

## WOOLER PARISH COUNCIL

### **Draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council, Held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023 @ 7pm – at Glendale Middle School, Wooler**

Present:, Councillors, Mark Napier (Chair), Ellie Bell (Vice), Helen Deane-Hall Mark Mather, Duncan Veevers, Caroline Cumming,, Rob Donkin, Joyce Robertson, Rob Parson

In Attendance: Kerren Rodgers (Clerk), Alan Dewar, Jenny Pollock, Tom Armstrong

#### **23/106 APOLOGIES – None**

#### **23/107 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION – Letter from Great North Air Ambulance donation request**

The Chair read out a letter received from the GNAA requesting a donation. The Parish Council had previously decided to support only local charities. Discussions followed regarding how the PC could help as it was a vital support service, Cllr Robertson suggested holding a coffee morning in aid of them – all agreed.

#### **23/108 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST – Cllr Donkin 23/117 23/03530/FUL**

#### **23/109 LOCAL SERVICES UPDATE**

#### **REPORT**

##### **Northumbria Police report**

*None received*

*For further regular updates on local matters members of the public can go online and search for Northumbria Connected to get signed up for the updates.*

The advice from police is **if a member of the public sees a crime being reported - a 999 call should be made to report it**. If the crime has already happened and the perpetrators have left, then this should be reported either on the website or 101

#### **23/110 CARETAKERS WORKS UPDATE**

#### **REPORT**

The Caretaker updated the meeting on recent works and problems identified with the playparks when conducting his routine inspections. The meeting agreed that the South Road requires its winter tidy up and ivy needs removing. The caretaker noted that the multi games equipment at Scotts Park should be removed. Also, the slide at Brysons Park has been badly damaged by vandals and needs to be removed. Cllr Mather proposed that the slide should be removed and funding sorted for a new slide, the mutli games equipment should also be removed and the seats that require moving from fence should be moved, Cllr Napier seconded – all agreed. Cllr Veevers agreed to contact local salvage yard to get it removed.

#### **23/111 PREVIOUS MINUTES**

#### **REVIEW & SIGN**

To be signed as a correct record minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> October '23

The Parish Council read through the minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 23/10/23 were agreed to be a true and accurate record, Cllr Robertson proposed, Cllr Donkin seconded, all agreed. The Chair signed the minutes.

#### **23/112 MATTERS ARISING**

#### **REVIEW & DISCUSSION**

Discussions took place over siting of memorial tree for Bunt & Patsy Morton.

**First School Site – Community Asset transfer update – Cllr Rob Parsons**

Cllr Parsons reported on the progress of the cemetery committee, the marking up of the road and first 80 burial plots. The “No Dogs” signs were now in place and it is hoped that residents will now respect that this is not a park. The ongoing costs had been calculated as £3290, with the road estimated at £6.5k, with other items required to set up and run the cemetery costing approx. £8k. It is anticipated that admin of 20 hours over the year would be needed. A pledge had already been received if the cemetery went ahead and the Community Group had already raised some funds which should be made available to the PC. It was acknowledged that further quotes would need to be obtained if the project went ahead, the operating rules would need to be agreed as would the charges etc. Cllr Parsons noted that he was still chasing the information on consecration of ground but this would not hold up progression. Cllr Parsons proposed progressing to public consultation to ascertain if residents are happy to increase precept to fund the cemetery, Cllr Bell seconded – all agreed. Cllr Veevers agreed to supply a plan and an information leaflet is to be produced. It was suggested that Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January '24, 3 – 7pm and a request to see if the Cheviot Centre would be available is to be made.

- **Tory Site – Update** – It was confirmed that all grant acceptance forms had been signed and returned to the War Memorials Trust. The Clerk noted that work was unlikely to start until May '24 and therefore access to the war memorial should be blocked off for safety reasons. Cllr Mather is to obtain two pedestrian fences and a poster is to be produced informing the public as to plans. Cllr Helen Deane-Hall reported that the tree application had been submitted and that she had made contact with Bill over the information boards, and has also sent an email to the Historical Society regarding potential information. Cllr Mather noted that a local artist was keen to be involved in the project.
- **Christmas Carol Concert Update Cllr Rob Donkin** – A proposed schedule of running order was circulated and agreed. Discussions followed regarding which charity should benefit, Cllr Mather suggested the NNP Mountain Rescue Team – all agreed. Thanks extended to Milan for donating the mince pies and letters to be sent inviting people and also to the Co-op.
- **Bus station toilets waiting area – decoration** – NCC have given permission for the decorations to go ahead, it is expected that this will now progress next year. Cllr Mather proposed sending a strongly worded email to County Councillor regarding the poor renovation of the toilets and also sending a bill for the Clerks time and the cost of the cleaner when the toilets cannot be open due to failure to repair. Cllr Veevers seconded – all agreed.

**23/114 SCHOOL FARM FIELD SITE****DISCUSSION & DECISION**

- **Repairs to Polytunnel** – Cllr Donkin reported that no further progress had been made. Cllr Donkin also noted his thanks to all the volunteers who gave time to put up Christmas lights on Saturday. Cllr Mather also extended thanks to Cllr Donkin for all his hard work prior to the lights being put up.

It was noted that the Alnwick Lions are bring Santa on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 3.45pm. The police have agreed to escort and St Marys are organising carols. Collection buckets towards the Lions costs will be available.

**23/115 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT****REPORT & DECISION**

Cllr Mather reported that a grant of £20k had been received to set up an emergency centre at the Cheviot centre. Currently working on comms availability when a power outage is experienced. Gateway signage have been agreed, fully funded by NCC, private businesses and NNP. The budget process is underway at NCC. Cllr Mather is pushing for funding in U & C roads. Any ideas of spending areas should be identified to Cllr Mather. LTP meetings have taken place and a further £5.5m boost from central government. The winter gritter is in place and will be pulled by a quad bike this year rather than the mower. Complaints had been received about some of the bus services and any problems should be passed to Cllr Mather. Northern Powergrid were again asking that vulnerable residents should be identified to ensure information when a power cut is experienced – <https://www.northernpowergrid.com/care>

Highways have removed the additional drop curb outside the co-op. Cllr Mather has written to raise concerns about the number of serious RTC's on the A697 in a short stretch of the road from the Coldmartin turn and Surrey House. A request to look at this area and consider if further measures should be installed. NCC Neat team had agreed to refund the £40 for the damage to the bin lock. Cllr Veevers asked if a grit bin could be supplied for the crossing point which is manned by the lollipop lady.

## 23/116 SCOTTS PARK/BRYONS PARK

## UPDATE & DECISION

**Scotts Pk Play Area** – working group update Cllr Ellie Bell presented the report identifying different potential costs, designs and discussions over play surfaces took place. Cllr Bell to circulate all quotes for PC to discuss at next meeting. Cllr Mather asked that a replacement for the “Castle” at Scotts Park be included and consideration for an upgraded toilet may also be an option. Potential funding opportunity may have been identified but if not, then fund raising will be necessary as minimum required is £100k +

## 23/0117 PLANNING MATTERS

## DISCUSSION & DECISION

**23/04066/VARYCO** Removal of condition 16 (contamination remediation) pursuant to planning permission 13/01665/OUT **Land North East of 3 Weetwood Road, Wooler** - no comment as development has already taken place

**23/03735/LBC & 23/03734/FUL** Listed building consent to convert barn to living space, replacement rear extension with larger footprint connecting barn to house including partial demolition of existing extension and internal alterations **Tower Martin Farmhouse, Wooler, NE71 6QW** - The Parish council supports this application as a family home

**23/03530/FUL** Erection of steel portal framed building **M Fairnington Engineering, Berwick Road, Wooler, NE71 6AH** The Parish council supports this application as it will provide employment

## 23/118 PLANNING DECISIONS

## UPDATE & DECISION

- Advertisement Consent for installation of green company name signs, Costa Coffee signs and posters **Garden Centre, 7 – 9 South Road, Wooler – GRANTED (23/03311/FUL & 23/03312/ADE)**

**23/119 IN CAMERA FINANCE MATTERS – Any member of the public will be asked to leave the room whilst these matters are discussed** – The Chair moved this matter to the end of the agenda

## 23/120 PRECEPT – FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

## REPORT & DISCUSSION

Cllr Mather reported on the finance committee meetings and proposed budgets including and excluding cemetery costs. The Clerk had produced potential costs for Council tax band on the indicative base provided by NCC. It was agreed that the Clerk should produce an information sheet along with the cemetery information to allow residents to raise any issues they feel relevant.

## 23/121 OUTSIDE BODIES

## REPORT & DISCUSSION

Thanks extended to the group involved in organising the Quiz at the school. A team from the PC attended and has a fun evening with £287.10 being raised towards the funding of the defibs.

## 23/122 COUNCILLOR'S TASKS/QUESTIONS

## REPORT & DISCUSSION

Cllr Cumming raised the issue of Barclays Bank closing in Berwick – it was agreed that any complaints should be directed towards Barclays Bank and not the PC.

Cllr Veevers (Chair of Employment Group) requested that the Clerk be given a further 10 hours to cover extra work undertaken on the Cemetery proposals. Cllr Mather seconded – all agreed.

Cllr Mather asked if the school could advertise Santa visit on Sunday – Cllr Deane-Hall passed on the request.

## 23/123 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7pm**

## 23/124 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: Church clock, CCTV

- Payments for authorisation – SEE TABLE BELOW

IONIS-emails	30.00	DD
EE mobile	16.26	DD
Tom Armstrong –Caretaker	320.00	Tfr
NCC – Nov payroll costs	1328.63	Tfr
Heavy duty tape	6.99	Card
Viking – laminating pouches/toner	100.16	Tfr
Playpark cuts 1/4/23 – 27/10/23	2722.22	Tfr
Viking – Toilet rolls/gloves	144.54	Tfr
Wicksteed	1138.60	Tfr

Two signatories to authorise the above payments

Signed: .....

Signed: .....