

**Approved Meeting Minutes of Thirlwall Parish Council held on
Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 7.20pm at Gilsland Village Hall**

Meeting commenced at 7.20pm.

Present: Cllr S Seymour (SS), Cllr Judith Armstrong (JA) Cllr Paul Jameson (MJ), Cllr Emma Guerrero (EG) and Cllr A. Sharp (AS)

Clerk: Mrs Sue Hatt (SH)

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

27/23 Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received from Cllr Mark Barwick (MB)

28/23 Declarations of Interest: There were none.

29/23 Public Questions

No questions were submitted.

**30/23 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 8th March 2023 were approved:
UNANIMOUSLY AGREED**

31/23 Matters arising from previous minutes not dealt with elsewhere in the current agenda.

None that were not on the agenda.

32/23 Gilsland Matters reports and resolutions arising.

32/23.01 Gilsland Play Area – Repairs and Renewals/updates.

Cllr JA reported that the work on the slide had been carried out and that it was now fit for purpose. Parents and children have approached her about putting sand at the bottom of the slide, but this is not possible due to H&S concerns. A meeting was held with Stephen Ferguson about the steps to the slide and changing the basketball area into a football area. He has put forward an approximate cost of £9000 for each of the projects but he will investigate costings more accurately and give a quote based on his findings. Cllr SS explained that several quotes would be needed to secure any funding and it was suggested that Peter Craig be contacted about submitting a quote. Cllr AS offered to contribute to the work, and it was proposed that Mike Mitchelson be approached about a contribution from Cumberland Council.

**Action: Cllr SS to enquire about S106 funds available
Cllr JA to get 3 quotes for the work to be carried out
SH to contact MM about a contribution**

32/23.02 Visit Gilsland website

Possible options for a joint website are still being investigated.

Action: SH to find out about website options

32/23.03 Samson Inn Community Asset

There was no further progress to report although a meeting was planned for 11th May 2023. Cllr SS explained that there had been an issue regarding the footprint of the flat but that this had been addressed.

32/23.04 Coronation celebrations

Cllr JA stated that there had been a disco at the Village Hall on the Friday night and a street party at Rosehill on Saturday. Thanks were expressed to the organisers (Bev, Hazel, Karen, Gail and many others) and Martin Armstrong who provided the music. This had been well attended despite the weather and was very successful. Cllr EG attended the coffee morning on the Monday and thanked the organisers for an excellent event.

32/23.05 Northumbria in Bloom

Cllr SS related that Clare Hawkins had presented some plans for the bus stop. The nature group, mosaic group and youth club are working together to improve the bus stop area. They intend to compliment the mosaic and community library with some additional planters for both bee/bird friendly and roman inspired plants, as well as a general tidy up. The village hall has already donated a cherry tree which has been planted. The Community have donated numerous other plants which they intend to install additional new planters either side of the bus stop, complete with information signs about the plant varieties. The nearby trees will include some bird feeders and bug hotel. The old stone bin will be turned into a planter for another signature tree. They want to install low level solar lighting in the bus stop so people can access the books in the darker nights. Finally, they will also tidy up the area and repair the broken fence at the back before they submit the bus stop into the Royal Horticultural Society/Northumbria in Bloom - "It's Your Neighbourhood Awards" 2023.

A request for funding will be considered during the financial matters section.

32/23.06 Village Hall grant

A request for funding has been received which will be considered during the financial matters section.

32/23.07 Timber transport

The scheduled harvesting at Crammel Rigg started on the week commencing the 17th of April 2023. Timber haulage commenced on the 8th of May 2023. Convoying will be provided by Northumbria County Council, to minimise disturbance. Based on the estimated tonnage, it is hoped that the timber haulage will be complete within a ten-week period. TM will be dismantled as soon as haulage is completed, and all efforts will be made to conclude within the original estimate. As last year, prior to haulage commencing, a letter will be sent to each of the houses in the estate and up through Rosehill. A note has also been included in the Village News for information.

32/23.08 Highways

Cllr AS reported that the tree at the Stepping Stones had been removed. He confirmed that the road in Longbyre will be maintained this summer. He reiterated that the road signage for the bridge should be in place for the summer. He was thanked for his regular updates on the situation. Also, work to slurry-coat the footpaths is still being negotiated. Cllr As offered to pay for the hanging baskets in the village and was thanked by the councillors. It was reported that the remaining hot compost bins had been allocated to the area of Gilsland. Home composting bins will be provided to residents as part of a trial by the end of May.

32/23.09 Dry Stone Wall and trees near Samson Inn

Cllr JA informed everyone that the repair work on the dry-stone wall had been completed but that the right-hand wall was not as high standard as the left-hand wall. This will be monitored over the next few months. Cllr AS has spoken to the owners of the property where the tree is causing concern and will chase this up and report back.

Action: Cllr AS to contact owners and report back

33/23 Longbyre Matters – reports and resolutions arising.**33/23.01 Village Green Status**

No further work has been done on this, but a meeting will be organised to move the application on.

Action: SH to organise a meeting

33/23.02 Picnic benches at Longbyre

Cllr SS reported that the responses to the picnic benches were mixed, with several negative comments about the idea. It was noted that there used to be a bench at Longbyre, so it was decided to purchase a bench to commemorate the King's Coronation instead.

Action: SH to send out details of benches

34/23 Planning Applications

34/23.01 23/04331/FUL Change of use of detached garage to holiday let including associated external works (retrospective) Location North View Gilsland Brampton Northumberland CA8 7DX Applicant Mr & Mrs G Wilkins. A letter was sent to Addis Town Planning and the owners were put in copy.

Land at Wardrew Manor House: The Tree Preservation order has been formally confirmed by Northumberland County Council.

35/23 Financial and Administration Matters

35/23.01 Income and expenditure as of 1st May 2023 – Appendix 1

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

35/23.02 Bank Reconciliation and Accounts for Payments as of 1st May 2023 – Appendix 2

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

35/23.03 Annual AGAR has been prepared and will be audited in the next month.

35/23.04 The budget proposed by Cllr SS was presented.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

35/23.05 The clerk's 6-month salary and expenses were approved.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

35/23.06 Annual Church Maintenance: it was agreed that the Parish Council would continue to support the upkeep of the graveyard.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

35/23.07 Request for funding for the improvement of the bus stop. It was agreed to contribute £600 to the cost of improving the bus stop for the Northumberland in Bloom competition.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

35/23.08 Request for funding for computer and printer for the Village Hall. It was agreed to find out the cost of the computer and printer and offer a proportional contribution (up to £250) towards costs, asking Upper Denton and Waterhead PCs to also contribute.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

36/23 Correspondence

There was none.

37/23 Haltwhistle and District Joint Burial Council

Cllr AS reported that 2 volunteers had been recruited to help Sean Glenton, with outside contractors being used for major projects. There has been a slow start to grass cutting at Greenhead due to the high numbers of funerals. Cllr AS thanked Cllr MB for his commitment and contribution to the Council.

38/23 Matters for the next agenda and any other business:

38/23.01 There was a tree fire at Ina House, and this will have to be removed. Update at next meeting

38/23.02 Highways to be a separate agenda item to include both Gilsland and Longbyre.

39/23 Dates and time of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 12th July 2023 at 7.30pm at Gilsland Village Hall**

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

Future meetings:

- Wednesday 13th September 2023 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 8th November 2023 at 7.30pm

Proposed Meetings for 2024

- Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 7.30pm

- Wednesday 8th May 2024 - Annual Meeting at 7pm followed by normal Parish Council Meeting at 8pm
- Wednesday 10th July 2024 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 11th September 2024 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 7.30pm

Meeting concluded at 9pm