

WOOLER PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council,
Held on Monday 20th December 2021 @ 7pm – at Glendale Middle School, Wooler

Please note limited agenda due to covid guidelines

Present: Councillor Caroline Cumming (Chair) Councillor Mark Napier (Vice) Councillors, Rob Donkin, Mark Mather, Joyce Robertson, Helen Leighton-Rose, Duncan Veevers

In Attendance: Kerren Rodgers (Clerk),

21/215 APOLOGIES

Cllr Helen Deane-Hall, Paul Watson, Kevan Curry

21/216 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION – Maximum 5 mins per item

None

21/217 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None

21/218 LOCAL SERVICES UPDATE

REPORT

Northumbria Police –

- 1/ Criminal damage to a residential property – offender unknown.
- 2/ Malicious communications offence – Offender warned at the request of the victim.

Quiet month crime wise due to the time of year and storm Arwen which caused mass disruption in the area.

The meeting noted that a “fracas” had occurred on the High St on Saturday night which was extremely disappointing.

21/219 PREVIOUS MINUTES

REVIEW & SIGN

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

The Parish Council read through the minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 22/11/21 were agreed to be a true and accurate record, Cllr Robertson proposed, Cllr Mather seconded, all agreed. The Chair signed the minutes.

21/220 MATTERS ARISING

REVIEW & DISCUSSION

To consider matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council – no matters arising

21/221 PARISH REPORT

UPDATE & DECISION

- **Christmas Lights** – Cllr Cumming confirmed that a donation had been received of £30 towards replacing the damaged xmas lights. It was also noted that a kind offer of white lights had been received. Discussion followed regarding compatibility and it was agreed to accept the kind offer but that if the lights were not compatible we could pass them onto another organisation. 5 Coloured lights and 1 white lights x 18m damaged although some may not be repaired.
- **First School Site – Churchyard** **POSTPONED**
- **Bulb planting** – The bulbs have all been planted, the Chair thanked all those that helped but expressed disappointment at the lack of Cllrs available to help.

21/222 BUDGET/PRECEPT**DISCUSSION & DECISION**

Discussion followed regarding the options available within the existing precept and budget and where new projects could be funded from such as the Tory Site and the Scotts Pak play equipment. Cllr Mather noted that Wooler would seem to be good value for money, compared with other local towns. It was also noted that second homes/holiday homes and businesses do not contribute to precept. The meeting agreed that having a self-employed contractor should help with the budget but that an increase of 4% would give the council an increase of just over £1k. Cllr Robertson proposed an increase of 4%, Cllr Leighton-Rose seconded all agreed.

21/223 SCHOOL FARM FIELD SITE POSTPONED**DISCUSSION & DECISION**

- Water
- Fencing for polytunnel

21224 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**REPORT & DECISION**

Cllr Mather reported on the Storm Arwen joint agency response. He thanked all the retailers and cafes that donated soups and also thanked the volunteers that went door to door to check on residents to find anyone that had particular needs whilst the water and power was off. Thanks to Nikki, Barbara and helpers at the Angel who opened the doors and he noted the fantastic response from the community. Communities Together were working from Morpeth and feeding information on "high risk" individuals. After 3 days the operation was moved to the Cheviot Centre and thanks extended to the GGT for their support. It particularly highlighted that local knowledge was key. Some funds were donated and Cllr Mather has made the "pot" up to £50 and he proposed donating to the Mountain Rescue as they were the only voluntary organisation who attended every day – all agreed. Communication was the biggest issue and trying to get information out was very difficult. The High Sheriff also visited and helped which was a great moral boost. Cllr Mather noted how incredibly proud of how the community pulled together. The PC agreed to pay local businesses who had provided meals/showers etc which will be repaid by the Powergrid. Cllr Robertson commented that it was disappointing that a major incident was not called sooner and it was felt that the NCC decision makers did not understand how difficult the situation was and this has been fed back to the cabinet. Thanks were also extended to all the tradesman, plumbers, builders who managed to get water to cattle, repaired roofs and patched up the town. Cllr Mather has also requested that any extra highway funds should go toward repairing U & C roads which are getting very poor. A lot of NCC works are delayed, with gully wagons working overtime as lots of drains have been blocked. Communities Together are working on ways of getting people back out and engaging in the community and are currently looking at potential community transport to get residents to events outside of their immediate area. Concerns have been raised regarding the change to breaks with NEAS he has been informed that our area is not included. Robin McCartney has agreed that the CO OP crossing work will be completed at the same time as the school crossing lights.

Cllr Cumming thanked Cllr Mather for all his hard work.

21/225 SCOTTS PARK/BRYONS PARK POSTPONED**UPDATE & DECISION**

- Scotts Pk Play Area – Steering Group
- Riverside

21/226 CARETAKING WORK – employment group**REPORT & DECISION**

The draft for the invitation for tender for caretaking work has been provided and will be finalised for publication in January. Cllr Mather suggested that the clerk takes 2 weeks holiday from 24th December - all agreed. An automatic response will be placed on emails and an answerphone message for the phone but emergency contact can be made via the vice chair, Cllr Napier.

21/227 TORY SITE/TORY BANK POSTPONED**REPORT, DISCUSSION & DECISION**

- War Memorial Update
- Working group update

21/228 PLANNING MATTERS**DISCUSSION & DECISION**

- 21/04498/FUL – Proposed two storey side extension and single storey sunroom to rear **63 High Fair, Wooler, NE71 6PA**
- 21/04410/FUL – Change of use of no.79 High Street from office/shop to domestic residential, combine 79 and 81 into one residential dwelling and proposed alterations **79 and 81 High Street, Wooler, NE71 6BD**
- 21/04477/FUL – Proposed single storey extension with roof lantern, first floor bedroom extension and balcony - **2 Magdalene Court, Wooler, NE71 6AY**
- 21/04582/FUL – Extension to existing industrial building – **Glendale Properties, Unit 3 Berwick Road Ind Est, Wooler, NE71 6AH**

21/209 PLANNING DECISIONS**UPDATE & DECISION**

- Construction of new bungalow with associated garden and driveway – **East Haugh Farm, Wooler, NE71 6QP – GRANTED**
- Proposed demolition of existing cottage and replacement with new 1.5 storey house and outbuilding. **Waud House, Common Road, Wooler, NE71 6PD - GRANTED**

21/210 OUTSIDE BODIES**REPORT, DISCUSSION & DECISION**

None

21/211 COUNCILLOR’S TASKS/QUESTIONS**REPORT, DISCUSSION & DECISION**

A Christmas card had been received from the WCFG which was read out. The meeting agreed to purchase a banner to advertise the Carol Service going forward and also the mince pies that were purchased for the same should be donated to the Vicarage and Bellview. Cllr Cumming had received a complaint regarding the junction of Tankerville Terrace and Glendale Road and cars parking on the junction. The problem with cars parking outside Kingsmead was raised and Cllr Mather confirmed a second email to Phil Sodaquest at NCC. Cllr Donkin noted that the polytunnel had sustained a small amount of damage but that he had managed to fix it.

The meeting discussed the options regarding payments if a lockdown happens over the next 2 months. It was agreed that the Clerk would be given delegated powers to pay incoming bills if meetings cannot take place with 2 Cllrs signatures to authorise.

21212 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 24th January 2022 at 7pm,

21/213 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING – Second/holiday homes, Northumbrian Water**21/214 FINANCE**

- Payments for authorisation – SEE TABLE BELOW

Northumberland CC – Nov 21 payroll	1039.11	Tfr
Donkin Engineering – Christmas light items	79.46	Tfr
Viking Direct – Cleaning materials	86.33	Tfr
NCC – Grass cuts 2021	2445.83	Tfr
IONIS-emails	30	DD
EE mobile	14.88	DD
G R Cross – water pipe trench	800.00	Tfr

Two signatories to authorise the above payments

Signed:

Signed: