

WOOLER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council, Held on Monday 25th October 2021 @ 7pm – at Glendale Middle School, Wooler

Present: Councillor Caroline Cumming (Chair) Councillor Mark Napier (Vice) Councillors, Rob Donkin, Duncan Veevers, Helen Deane-Hall, Paul Watson, Mark Mather, Joyce Robertson

In Attendance: Kerren Rodgers (Clerk), Ian Smith (JPI Media), PC 8873 Ritchie, PC 6563 M Homsby

21/177 APOLOGIES

Cllr Helen Leighton-Rose, Cllr Kevan Curry

21/178 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION – Maximum 5 mins per item

Mike Deane-Hall, Headmaster of Glendale Middle School addressed the meeting to appraise the councillors of the Berwick Partnership consultation which is currently underway and the implications for the Glendale Middle School. As this is currently 3 tier with most other education trusts operating on a two tier system. The consultation is very important for the local voice to be heard and the Council and Mr Deane-Hall should ensure that they engage with the consultation. Any changes will impact the need for the building in its current state and it may mean new uses for some of the building will need to be found.

21/179 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cllr Napier 21/184

21/180 LOCAL SERVICES UPDATE

REPORT

Northumbria Police – 1/ Theft from a retail premises in the town centre. Offender unknown but CCTV enqs are being progressed
2/ Criminal damage to a retail premises in the town centre. Offender unknown but again CCTV enqs are being progressed.
3/ Criminal damage to the derelict old primary school. Nobody seen or heard.
4/ Incident at Wooler school resulting in 2 assault crimes being recorded. Neither party wanted to make a complaint so both parties were advised accordingly.
5/ A report of criminal damage was also taken linked to the above incident. As above, parties involved are known to the police.

PC Ritchie was informed regarding children congregating in the bus station again, this will be added to areas to be checked. Cllr Robertson noted that Brysons Park is still an issue and the meeting was advised to report crime either by 999 if the crime is being committed at the time, or 101 or if this is not practical, then a text service is available on 07786 200814 or crimes can also be reported on the website. It was noted that generally, police attend urgent incidents within 20 minutes but a grade 5 crime report will have a delayed response.

21/181 PREVIOUS MINUTES

REVIEW & SIGN

To be signed as a correct record minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council on 27th September 2021

The Parish Council read through the minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 27/9/21 were agreed to be a true and accurate record, Cllr Donkin proposed, Cllr Mather seconded, all agreed. The Chair signed the minutes.

21/182 MATTERS ARISING

REVIEW & DISCUSSION

To consider matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council -none

21/183 PARISH REPORT

UPDATE & DECISION

- **Christmas Carol Service** – Cllrs Cumming confirmed that a meeting had taken place and the general form and content had been agreed. The next meeting is to be held on the 1st November. Cllr Donkin

suggested that the local paramedics be asked to do a reading this year, Carol service is to be held on the 14th December. Cllr Mather proposed the HospiceCare – Alnwick as the charity to be supported by this years' service – all agreed

- **Christmas Lights** – Cllr Donkin confirmed that the Christmas Lights are to be put up on the weekend of the 13th/14th November starting at 10am. It was confirmed that the commando boxes for the street lights on The Peth had been ordered. Discussion regarding possibility of hiring decorations this year. The meeting agreed that an extension lead should be purchased for use at the Church, Cllr Veevers offered to donate an extension lead. The meeting agreed that Cllr Donkin/the Clerk were authorised to purchase the lights for The Peth.
- **Flower display/Parking – The Peth** – Cllr Mather had put a no parking sign on the flower box on The Peth but vehicles still being parked on the grass. This is to be reported to parking enforcement NCC and also to discuss with NCC Highways about installing rockeries in this area.
- **Speed Signs** – Cllr Mather to check the batteries and liaise with the Clerk.
- **Snow contract with NCC** – The Clerk is to check with Bob Hodgson, NCC regarding the path clearing contract for this coming winter. Cllr Mather proposed that we agree to pay any overtime charge – all agreed. Mather & Son have won the snow clearing contract but will not be gritting as this will be carried out in house by NCC.
- **First School Site – Churchyard** the report from St Marys Church was read out regarding progress made so far, it was noted that a request should be made for any holes dug to be filled in.
- **Date for bulb planting** – Cllr Watson apologised for absence. Cllr Donkin noted that 3,000 crocus bulbs had been planted on the riverside and thanks were extended to all those that attended. There are a further 3,000 daffodils to be planted on Church St/The Peth/Market Place. Cllr Napier offered to plant around the old police station. The Clerk to post on facebook.

21/184 SCHOOL FARM FIELD SITE

DISCUSSION & DECISION

- **Water** - Installation update – Northumbria water have indicated that work will begin next week (1st Nov onwards) Graham Cross has been asked to dig trench on Monday for Tuesday installation. Fencing will be erected for safety and a board for pedestrian access to the allotments. It was noted that this could potentially take a further 2 weeks to be completed. The Clerk is to produce warning notices and inform the WCFG. A request had been received from the WCFG to store top soil and the meeting agreed that this was acceptable.
- **Wooler 1st Scouts request** – Cllr Napier left the meeting whilst a request for a future potential water supply to the scouts hut – all agreed.
- **Fencing for polytunnel** – Cllr Donkin confirmed that the Herris fencing was at the polytunnel but installation will now be delayed due to the water installation
- **WCFG request re gate** – the meeting discussed the best options to ensure site security for insurance purposes and also accessibility for all abilities. Cllr Mather proposed that a letter is sent confirming that the WCFG can look at getting a bar fitted to the gate to aid pulling back the bolt, but the bolt and top latch must be secured in place to stop further damage to the gate due to wind pushing against the gate when closed. Cllr Veevers seconded – all agreed.

21/85 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

REPORT & DECISION

Cllr Mather confirmed a meeting with Glen Sanderson and Janice Rose and it is hoped that funding may be available to support the infrastructure of Wooler and make the Ad Gefrin site work well for Wooler. A further meeting has been arranged for next month. The first of the NCC purchased homes on Weetwood Rd site are to be occupied this month. Northumberland communities together are holding a meeting on the 26th October at Milfield and it is hoped to get more targeted response to rural problems and is working with Ruth Armstrong to look at what is needed in the whole of the wooler Ward. A new energy saving grant has been announced for community groups the details are to be circulated by the Clerk.

21/186 SCOTTS PARK/BRYONS PARK

UPDATE & DECISION

- **Scotts Pk Play Area – Steering Group** Cllr Deane-Hall has confirmed that information to be distributed via the School – Clerk to send out notices. Cllr Mather reported that the zip wire needed attention, Cllr Mather & Donkin to inspect.
- **Riverside** – Cllr Mather confirmed should have been done within two weeks.

21/187 CARETAKING WORK – employment group**REPORT & DECISION**

Cllr Veevers reported on the employment group meeting where discussions took place over works required and how this was best achieved. It was confirmed that there was enough in the budget to cover the costs of bringing all the works in house. Discussion followed regarding training, works and next steps.

21/188 TORY SITE/TORY BANK**REPORT, DISCUSSION & DECISION**

- **War Memorial Update** – Clerk to chase architect again. Steps to be wept prior to the 14th for the remembrance service.
- **Working group** – The Clerk approached Cllr Deane-Hall to lead the working group on collating a plan for what is required for the development of the site. Cllr Leighton-Rose and Cllr Watson to also join the group. Discussion followed regarding trees being felled on the Ad Gefrin owned land.

21/189 PLANNING MATTERS**DISCUSSION & DECISION**

- 21/03828/FUL Proposed loft conversion to dwelling house **23 Church Street, wooler, NE71 6DA** – no objections
- 21/04126/ADE Advertising consent for; 1No. Rondel sign and 1No. Written 'Ad Gefrin sign. **Ad Gefrin Distillery, 30 South Road, Wooler, NE71 6NJ** – meeting agreed to comments the same as previously on this application.

21/190 PLANNING DECISIONS**UPDATE & DECISION**

- Advertisement consent for rondel fascia sign, sign and totem freestanding signs **Ad Gefrin Distillery, 30 South Road, wooler - WITHDRAWN**
- Variation of S106 Agreement pursuant to planning application 13/00802/OUT dated 5th December 2017. **Land North of High Fair, Wooler - WITHDRAWN**

21/191 OUTSIDE BODIES**REPORT, DISCUSSION & DECISION**

The Chair noted the Parish Councils disappointment at the NCC decision to allow the 14 to be built with only 3 affordable houses for sale at DMV. The Clerk is to clarify with Rob Murfin why the Parish Council comments are not being noted as a consultee.

The Council are very concerned regarding the NCC approving building on land with poor infrastructure and going forward future councils are going to have to spend large amounts of money upgrading the infrastructure of Ramseys Lane/Common road etc

Cllr Napier reported on the Tweed Forum meeting. £1.7m project, works to start 1st April '22 with the road closed from the 1st March to Sept 30th. The Glendale Show is a concern.

21/192 COUNCILLOR'S TASKS/QUESTIONS**REPORT, DISCUSSION & DECISION**

- Cllr Robertson asked if the parish council could purchase a large pump flask for provision of teas and coffees – all agreed
- Cllr Mather noted that the Coop community fund is now closed and a request for the Parish Council to attend the local Coop – dates for attendance between 17th- 20th November.

21/93 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 22nd November 2021 at 7pm,

21/194 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**21/195 FINANCE**

- Payments for authorisation – SEE TABLE BELOW

IONOS – PC emails	30.00	DD
PKF Littlejohn – External Audit	360.00	Tfr
M Fairbairn – Plants for Winter	121.38	Tfr
National Allotment society – Membership fee	66.00	Tfr
EE – Mobile charges	14.88	DD

Two signatories to authorise the above payments

Signed:

Signed: