

**Meeting Minutes of Thirlwall Parish Council held on
Wednesday 12th January 2022 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) and Cllr P Jameson (PJ). Emma Guerrero (EG) joined the meeting via Zoom

Clerk: Mrs Sue Hatt (SH)

Members of Public Present: CH, FB, JD and GD.

1/22 Apologies for Absence: Cllr A. Sharp

2/22 Declarations of Interest: None

3/22 Public Questions

No questions were submitted.

4/22 Emma Guerrero was co-opted as a councillor and joined the meeting via Zoom. The Declaration of Acceptance and the Declaration of Interest forms will be sent to her for completion.

5/22 Minutes of the meeting to be approved on: Wednesday 8th December 2021.

UNANIMOUSLY AGREED

6/22 Matters arising from previous minutes not dealt with elsewhere in the current agenda.

All covered in the agenda

7/22 Gilsland Matters reports and resolutions arising.

7/22.04 Bus Stop Mosaic project – Clare Hawkins explained that the Mosaic project was moving ahead and that it had been agreed that only the space between the cupboards would be used. It has been decided to keep the project small to ensure that the funding can be secured within the deadline. Volunteers have been attending workshops to create a design that represents Gilsland, not just Hadrian's Wall. Ideas for the design have also been sought from the children at Gilsland School. Jane Dudman and Fiona Bullock will create a final design.

The walls will need to be rendered so that the mosaic could be created. Cllr JA will organise for the work to be done. Clare will liaise with Dan Newrick about moving the cupboards and Cllr EG will move the books into the Village Hall while the work is being carried out.

**Action: Cllr JA to arrange rendering of the wall
Cllr EG to move books**

A quote has been received from Keith Waugh to put UPVC windows in the bus shelter. The cost will be £200 and it was unanimously agreed to accept the quote.

Action: Cllr SS to accept the quote

Cllr EG suggested that wooden barriers be placed at the front of the bus shelter to prevent users from falling off the steep step. It was agreed that councillors would consider this further at the next PC meeting in March.

Action SH to put on the agenda for March

Clare Hawkins also reported on the meeting held about the Jubilee celebrations. Andi Keen has set up a committee to plan events and suggestions so far include: a fete day in the village, a scarecrow trail around the village, an historic trail around the village (people dressed as characters associated with Gilsland strategically placed around the village).

7/22.02 Visit Gilsland – website

Chris Cantrill discussed plans for updating and developing the Visit Gilsland website, which no longer showcases the local attractions and opportunities in and around Gilsland. Much of the information and the photos are dated, making the website irrelevant. Although some of the content for the Parish Council is mandatory, it could be moved into a specific section that could also include Upper Denton and Waterhead Parish Councils. There could then be signposting to local attractions/ accommodation and local businesses, making the website more user friendly and informative.

Action: Chris Cantrill to draw up plans for the website for the March meeting

7/22.01 Gilsland Play Area – Repairs and Renewals/updates

The land bordering the Play area and belonging to the railway (North Eastern Railways) is greatly overgrown and needs clearing. Cllr AS was going to check with them about clearing the site. Clare will organise for volunteers to clear the area where the fruit trees are planted.

There has been no progress on the signs but the wording for them has been given to Cllr PJ to get them made by a Longtown firm. (no dogs/ no bikes and updated contact details)

Action: Cllr PJ to get signs made

A visual inspection of the Play Area has been taken place and work will need to be carried out on the steps leading to the slide in the Spring. The quote for resin to be placed at the bottom of the slide has yet to be received. A bit of wood on the rope slide needs to be replaced and John Dixon offered to carry out the repair.

Action: John Dixon the repair rope slide

7/22.03 Low bridge at Gilsland

An email has been received from John Mather about the feasibility study being carried out by Northumberland County Council. He has requested that the Parish Council and local residents report any incidents of vehicles getting stuck or having to turn around and their direction of travel. This will help to highlight the scale of the problem and enable them to take action.

Action: Cllr SS to put a request in the magazine

7/22.05 Parking in the village

Although this is an ongoing issue, it was decided to encourage residents to take photographic evidence of infringements so that the police could be contacted for advice.

7/22.06 Mobile reception in Gilsland

Cllr SS has sent a letter about the mobile coverage in Gilsland to Guy Opperman. Upper Denton and Waterhead Parish Councils have agreed to write to their local MP as well, including emails relating to the subject dating back to 2015.

8/22 Longbyre Matters – reports and resolutions arising.

Gavin Reichert has carried out the work on the storm damaged tree and the councillors noted their thanks.

8/22.01 Land at Stoneybeck/encroachment

SH has obtained information about securing Village Green Status and it was agreed that Cllr SS would investigate further and report back to the Parish Council at the next meeting.

Cllr PJ has not yet been able to contact the Land Registry about surveying the boundaries.

Action: Cllr SS and Cllr PJ

8/22.02 Reinstatement of the bridge

There was no update on the reinstatement of the bridge, although it was noted that the river at Longbyre had flooded. It was agreed that Cllr ss would contact the Environment Agency about the situation and report back. .

Action: Cllr SS to contact Environment Agency

9/22 Planning Applications

9/22.01 21/05000/FUL – this planning application was not in Thirlwall Parish

10/22 Financial and Administration Matters

10/22.01 Bank Reconciliation and Accounts for Payments as of 1st January 2022 – Appendix 1

10/22.02 Income and expenditure as of 1st January 2022 – Appendix 2

Both financial reports were scrutinised and approved unanimously.

SH also informed the councillors that a VAT refund claim would be submitted before the next meeting.

11/22 Correspondence

11/22.01 Transport Northeast Cllr SS has drafted a letter supporting the bid to provide low emission buses in the Northeast and will email it to the relevant parties.

11/22.02 Platinum Jubilee Beacon Trail This was noted.

12/22 Haltwhistle and District Joint Burial Council

Cllr AS was currently attending the Haltwhistle and District Joint Burial Council meeting so no report was presented.

The Budget Levy report was noted.

13/22 Matters for the next agenda and any other business:

13/22.01 Cllr MB reported that there was flooding at Crooks at the back of the Samson Inn. The issue has already been raised by Cllr AS.

158/21 Dates and time of next meeting

Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 9th March 2022 at Gilsland Village Hall.

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

Future meetings:

- 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 8.55pm.