bin needs replaced. The meeting agreed that it was important to improve this area as it was a well-used recycling point.
- **Cllr email addresses** – the meeting was informed regarding setting up of Council email addresses and the costings involved. The meeting agreed that the Clerk should investigate costs and this will be implemented at the AGM.
- **Tweed Forum** – The Chair reported that he had been approached by the Forum who are working with the Environment Agency and getting a grant for this work. Wanted community involvement, looking at involving the School for educational purposes. Looking at possibility of putting funds into NCC to improve the A697 path and extend to the road leading to the Haugh Head Ford as this would be a useful improvement to the town. The Chair also had asked about the footbridge over the Ford and it had been confirmed this was to be kept.

21/49 SCHOOL FARM FIELD SITE DISCUSSION & DECISION

- **Water/Water Bowser** – Northumbrian Water have accepted the application and they will provide quote and timescale. Discussions have also taken place with Floral Display as water unlikely to in for plants immediately and Cllr Murray kindly offered to purchase a Bowser which will be used to water the polytunnel plants and also available for the Floral display to water High Street plants.
- **Polytunnel** – The meeting was informed that the polytunnel had been delivered, awaiting confirmation of installation dates. Cllr Donkin confirmed that orders for plug plants had been put in to garden centre but may not get all that were wanted. Wood had been donated free and also the plant pot collections has gone well. J T Doves have also offered a good discount if we need to purchase any equipment. Cllr Napier offered wood from Scouts. The meeting was informed of the joint venture with the GGT on winter plating that has now been completed. The Chair proposed that a “petty cash” fund was set up to allow Cllr Donkin to purchase plants, compost etc without having to come back to full council each month. All agreed that this would be a good idea. Cllr Mather [proposed fund of £500 to be set up, Cllr Armstrong seconded – all agreed. Discussion followed regarding the sheltering of the polytunnel and it was agreed that a roll of green netting would be purchased and also flooring. Willow to be planted as a long term solution to the shelter. Thanks to Cllr Donkin for all his hard work.
- **Allotments** – annual inspection – The meeting was informed that an inspection had taken place and a number of issues identified. The WCFG had responded and it was agree that this would be held over to a sub-committee meeting asap. Some trees still to be planted, numbers and times of planting agreed.

21/50 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT REPORT & DECISION

Cllr Murray had nothing to report from NCC if anybody has anything they want help with, please contact Cllr Murray.

21/51 SCOTTS PARK/BRYONS PARK UPDATE & DECISION

- **Land Transfer** – still not received, Clerk will chase again, would like to complete before AGM.
- **Bollards** – More vehicles reported in Scotts Park, some bollards have been replaced but the vehicular access is still open. Photographic evidence has been sent to Highways and they have agreed to deal with this asap.
- **Riverside** – The crocuses’ look great, and will only get better with time. The meeting was informed that the Scotts Park side of the Riverside still needs the Ivy and low brash needs removing.

Discussion followed regarding costs of this, Cllr Napier noted that daffodils will be coming through so work could not begin until May. Cllr Mather proposed getting quotes for the whole of the riverbank for next meeting – all agreed.

21/52 TORY SITE/TORY BANK

REPORT, DISCUSSION & DECISION

- War Memorial Costings – The chair confirmed that 2 quotes had been received but that needed to check works quoted for were like for like as vast difference in quoted costs. Does allow the Clerk to begin grant application with War Memorial Society. Following discussions it was agreed to investigate further with builders who had quoted to ensure fully understand what has been included and ensure like for like. Cllr Mather suggested that an amount was put towards this cost to show that the PC is committed to getting the work done. Cllr Napier suggested an amount of £5k as landscaping may be required after works have been completed. Project also includes working with the historical society and information boards will also be required. Cllr Robertson suggested applying to the Wind Farm scheme. Helen Leighton-Rose seconded the £5k input – all agreed.
- Tree works update – The Chair confirmed that all Ivy had been removed and the site was looking better already.
- Bat Survey – The meeting was informed of discussions that had taken place regarding the bat survey. Explanation of what is to be looked at further, currently only cost £150. Potential habitat for bats on Tory Site and therefore full survey throughout May – September, minimum of 3 visits over all the wood. Hopefully identify if bats are feeding or living in the area. The feeding corridor runs through Wooler. Ad Gefrin have had a full survey completed and they found minimal usage by bats. To progress to the next survey would cost £2470. NCC planning are not insisting on a full bat survey but clarification needs to be sought from Forestry England prior to commissioning next steps. Meeting agreed that more investigation work is needed before decision made. May be able to use Ad Gefrin survey but a bat survey is only valid for 2 years. The PC want to ensure that all wildlife is protected and to keep this feeding corridor open is critical so reducing some of the larger trees by 20% and do a gradual removal process over 5 years.
- Aerial Signal – The Chair informed the meeting that 2 residents of Archbold Cottages were having issues with TV signal because of the Tory Bank trees. Discussions followed regarding options available and it was agreed that Castle & Coast were to be approached as a satellite dish needed to be installed on an adjacent property. The Chair suggested the installation of a satellite dish between the two properties to allow them access to TV, the proposal being that as the residents need to be in the house more due to Covid, this would be spent out of the Covid funds. The costing for this would be £369, the landlords have previously stated this a WPC problem. Further discussions took place and the meeting agreed that in this instance, the landlord is to be approached and if they will not help WPC should have the dish installed but no further maintenance or liability will be due. Discussions followed regarding the boundary fence between Ad Gefrin & WPC land as a tree had been removed which they felt was on their land. Meeting to be held with Ad Gefrin to discuss.

21/53 NCC – Issues

- Update of Meeting – The meeting agreed that following the receipt of the letter from NCC, a separate meeting needed to be held as quite a lot to discuss. – All agreed.

21/54 PLANNING MATTERS

DISCUSSION & DECISION

- **Planning subcommittee** – The meeting of the planning sub-committee took place and all agreed it was very helpful. Thanks extended to Richard who has agreed to provide fee consultation to the committee. Cllr Cumming asked about paper forms – no paper forms being sent out due to Covid.
- **21/00606/VARYCO** – Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on approved application 20/02445/FUL in order to improve resident accommodation. The Old Vicarage, 26 Cottage Road, Wooler, NE71 6AD – Internal adjustment only
- **21/00510/FUL** – Demolition of existing kitchen extension and construction of new kitchen/dining room extension together with internal ground floor alterations, Richmond House, 35 Peth Head, Wooler, NE71 6NE – no objection
- **Planning training** – This has been organised for 20th May 2021 to allow any potential new Councillors can attend.

21/55 PLANNING DECISIONS

UPDATE & DECISION

- None

21/56 OUTSIDE BODIES

REPORT, DISCUSSION & DECISION

Cllr Mather reported on the Business Forum meeting.

21/57 COUNCILLOR'S TASKS/QUESTIONS**REPORT, DISCUSSION & DECISION**

- Cllr Cumming made note of a complaint about the High Street which had been made on Facebook. Discussions followed and it was noted that residents should bring concerns direct to the PC or NCC rather than comments on facebook. If something needs addressed, please contact the Clerk. Retailers have previously always looked after "their own bit".and as soon as they are back this will continue. It was noted that The Peth re-surfacing works are to begin this week.
- Cllr Robertson noted that a street light is not working and a seat is situated underneath this at Jubilee Path no 171WL – reported to NCC. Resident would like seat moved to stop youths congregating as making a mess. The Clerk to send again to NCC, Cllr Cumming suggested not moving seat until light fixed.
- Cllr Armstrong noted that wagons had been running on Ramseys Lane in the early hours of the morning, 2 complaints had been received but nothing the WPC can be done about it. Will forward complaints to Robin McCartney/Paul Jones at NCC as will be made worse by state of road.

21/58 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 26th April 2021 at 7pm.

21/59 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

None

21/60 FINANCE

- Payments for authorisation – SEE TABLE BELOW

NCC – Mar 21 Payroll	1156.91	Transfer
Elipse Fabrications – 50% of balance due	2931.00	Transfer
NCC – Installation of commando boxes	1080.00	Transfer
Northumbrian water – application for water	138.00	Transfer
Hand Soap	20.26	Transfer
EE – Mar 21	14.71	DD
O.D.Donnovan – Ivy removal	420.00	Transfer
NCC – Feb 21 payroll	976.92	Transfer
Zoom March Subs	14.39	DD

Two signatories to authorise the above payments

Signed:

Signed: