

**Draft Minutes of Thirlwall Parish Council held on
Wednesday 8th September 2021 at 7.30pm at Gilsland Village Hall**

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

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

Clerk: Mrs Sue Hatt

Members of Public Present: SM, LW, JW, JD and GD

131/21 Apologies for Absence: none

132/21 Declarations of Interest: JB declared an interest in item 139/21.01

133/21 Public Questions

Questions dealt with in other parts of the meeting.

134/21 Minutes of the meeting to be approved on: Wednesday 10th March 2021.

UNANIMOUSLY AGREED

135/21 Matters arising from previous minutes not dealt with elsewhere in the current agenda.

SH reported that the spare parts for the defibrillator could be bought online at Direct365 for next day delivery.

136/21 Gilsland Matters reports and resolutions arising.

136/21.01 Gilsland Play Area – Repairs and Renewals/updates

The Burial Committee Staff have put down sand at the bottom of the slide. However, Peter Craig has been to look at the Play Area and informed Cllrs MB and JA that sand at the bottom of the slide is no longer acceptable and that rubber matting is needed to comply with Health and Safety. He will quote for the job and liaise with Cllr MB on his return from holiday. Cllr JA reposted that the Play area has been very busy during the summer months and might need some repairs over the winter. New signs are needed and Cllr JA will send SH the details of size and lettering so that she can get Top Signs in Hexham to make them. Cllr JA will also find out about self-closers for the gates.

ACTION: Cllr JA and MB

136/21.02 Gilsland Village – misc

Highways: There are still concerns about the entrance at Irthing Park and speeding in the Rosehill area, as well as parking issues from residents. These will be tackled at the Village meeting at the end of September. It was also noted that the work the owners of Dacre House paid the Council to do has not been completed satisfactorily, with utility covers standing proud of the surface. AS to contact Highways.

ACTION: Cllr AS

Cllr AS reported that in the past, the County Council have refused signs to control the traffic at the Samson Inn bridge but have finally agreed to improve the signage of the low bridge. He does think that the idea of putting sleeping policeman on either side of the bridge will be considered but he will continue to do his best to secure improved conditions for the village. He also reported that the timber operations have now stopped and that the signs have been taken down.

136/21.03 Popping Stones

SH reported that the Popping Stones had been restored and that the damage has been repaired as far as possible. The issues at Crammel Linn also seem to have been resolved, with a greater police involvement in managing visitors.

136/21.04 Village meeting

Cllr SS reminded everyone of the Village meeting to be held on Wednesday 29th September and that the main issues were expected to be parking and speeding in the village. No actions can be taken at the meeting but councillors can take issues back to their PC meetings for future discussions.

137/21 Longbyre Matters reports and updates and resolutions arising.**137/21.01 Road drainage issues**

Cllr AS reported that the drainage work was now complete and that the residents were happy with the results. The tarmacking at High Castle Terrace has been carried out but there are still improvements to be made.

Cllr AS was still concerned about the state of the Longbyre road and would continue to fight for funding.

137/21.02 Land at Stoneybeck/encroachment

Cllr SS has written to the Gowans in May then again in July but has yet to receive a response. A hedge has now been planted on the boundary of Parish Council land and a ladder has been left creating an obstacle and Health and Safety hazard. Cllr SS has consulted a solicitor for guidance and was advised of the following options:

- An annual letter can be sent about the land encroachment and asking for compensation. This needs to be done consistently or the legality of the claim could be threatened.
- A land agent could be employed to meet up with both parties to try and resolve the dispute. The land agent could provide advice for the Parish Council and then negotiate between the parties involved. Cllr AS expressed concerns that the Gowans would not co-operate, but this could then be noted and used as evidence in the future.

It was agreed that a land agent would be consulted and asked for a quote for acting for the Parish Council, which the councillors could then consider.

ACTION: SH and Cllr SS

138/21 Grounds Matters reports and updates and resolutions arising.

None

139/21 Planning Applications

139/21.01 – 21/02471/FUL - Construction of single storey side and rear extension, porch to front and loft conversion with 2 dormers with balcony to rear Location Glengarth Gilsland Brampton Northumberland CA8 7DX – **no objections received.**

ACTION: SH to email Planning Team

139/21.02 – 21/0 3314/FUL Retrospective planning application relating to planning reference 15/02594/FUL - properties were built 1.5m further back than original planning permission specified. Location 12 And 13 The Forge Gilsland Brampton Northumberland CA8 7TF.

The councillors felt that this infringement was not acceptable and Cllr SS would set out the Parish Council's objections and SH would send them to the Planning Team. The deadline is the 23rd September 2021.

ACTION: Cllr SS and SH

140/21 Financial and Administration Matters

140/21.01 Bank Reconciliation and Accounts for Payments as of 1st September 2021 – Appendix 1

140/21.02 Income and expenditure as of 1st September 2021 – Appendix 2

140/21.03 SH Reported that the AGAR has been completed successfully and the exemption has been granted. All the documents are now on the website.

140/21.04 A request from the Community Library for a donation of £300 to purchase two cupboards for the bus shelter was discussed and approved.

UNANIMOUSLY AGREED

140/21.05 The annual donations to the Gilsland Church of £200 would be transferred, as agreed at the meeting of 12th May 2021.

141/21 Correspondence

141/21.01 Free Cycling training - No uptake on this initiative.

141/21.02 Tactor and trailer movements - noted

141/21.03 Gilbert Ward consultation – noted

141/21.04 Northumberland Local Plan Examination – noted

141/21.04 Local transport Plan – The Parish Council will put forward new priorities as the ones identified previously were not within the scope of the Local Transport Plan. It was agreed to include footpaths across the Parish, the creation of a footway under the Samson Inn bridge and the creation of a Longbyre to Gilsland Cycle path. Cllr AS agreed to put money into improving the footpaths in the village by putting slurry steel/ self-binding gravel to provide a self-compacted surface for walkers.

ACTION: SH to submit priorities

142/21 Haltwhistle and District Joint Burial Council

Cllr AS reported that there was nothing to report from the meeting. He informed that the letter from Thirlwall Parish Council approving the constitution had been received.

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

129/21.01 The Jubilee Stone is ready to be put into place now that the safety checks have been carried out.

129/21.02 Concerns were expressed about flooding at Longbyre. The planned clearing of the beck has not yet been carried out. Cllr AS would chase this up.

ACTION: Cllr AS

130/21 Dates and time of next meeting

Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 10th November 2021 at Gilsland Village Hall.

ALL WELCOME (please keep an eye on Thirlwall PC website: www.visitgilsland.org.uk)

Future meetings:

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

Meeting concluded at 9.15 pm.