

**Approved Meeting Minutes of Thirlwall Parish Council held on  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm at Gilsland Village Hall**

**Meeting commenced at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllr S Seymour (SS), Cllr Mark Barwick (MB), Cllr Judith Armstrong (JA) and Cllr A. Sharp (AS)

**Clerk:** Mrs Sue Hatt (SH)

**Members of Public Present:** SM, DA

**14/23 Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received from Cllr Emma Guerrero (EG) and Cllr Paul Jameson (PJ).

**15/23 Declarations of Interest:** Cllr JA declared an interest in the Planning Applications item.

**16/23 Public Questions**

No questions were submitted.

**17/23 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were approved:  
UNANIMOUSLY AGREED**

**18/23 Matters arising from previous minutes not dealt with elsewhere in the current agenda.**

None that were not on the agenda.

**19/23 Gilsland Matters** reports and resolutions arising.

**20/23.01 Gilsland Play Area – Repairs and Renewals/updates.**

Cllr JA reported that the slide was slightly corroded and that a gap had appeared between the slide and the concrete at the top. Although it was not deemed a health and safety issue, she would ask Antony Stewart to carry out some welding to repair the slide.

The lights for the Play Area have been ordered and will be delivered to Cllr JA when they are back in stock.

**Action: Cllr JA to ask Antony Stewart to carry out repair**

**20/23.02 Visit Gilsland website**

No further progress has been made but the matter is in hand.

**Action: SH to find out about website options**

**20/23.04 Samson Inn Community Asset**

Cllr SS read out an update from Jane McDaid about the progress of the SOSamson steering group, which is now organised under the Gilsland Community Benefit Society Ltd, which is registered with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). There are 3 founding members: Steve Rizaro (Vice-Chair), Nev Kirby (Treasurer) and Jane McDaid (Chari) and the members committee will be formed soon. The organisation is a member for the Plunkett Foundation and now has a bank account.

Following a professional valuation, a written offer was made to purchase the Samson Inn, but the offer was refused. Requests for a meeting have so far been unsuccessful. The Village Hall was then approached to provide an alternative venue for the Community Pub and this was approved by the Village Hall committee. The Bridge Inn has also confirmed that it will remain open for the foreseeable future and have agreed to meet up with the Steering Group as soon as possible.

The Steering Group has obtained funding from the Plunkett Foundation and will be applying for REACH funding as well as the Community Ownership Fund. The Group needs an agreed Business Plan before launching any Share Offer, but they believe this would be successful and be capable of being match funded.

The Samson Inn has been listed as an Asset of Community Value and the current owners have triggered the process by which any community organisation can make it known that they intend to make a bid for the property. The Gilsland Community Benefit Society Ltd will confirm that it wishes to make a bid during the period ending on 10<sup>th</sup> April – this will mean that the Samson cannot be sold to another party for a further 6 months (October 2023).

Clerk: Mrs Sue Hatt Email: [clerk@thirlwallparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@thirlwallparishcouncil.org.uk) [www.visitgilsland.org.uk](http://www.visitgilsland.org.uk)

It was agreed to pay the invoice received from the Steering Group for the hire of the Village Hall.

**Action: SH to pay invoice for hire of the Village Hall**

### **20/23.06 Highways**

Cllr AS reported that large quantities of stone have been delivered to Crammel Rigg but there was no information as to when further extractions would be carried out. He would investigate and report back.

The signs around Wardrew Manor have been checked and are all in place, although a couple of waymark discs were missing from a waymark post behind a field gate but these will be replaced by the Countryside and Green Spaces Field Team.

The road signage for the bridge should be in place for the summer. Work to slurry-coat the footpaths is still being negotiated.

**Action: Cllr AS to find out about tree extractions work**

### **21/23 Longbyre Matters – reports and resolutions arising.**

#### **21/23.01 Land at Stoneybeck**

Cllr SS share the report she had written about the Village Green in Longbyre. Cllr JA has been putting together the information about the Play area and Cllr AS agreed to look up any further information that he might have.

Photographs will also be taken of the Village Green and the Play Area to illustrate the issues as well as collecting statements and letters of support from residents before submitting both applications.

#### **21/23.02 Reinstatement of the bridge**

The work to reinstate the bridge at Longbyre has been completed and members of the public in attendance were very grateful for the work carried out and felt that it had brought the community together. Stephen Ferguson will send his invoice for payment. JW asked if the footpath linking the bridge and the road could be reinstated by John Dixon, who would be asked to apply weedkiller to the existing, overgrown path.

It was also suggested that some picnic benches could be put in the area and Cllr SS agreed to put up a notice to ask local residents for their thoughts before proceeding with this. It was proposed that the picnic tables could be linked to the King's Coronation and that funding could be sought.

**Action: Cllr SS to put up a notice in Longbyre**

### **22/23 Planning Applications**

**22/23.01 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.

The planning has been granted subject to conditions about additional screening to the western and northern boundaries and the glazing of windows to the east and west elevations. The house will only be used for holiday purposes and shall not be subdivided, sold or brought into use as a separate unit.

Following a discussion about the report filed by Addis Town Planning on the Planning Portal, it was agreed to draft a letter responding to the serious allegations made. The integrity of the members of the Parrish Council, including the County Councillor, was questioned and it was agreed that a response should be prepared and shared with the owners of the property.

Cllr JA asked if planning permission was needed to run a business from a residential property and was advised to contact the planning department about her concerns.

**Action: SH to draft a letter to Addis Town Planning**

**22/23.02 21/03314/FUL** Retrospective planning application for 2no. new dwellings (amended 1.12.22) Location 12 And 13 The Forge Gilsland Brampton Northumberland CA8 7TF Applicant Mrs Deborah A Humble - **granted**

### **23/23 Financial and Administration Matters**

**23/23.01** Income and expenditure as of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 – Appendix 1

**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

**23/23.02** Bank Reconciliation and Accounts for Payments as of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 – Appendix 2

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**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

SH indicated that she had contacted Lloyds Bank about changing the existing bank account to a Treasurer's account. The process will be started in the next few weeks.

**24/23 Correspondence**

**24/23.01 Northumbria in Bloom:** SH drew the councillors' attention to the "It's your Neighbourhood Scheme", which recognises and acknowledges volunteer groups who work hard to improve their immediate surrounding. She suggested that the bus shelter could be put forward as a project and it was agreed that Cllr SS would pass on the information to Clare Hawkins and the Youth Club.

**25/23 Haltwhistle and District Joint Burial Council**

Cllr AS reported that administrative matters were discussed at the last meeting and that it had been decided to use self-employed staff to carry out any future work. The allotments have also been sorted out.

**26/23 Matters for the next agenda and any other business:**

**26/23.01 Coronation celebrations:** Cllr SS has been in touch with Amanda Drago about possible events for the Coronation weekend. The initial plans include:

- Saturday – lighting of the village/ projections
- Sunday – Big Lunch for the village/ street parties
- Monday – Community coffee morning/ entertainment in the village ( band/ comedy/ music) in aid of the Samson Inn

She will be applying for funding and it was suggested that the Parish Council contribute £250 to match any grants.

**UNANIMOUSLY AGREED**

It was requested that the details and dates of the celebrations be included in the Village Newsletter so that residents of Longbyre could be involved.

**26/23.02 Stepping Stones:** Cllr JA reported that there was a large tree down near the Stepping Stones which needs to be removed. Cllr AS said that he would report the incident and get the tree removed.

**Action: Cllr AS to report the fallen tree**

**26/23.03 Crooks Farm:** Cllr MB reported that there was a blocked drain at Crooks Farm causing a flooding risk. A culvert is blocked at Lawn Top and the water is running out under the road. Cllr AS will raise the matter with Highways.

**Action: Cllr AS to contact Highways about issue**

**27/23 Dates and time of next meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at Gilsland Village Hall following the Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm.**

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

**Future meetings:**

- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8.40pm**

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