

## Annual Parish Council Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018

### Thirlwall Parish Council – Approved Minutes

**Present:** Cllr Sue Seymour (Acting Chair), TPC  
 Cllr Judith Armstrong, TPC  
 Cllr Paul Jameson, TPC  
 Cllr Alan Sharp (NCC)  
 Catherine Jarvis (Clerk), TPC

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm Various members of the public were in attendance.

#### 1. Chairperson's report:

Christine Dixon, the previous chair, had very sadly and unexpectedly passed away earlier this year. Cllr Seymour emphasized that she had held this office for many years and was extremely active in what she did for the village...not just as chair but in many, many other roles within the community. Christine is and will be very sadly missed. Cllr Seymour reluctantly took on the role of Chair as she has been Vice-Chair. Cllr Seymour stressed that she does not want to do the role of Chair long term but is happy to do it at the moment.

Lynn Rooney, the previous clerk, had also left during July 2017. She was thanked for her work done throughout her tenure. Catherine Jarvis took over as clerk.

Cllr Seymour then began to sum up the year's events:

A grant was given to the **School (Gilsland)** for its library.

Thanks were given to **John Dixon** for his superb work with the grass cutting throughout the year.

Monies were given to **Gilsland Gardening Club** by TPC but these had not been spent as yet. Cllr Seymour has devised a **grant giving policy** which she hopes that the council will approve. She admitted that perhaps the council did not handle the **Crammel Rigg/timber extraction** too well initially but that things seem to be moving in the right direction. GS, in the village, is heading up the timber extraction campaign. Two companies are involved and Iggesund, in particular, is keen to work with the people in the village and the TPC to achieve the right outcome.

Cllr Seymour stated that the TPC is pleased that Greenhead School had been saved. She mentioned Hd'L in heading up that campaign and commended her for her hard work.

Cllr Anthony Stewart left during the year but had done a lot of things for TPC including the organisation of **the defibrillators and the training**. 28 people attended the training session for that in December 2017 and more is possibly being planned.

TPC is also looking into road marking and sign marking under the bridge. The scheme was going to cost £28K so Cllr. A. Sharp is asking NCC to contribute towards that.

Cllr A. Sharp is dogged in pursuing NCC to contribute towards potholes etc.

**Light pollution** reduced and light on ground increased.

**The Pumhouse (Poltross Burn)** tidied up and was no longer a problem.

**Transparency Code Fund** obtained by C. Jarvis £1.8K for computer and website. This all due to data privacy (Data Protection and the Council becoming more transparent in its activities.)

Website: [www.visitgilsland.com](http://www.visitgilsland.com) and TPC website is an offshoot from that: [www.thirlwallparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.thirlwallparishcouncil.org.uk) and new clerk's email address: [clerk@thirlwallparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@thirlwallparishcouncil.org.uk)

Councillors will have their own email addresses from the TPC website. These will come in due course.

**Play Area** – TPC have access to **S106 Developer Fund Monies** c. £4K which C. Jarvis found out about. This would help purchase some new equipment and help to tidy up existing facilities. Cllr. Seymour was putting in a bid for this funding (the conditions of which were discovered at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour by chance). This bid/application will be put in 18/5/18.

Cllr Seymour met with B. Barwick (who is soon to become a councillor) at the playground on 16/5/18 to have a look at what needs to be put into the playground. B. Barwick is a specialist working with the early years sector.

Thanks were given to SM for assiduously inspecting the playground every week and handing in reports to C. Jarvis on this.

SM also collects money via the sale of second books in the village hall which is then passed on to the TPC to be saved in an account, held by the TPC, to raise funds for the maintenance of the playground. There is almost £2K in this account currently.

**The Campaign for Gilsland Station (COGS)** is going strong and their AGM will be on 6/6/18 in Gilsland Village Hall. All members of the public are welcome to attend that meeting.

The new Welcome to Gilsland road signs had been paid for by COGS.

**Representatives for public transport** had been invited to attend various TPC meetings over the year but these representatives had failed to attend. Cllr. A Sharp then informed everyone that Kirsten Francis had just left NCC (who had had responsibility for this area). It is understood that it is unlikely that these meetings will result in greater access for public transport (and its frequency) but would result but improved timetabling. The improved timetabling could help a somewhat precarious position for public transport within the village.

**COGS:** trains are meant to be stopping every hour in both directions.

WB had approached TPC for help with GoGilsland Green Transport Scheme which TPC had supported. It had also been stated that TPC would help with this financially if it went ahead.

SM stated that she would like to be involved in applications for playground funding if possible. Cllr Seymour said that this was difficult at present due to the very tight timeframes for the funding application. TPC noted this for the file and for the future should any further applications take place.

2. Financial Report: C. Jarvis briefly commented on the monies issued by TPC during 2017/18 but stated that Cllr Seymour had covered this area in detail in her report.

**There were no comments on last AGM meeting minutes (10th May 2017) so these minutes were approved.**

A comment was also made by SW that he had found out that a climbing wall was available via the Cumbria Fire Brigade. He is familiar with this service. He suggested that the fire

brigade could bring this in on the bank holiday weekend. This would introduce people to the climbing environment. SW has contacts who will look into this so that he can report back to the TPC (SW – Steve Warren is due to become a councillor). The Fire Brigade has the appropriate insurance for the day itself. TPC and councillors await SW's report.

Cllr A. Sharp re-iterated the contribution of Christine Dixon to the village and the TPC. He also thanked Cllr. Seymour for her hard work and willingness to pick up the Chair's reins at very short notice.

**Any Other B: None.**

The AGM was then closed at 7.55pm.