

**Draft Meeting Minutes of Thirlwall Parish Council held on  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021 using Zoom online at 7.30pm**

**Meeting commenced at 8pm following the Annual meeting.**

**Present:** Cllr S Seymour (SS), Cllr J Armstrong (JA), Cllr Mark Barwick (MB), Cllr P Jameson (PJ) and Cllr A Sharp (AS)

**Clerk:** Mrs Sue Hatt

**Members of Public Present:** CK, JK, CJ, NJ, JR, LW and JW

**116/21 Election of Officers:**

**116/21.01 Election of Chair: Sue Seymour** proposed: Cllr JA seconded: Cllr MB

**116/21.02 Election of Vice-Chair: Judith Armstrong** proposed: Cllr JA seconded: Cllr MB

**115/21.03 Election of representative for the Haltwhistle and District Joint Burial Committee:**

**Before the election Cllr AS gave an update on the situation at the HDJBC.**

**HDJBC representative: Judith Armstrong** proposed: Cllr SS seconded: Cllr MB

**117/21 Apologies for Absence:**

Cllr B Barwick (BB)

**118/21 Declarations of Interest**

None.

**119/21 Public Questions**

Questions dealt with in other parts of the meeting.

**120/21 Minutes of the meeting to be approved on: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021.**

**PROPOSED:** Cllr SS

**SECONDED:** Cllr JA

**AGREED**

**121/21 Matters arising from previous minutes not dealt with elsewhere in the current agenda.**

None

**122/21 Gilsland Matters** reports and resolutions arising.

**122/21.01 Gilsland Play Area – Repairs and Renewals/updates**

Cllr MB reported that he has made the necessary repairs to the post at the bottom of the slide so all the reparations noted at the March meeting have been carried out. He will contact Peter Craig about putting in a rubber resin footpath to the top of the slide

**ACTION: Cllr MB**

John Dixon asked Cllr SS if he could buy a dumpy bag of sand to pout at the bottom of the slide but this was judged to be inappropriate. It was suggested that bark be used instead and Cllr JA would find out the cost from Right Mix.

**ACTION: Cllr JA**

The netball area will be monitored over the summer and reviewed at the September meeting.

**122/21.02 Gilsland Village – misc**

Cllr AS suggested that a joint village meeting be organised to address issues that affect the whole village. He mentioned transport and Broadband as matters that could be tackled by both Northumberland and Cumbria County Councillors if there was a strategic plan.

Cllr SS requested to get feedback about Burtholme Parish Council response to the Planning Application to charge for parking at the Priory as many of the residents of Gilsland attended Lanercost Church.

**ACTION: SH**

**122/21.03 Popping Stones**

The damage to the Popping Stones was discussed and Cllr AS reported that the owner had caused the damage accidentally, unaware of the historical importance of the Stones. He was willing to make repairs but was unable to proceed as Natural England were now taking charge of the restoration of the Stones.

**123/21 Longbyre Matters reports and updates and resolutions arising.****123/21.01 Road drainage issues**

Cllr AS reported that there had been no progress in the work to the gullies due to financing, but that Andy Olive was awaiting new budget allocations.

Cllr AS was also concerned about the state of the Longbyre road and would be discussing this with Andy Olive and reporting back at the next meeting.

**1233/21.02 Land at Stoneybeck/encroachment**

Work here has been ongoing but is not completed. Builders have also been dumping building material on Parish Land. There was concern expressed about the ongoing nature of the situation and that actions should be taken so that the issue should be resolved as soon as possible. An evidence trail should be created to ensure that enforcement can be made in the near future.

Clls SS has received an email from Tom Gowans offering to provide a footbridge over the stream and putting a pond on the land. It was reported that a vehicle had been seen parked on Parish land adjacent of the Gowans property. After a long discussion about how to deal with the ongoing issues it was agreed that Cllr SS and Cllr JA would visit the site and check the reported encroachment. Cllr SS will draft a letter asking Mr Gowans not to carry out any work on Parish land except full reinstatement and repair to what has been damaged or altered by his building work. She will also ask about his intentions to register the boundary and pay the compensation for the trespass.

**ACTION: Cllr SS**

**124/21 Grounds Matters reports and updates and resolutions arising.****124/21.01 Village Walkabout by councillors**

Following the walk around the village by the councillors, the issue of parking around the village was discussed. There was concern that yellow lines would be put down, but this was not being considered. There is a need to maintain access for car users with limited mobility to the Village Hall. It was also noted that the exit from Stanley Crescent onto the main Road was obstructed and dangerous due to parked cars and the possibility of getting a mirror was raised. It was decided that the Parish Council could not do anything as Northumberland Highways do not support the use of mirrors.

The councillors also had a look at the Brook at Longbyre and Cllr AS would follow up on this matter with Northumbria Water.

There was a complaint about grass cutting being dumped into the Poltross and causing the Burn to block. It was agreed that Upper Denton Parish Council would be asked to deal with this matter and SH would report back at the next meeting.

**ACTION: SH**

#### **124/21.02 Verges at Railway Terrace**

An email was received about the damage caused to the verges outside Railway Terrace by the contractor when cutting the grass. Although the vegetation seems to be recovering, it was decided that any future works need to be agreed by the councillors at a Parish Council meeting.

#### **125/21 Planning Applications**

**125/21.01** – 20/04415/FUL - Resubmission: Development of 4no. 2 storey, 3 bed, 5 person dwellings and associated housing, Land East Of Riversdale Riversdale Gilsland Northumberland – this application has been withdrawn.

#### **126/21 Financial and Administration Matters**

**126/21.01** Bank Reconciliation and Accounts for Payments as at 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – Appendix 1

**126/21.02** Income and expenditure as at 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – Appendix 2 –

**126/21.03** Completion of AGAR – SH reported that the paperwork would be completed for submission before the deadline. The final accounts were scrutinised and approved unanimously.

**126/21.04** Cllr SS reported that Catherine Jarvis has asked to buy the printer and that the cost of maintaining the website has been agreed at £150 and will be invoiced in September.

**126/21.05** The annual donations to the Village hall and the Gilsland Church was fixed at £150 and £200 respectively.

**PROPOSED: Cllr SS**

**SECONDED: Cllr JA**

**AGREED**

There was a question about the limit on the amount of money in the bank account. The balance is currently healthy due to the pandemic but is likely to be allocated and spent when things return to normal.

#### **127/21 Correspondence**

**127/21.01** Chris Kippax sent a report about the defibrillator and reported that the battery life was at 25% and expires in October and that the pads would soon need replacing. The rest of the kit can be sourced locally but there was concern about obtaining a new battery and pads in time. It was agreed that SH would find out about the availability of the items so that a decision can be made about when to replace them.

**ACTION: SH**

#### **127/21.02 Signage at low Bridge**

An email was received about the lack of signage warning wagons of the low bridge, causing them to reverse all the way back to the Longbyre road to turn around. Cllr AS would discuss the possibility of putting a new sign at the link road at Greenhead with Andy Olive. SH will discuss getting better signage on the Cumbrian side at the next Upper Denton Parish Council meeting and report back.

#### **127/21.03 Speeding under the Bridge**

An email was received about speeding at the bridge at the Samson Inn. It was suggested that putting a SLOW sign on the road might encourage drivers to slow down. Cllr AS would discuss this with Andy Olive. SH would also raise the matter at the Upper Denton meeting.

#### **128/21 Haltwhistle and District Joint Burial Council**

Cllr AS reported John Elliott was standing down and that a meeting would take place in June. Melkridge Parish Council want to withdraw from the Committee and this matter will be discussed at the next meeting as all the Parishes need to agree to them leaving. JW asked if there was still a pet cemetery and Cllr AS confirmed that there was.

#### **129/21 Matters for the next agenda and any other business:**

The dates for a joint Village meeting were discussed and the end of June was proposed. Upper Denton and Waterhead Parish Councils would be contacted.

**ACTION: Cllr SS**

**130/21 Dates and time of next meeting**

Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at Gilsland Village Hall)

**ALL WELCOME** (please keep an eye on Thirlwall PC website: [www.visitgilsland.org.uk](http://www.visitgilsland.org.uk))

**Future meetings:**

- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.30pm

**Proposed dates for 2022**

- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.30pm

**Meeting concluded at 9.20 pm.**

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