

WOOLER PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council, Held on Monday 27th September 2021 @ 7pm – at Glendale Middle School, Wooler

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

In Attendance: Kerren Rodgers (Clerk), Ian Smith (JPI Media), Insp Swan, Sergeant Budge

21/158 APOLOGIES

Cllr Helen Leighton-Rose

21/159 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION – Maximum 5 mins per item

None

21/160 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cllr Napier 21/165

21/161 LOCAL SERVICES UPDATE

REPORT

Northumbria Police – [Report given on various crimes however severity of crime not disclosable.](#)

Address from Inspector Budge – The meeting was informed of the current police actions regarding fighting crime and rural crime in particular.

21/162 PREVIOUS MINUTES

REVIEW & SIGN

To be signed as a correct record minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council on 23rd August 2021

The Parish Council read through the minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 23/8/21 were agreed to be a true and accurate record, Cllr Napier proposed, Cllr Curry seconded, all agreed. The Chair signed the minutes.

21/163 MATTERS ARISING

REVIEW & DISCUSSION

To consider matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council – Cllr Donkin asked for clarification of mop – member of public.

21/164 PARISH REPORT

UPDATE & DECISION

- **Christmas Carol Service** – Cllrs Cumming, Napier, Mather, Curry and Donkin to attend a meeting with the vicar to organise carol service tba for the next week.
- **Christmas Lights** – As the High St event is the 21st November then Christmas lights installation should be 13th/14th November and all Cllrs should be available to help. Cllr Donkin to organise volunteers. Cllr Mather provided quote received from NCC for 6 x commando boxes on The Peth at a cost of £450 per box. Cllr Curry proposed accepting quote, Cllr Watson seconded – all agreed. Cllr Mather proposed Cllr Donkin choose light fittings that would be suitable for the Peth street lights. It is hoped that the LHS of The Peth will be extended up toward the High St. as well. Cllr Napier also noted that Padgepool Place lights were still coming on erratically.
- **Bin – The Peth** – Cllr Mather noted that the bin at The Peth was broken and a new larger bin should be purchased and installed outside the chip shop and move that existing bin to The Peth site. – All agreed.
- **Speed Signs** - The Chair noted that the speed signs were still either not working or working erratically. Cllr Mather to charge up batteries with help from Cllr Curry & Veevers. It was noted that the speed sign on the south approach does not “see” the vehicles until quite late. It was also noted that these re-chargeable batteries are quite old, It is suggested a free survey should be sourced.

- **Remembrance Sunday** – The Chair is to place order for wreath.
- **Date for bulb planting/Riverside tidy** – it was agreed that October 16th, 10am was to be advertised for volunteers for bulb planting – The clerk to put on Facebook and ask for volunteers to register interest.
- **Age UK Booklets** – The Chair suggested that these be distributed end of Nov beginning of Dec – Cllrs Curry, Watson & Veevers agreed to help. Cllr Mather suggested deferring the decision on Christmas cards until next meeting.

21/165 SCHOOL FARM FIELD SITE

DISCUSSION & DECISION

- **Water** - Installation update – The meeting was informed that contact had finally been made with Chris Austen and 12 water butts were to be ordered for the site. Progress is still slow regarding the water installation. Despite numerous emails, no firm date has yet been set.
- **Free trees from NCC** – Discussion followed regarding the offer of free trees from NCC. It was agreed to apply for 8m of hedging plants.
- **Fencing for polytunnel** – Cllr Donkin confirmed that the Herris fencing had been repaired and needed to be transported to Polytunnel site and erected. Cllr Napier offered help, it was also suggested that may be able to happen on the bulb planting day.

21/166 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

REPORT & DECISION

Cllr Mather confirmed that he had secured funding for 10 sets of dropped curbs, Cllr Donkin to look at sites where they may be needed. It was noted that he had received one complaint regarding the lack of dropped curbs. The Chair asked for clarification regarding parking near to dropped curbs and it was agreed that they cannot be blocked and therefore this may reduce parking spaces around the town.

The Clerk should be notified of damaged/old or obsolete road signs. Cllr Mather confirmed that following the disappointing decision of the Borderlands Fund where Wooler was discounted in the first round, a meeting was to be arranged with Glen Sanderson & Janice Rose to discuss working with Newcastle University using Wooler as a model to obtain outside funding for development of High Street.

A school consultation process is currently underway, which the Clerk is to distribute on Facebook. The Berwick partnership is asking for opinions as to how the education system could be improved. Cllr Napier asked if the option could be to support pupils going onto Alnwick High instead, all views will be taken into account although this option is not available on the online questionnaire. The Clerk can email directly to the Education department giving this view. The Chair made note that if one pupil is already at Alnwick then other siblings should definitely be allowed to go. Survey had to be completed by 22nd October. Cllr Deane-Hall commented that the survey appears leading as only Y/N answers. Cllr Mather confirmed that NCC are providing £40m which has been allocated to The Berwick Partnership to improve the education process. There is a 1 yr consultation process and the meeting agreed to invite The Headmaster, Mr Deane-Hall to the next meeting to discuss what is needed.

Cllr Mather can include one of the councils LTP if they want him to back it. It was agreed that the traffic priority over the Chatton Bridge should be backed. Discussions followed regarding parking problems.

The NEAT team has finished the blanket spraying of weeds, any further problems to be reported to NEAT team and 11 of the 12 grass cuts have been completed.

21/167 SCOTTS PARK/BRYONS PARK

UPDATE & DECISION

- **Scotts Pk Play Area – Steering Group** Cllr Deane-Hall to advise if PTA or direct to parents will be best approach to get steering group started.
- **Scotts Park Toilets – Refurbishment/Opening** Cllr Veevers has completed the gents side of the toilets, Cllr Mather suggested all renovations to be completed by next spring and plan to open then.
- **Riverside** – No planned date for completion as yet. Cllr Napier to re-cut ivy and also sapling growth. Cllr Watson suggested some of the works can be carried out on the bulb planting date.

21/168 CARETAKING WORK brought back by Cllr Cumming & Cllr Mather REPORT & DECISION

Cllr Mather brought this item back to the meeting as it was felt that this should be taken to the employment committee to consider all options. Cllr Mather proposed and Cllr Curry seconded – all agreed.

21/169 TORY SITE/TORY BANK REPORT, DISCUSSION & DECISION

- **War Memorial Update** – The Chair reported on the meeting with the Architect and concerns over widening of the cracks. Spec to be re-visited,- discussion followed, signs are to be put on railings regarding uneven surfaces and then close it off after the Remembrance Service.- all agreed.
- **Gardening requirements**– quotes – The Clerk presented spec of works required on the site, discussion followed regarding work required. Cllr Mather proposed approaching local contractor to get work completed asap. Clerk to contact Mr Donovan who had completed the ivy work on the site.

Cllr Mather made note of the “aggressive” emails that had been sent to the Clerk/Council and was very upset as a huge amount of work had been carried out over the last year. The council fully supports the Clerk who is working very hard to progress the matter but the Council has to follow the correct process. The Chair to write and ask that all communication is directed to her. It was noted that still awaiting clear fell licence to be granted and all councillors were extremely frustrated by this delay.

21/170 PLANNING MATTERS DISCUSSION & DECISION

None

21/171 PLANNING DECISIONS UPDATE & DECISION

- Variation of Condition 2 (approved Plans) on approved application 20/04200/FUL in order to replace roof covering with double clay pantiles. Roof pitch increased 2.5 degrees to suit min pitch of new roof covering. Double doors are also to be changed to timber from metal. One leaf being secured in shut position with vents to suit plant.. **The Riverside Bar, Brewery Road, Wooler, NE71 6QF - GRANTED**
- Change of use from Bed and Breakfast to single private dwelling house. **Bed and Breakfast, Firwood, Wooler, NE71 6RD - GRANTED**

21/172 OUTSIDE BODIES REPORT, DISCUSSION & DECISION

Cllr Cumming reported on the Rural Crime day attended by herself, Cllr Mather and The Clerk.

Cllr Robertson had attended the AGM of the WCFG and noted that a new committee had been voted in and also queries that had been raised by the group. The Clerk to make contact and answer points raised.

21/173 COUNCILLOR’S TASKS/QUESTIONS REPORT, DISCUSSION & DECISION

- Cllr Napier – Requested that the white line at the bottom of the Peth should be a “hard stop” – Clerk to email NCC Highways
- Cllr Deane-Hall asked for clarification as to why the A697 was to be closed again – Cllr Mather confirmed that it is for line painting etc but unlikely to need a full week

21/74 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 25th October 2021 at 7pm, Cllr Curry gave apologies as would be away

21/175 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Mike Deane-Hall to be invited to address the meeting,
Flower display/parking on the Peth,
Snow contract with NCC
First School Site - Churchyard

21/176

FINANCE

- Payments for authorisation – SEE TABLE BELOW

Viking Direct – Toilet rolls	47.98	Tfr
Tracey Hare – Caretaker	190.00	Tfr
NCC- Sept 21 Salary	1039.11	Tfr
IONOS – email addresses	30.00	Tfr
Viking – Bleach/Soap	60.56	Tfr
NCC – Aug 21 Salary	1039.11	Tfr
Clerk – training cost iLCA to CiLCA, Nat forum, training	318.003	Tfr

Two signatories to authorise the above payments

Signed:

Signed:

In camera meeting - Archbold Trust