

**Meeting Minutes of Thirlwall Parish Council held on
Wednesday 13th July 2022 at 7.50pm at Gilsland Village Hall**

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr S Seymour (SS), Cllr Mark Barwick (MB), Cllr Emma Guerrero, Cllr P Jameson (PJ) and Cllr A. Sharp

Clerk: Mrs Sue Hatt (SH)

Members of Public Present: GD, DH

Neighbourhood Planning presentation by Rob Naples (Northumberland Neighbourhood Planning Team)

Rob Naples introduced himself and explained what a Neighbourhood Plan involved. It allows Parish and Town Councils to create planning policies to help manage the use and development of land within a designated area. This could include consideration for

- Protecting local green spaces
- Second home ownership
- Land use planning, by allocating land for housing/ employment
- Land distinctive policies
- Connectivity/ broadband

He confirmed that all 3 Parish Councils in Gilsland (Upper Denton, Waterhead and Thirlwall) could work together on a Neighbourhood Plan, with one Parish Council taking the lead in the process. A local Plan for Northumberland was agreed in March 2022 which has simplified the creation of Neighbourhood Plans but it would still have to comply with the strategic plans for Northumberland and Cumbria. The work on the Neighbourhood Plan would be led by Thirlwall Parish Council who would set up a steering committee who would manage the consultation with the community. Grant funding of up to £10,000 can be applied for to cover costs and appoint consultants, and help is available from the Northumberland Planning Team through a dedicated Planning Officer. The whole process could take up to 18 months but the Parish Council would only be responsible for the pre-submission work, when the Planning Team would assist in the final steps.

The following steps were agreed:

- The other Parish Councils would be consulted about working towards a Neighbourhood Plan for Gilsland
- If approved, there would be a meeting with the community to discuss the issues of concern
- A steering committee would be formed to draft Terms of reference (these are available from the lanning Team)
- The Parish Councils would apply for Area Designation to create the Neighbourhood Plan
- Funding could then be applied for.

Rob Naples indicated that he could supply a large scale map of the area. It was reported that a local plan had been presented about 15 years ago and that this could be used as reference for the new Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr AS and SS would try to locate the plan and distribute it.

Cllr SS thanked Rob Naples for his contributions and the main meeting began.

15/22 Apologies for Absence: Cllr Judith Armstrong

16/22 Declarations of Interest: None

17/22 Public Questions

No questions were submitted.

**18/22 Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th May 2022 were approved:
UNANIMOUSLY AGREED**

19/22 Matters arising from previous minutes not dealt with elsewhere in the current agenda.

None

20/22 Gilsland Matters reports and resolutions arising.

Cllr SS started by thanking all the people involved in the Jubilee Celebrations for their hard work and organisation. It was agreed that the village had turned out in force to support all the events that had been very successful.

20/22.01 Gilsland Play Area – Repairs and Renewals/updates

Cllr MB received the inspection report and this was discussed at length. Cllr SS had asked Sean Glenton to grade the repairs by their urgency but this had not been done. The handrail leading to the slide has several damaged posts and it was agreed that Cllr PJ and MB would look at replacing them. They would also check the gates and the swing and report back.

Action: Cllrs MB and PJ to check handrail, gates and swing

20/22.02 Visit Gilsland website

Chris Cantrill has been unable to move this on but will report back at the September meeting.

Action: Chris Cantrill to report at September meeting

20/22.03 Play area boundary fence

Cllr SS has talked to Mrs Morano about repairing the fence between her property and the Play Area. This cannot be done now because of the birds but Mrs Morano will contact the Parish Council when the work can be carried out.

20/22.04 Low Bridge at Gilsland

Cllr AS reported that things were progressing but he would report back when there was further news.

20/22.05 Pollution in the Poltross

Several incidents of pollution in the Poltross have been reported to the Environment Agency and an agent has attended a local farm to investigate. They are working with the owners to ensure that it does not happen again. Cllr SS reminded people to report any incidents to the Environment Agency and Natural England as they do deal with complaints.

20/22.06 Skunk cabbage

There have been findings of this very invasive weed in the village and it will need to be sprayed to eliminate it effectively. The best time for spraying is July and again in the Autumn and this needs to be carried out by a trained person. Duncan Hoyle is qualified and agreed to undertake the work. He suggested using Roundup 360 but would have to get permission from the Environment Agency and Natural England before undertaking the work.

Action: Duncan Hoyle to carry out the work and submit claim for costs to SH

20/22.07 Vegetation obstructing the Highway

This issue seems to have been sorted out and Highways have strimmed the verges which has improved visibility and accessibility. There is still a problem near the Bridge Inn where a bush is blocking the narrow footpath. Cllr PJ agreed to look into the problem. There is also a low branch obstructing the sign and the footpath and the residents will be asked by Cllr MB to remove the obstacle.

Action: Cllr PJ and MB to remove obstructions

20/22.08 Highways

Cllr AS reported that he has organised for hanging baskets have been put up in the village. And money has been allocated for the footpaths to be improved. He is still aiming to get the potholes in Longbyre repaired. Cllr PJ reported that the footpath from Thirlwall View to the railway needed repairing. There were concerns about visitors to the waterfall speeding through the village and it was suggested that speed bumps near the Samson Inn might deter them. The signage for the Play Park has been organised and will be put up asap.

21/22 Longbyre Matters – reports and resolutions arising.**21/22.01 Land at Stoneybeck**

Due to the complex nature of the process to get Village Green status for the land at Stoneybeck and the Play Park, it was suggested that quotes from land agents be sought for carrying out the work.

Action: SH to get quotes for the work

21/22.02 Reinstatement of the bridge

Cllr AS reported that the bridge was being kept at Walltown and that it now needs to be checked for safety and suitability. It was suggested that local residents be consulted about plans to reinstate it.

Action: Cllr AS to chase up

21/22.03 Tree plating / weedkilling at the Village Green

Having received a complaint that three trees had been planted by the Reynolds, Cllr SS spoke to Mrs Reynolds prior to the meeting and thanked her for the hanging baskets and bus-stop painting and made it absolutely clear that permission needs to be sought before doing anything, including planting trees, on the green. Mrs Gowans was also seen spraying nettles on Parish land and Cllr SS has spoken to her and asked her not to do it anymore.

22/22 Planning Applications

9/22.01 22/00852/FUL Replacement Garage and Garden Room, Ina House. SH reported that the letter of objection from the Parish Council had been sent and noted.

23/22 Financial and Administration Matters

23/22.01 Income and expenditure as of 1st July 2022 – Appendix 1

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

23/22.02 Bank Reconciliation and Accounts for Payments as of 1st July 2022 – Appendix 2

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

23/21.03 Annual payments for the Village Hall and the Churchyard were approved for 2022

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

24/22 Correspondence**24/22.01 Northumberland County Council bus services**

It was reported that the Border Ramblers bus now operated on a Wednesday and a Thursday, with the possibility of the service increasing if it is successful. The AD122 to Walltown and Haltwhistle will run all year round on a simplified timetable. The 185 bus timetable has been amended so that more time can be spent in Haltwhistle. This has significantly improved this service.

Action: Cllr SS to put up relevant bus timetables in the bus stops

25/22 Haltwhistle and District Joint Burial Council

Cllr AS reported that everything was progressing as normal, although the staffing and cashflow have been an issue.

26/22 Matters for the next agenda and any other business:

26/22.01 Cllr AS suggested that Gill Cowell be asked to attend a future meeting regarding connectivity, broadband and mobile reception. SH will liaise with Upper Denton and Waterhead Parish Councils about these matters and will also gather opinions about the Neighbourhood Plan.

27/22 Dates and time of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th September 2022 at Gilsland Village Hall.

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

Future meetings:

- Wednesday 9th November 2022 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 11th January 2023 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 8th March 2023 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 10th May 2023 following the AGM.
- Wednesday 12th July 2023 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 13th September 2023 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 8th November 2023 at 7.30pm

Meeting concluded at 9.35pm.

DRAFT