

**Approved Meeting Minutes of Thirlwall Parish Council held on
Wednesday 12th July 2023 at 7.30pm at Gilsland Village Hall**

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

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

Clerk: Mrs Sue Hatt (SH)

Members of Public Present: O&PW, JD and L&JW

40/23 Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received from Cllr Mark Barwick (MB) and Cllr Judith Armstrong (JA), who would join the meeting later.

41/23 Declarations of Interest: There were none.

42/23 Public Questions

No questions were submitted.

**43/23 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 10th May 2023 were approved:
UNANIMOUSLY AGREED**

44/23 Matters arising from previous minutes not dealt with elsewhere in the current agenda.

None that were not on the agenda.

45/23 Gilsland Matters reports and resolutions arising.

45/23.01 Gilsland Play Area – Repairs and Renewals/updates.

Cllr SS reported that she had received a quote for the steps to the slide from Batson for £3883.98 (VAT £647.33 can be recovered). They suggested that they be repaired rather than replaced as this would avoid any Health and Safety issues. The steps would have wooden risers and be infilled by hard core and gravel. There would be a galvanised single handrail on the right-hand side of the steps. It was agreed to accept the quote and that any possible grants be applied for in the future for the potential MUGA (Multi Use Games Area).

Action: Cllr SS to accept the quote

The lights have arrived along with the posts. These will be fitted over the summer. SH to request instructions for fitting them.

Action: SH to get instructions for fitting solar lights

Cllr AS suggested that he could contribute towards a couple of benches for the Play Area and his offer was gratefully accepted. Cllr PJ will organise the purchase of the 2 benches from Longtown and send the invoice to SH.

Action: Cllr PJ to organise purchase of benches

Cllr JA and Cllr MB will have a look at the steps to the small slide as these have reported as being very narrow and dangerous. The inspections carried out by Sean Glenton should still be taking place every 3 months and SH will chase up the latest report.

45/23.02 Samson Inn Community Asset

The Community Group are no longer actively pursuing the sale of the Samson Inn. The owners have rejected the offer out of hand and there is the potential that the offer from the Community Group will be withdrawn if another party shows interest in buying the pub. This is what they have told Christies:

"The Group has decided, by simple majority, to not actively pursue purchasing the Samson and to not share the valuation with you. We agreed to leave our current offer open for acceptance by you while the Group explores alternative options. If the Group wishes to commence commercial discussions with another party, the Group will meet to ratify the withdrawal of the offer at this point, and we will notify you if this happens".

The next meeting will be held on the 10th August 2023 at the Village Hall.

45/23.03 Gap campers

The field opposite the Samson Inn has been used by campers. Cllr AS did not know who now owned the field but when Cllr JA arrived at the meeting, she reported that the owners wanted the land back so this should be resolved. Cllr SS did not feel that the Parish Council should get involved in the matter.

45/23.04 Building at Stanley Crescent

It was reported that some hardstanding had been put down at Stanley Crescent but again it was agreed that this did not require any action from the Parish Council.

45/23.05 Grass cutting

Grateful thanks were expressed to Alan Armstrong for cutting the grass while John Dixon was recovering. He is now back at work, but the Parish Council wanted to remind him not to overdo things until he has fully returned to full health.

45/23.06 North View

This property has been put up for sale. It was agreed that the conditions of retrospective planning be highlighted to the agents.

Action: SH to contact agents

46/23 Longbyre Matters – reports and resolutions arising.

46/23.01 Village Green Status

Still ongoing and requires more time to collect statements about the Village Green and the Play Area. Andi Keen from the House of Meg is helping in the process, and this will be moved on over the summer.

Action: SH to organise another meeting

46/23.02 Benches at Longbyre

Cllr SS suggested that a special wooden bench be purchase from a firm in Allendale, but Cllr PJ thought that sleeper benches (available from Longtown for £100) might be more appropriate. Lynne White offered to contribute towards 2 benches for the Village Green and her offer was gratefully accepted. It was decided that 2 benches could also be bought for the Play Area, so Cllr PJ will organise the purchase of 4 benches.

**Action: Cllr PJ to buy benches and send invoice to SH
SH to send banking detail to Lynne White**

46/23.03 Sale of Stoneybeck

The property is on the market, and it was agreed that a letter should be sent to the agents regarding the ongoing land issues.

Action: SH to contact agents

47/23.08 Highways

Cllr AS reported that he has paid for all the hanging baskets in the village, and he was thanked by the councillors. The work to slurry-coat the footpaths is still planned. The sign to Wardrew Manor has been replaced. Resurfacing of the Longbyre road will be carried out from the 21st to the 25th August 2023.

Cllr EG raised the issue of the fallen tree on the side of the railway and that the bank has been damaged due to the trees being cut down. Cllr AS will investigate.

Cllr AS also informed the councillors that he had received an email about concerns that walkers must walk on the road from Thirlwall View to Longbyre. A resident has requested that signs be put up to warn road users that pedestrians are having to use the road.

JW reported that cyclists using the Cycle Path are speeding on the hill into the village, which is dangerous for walkers and residents. Cllr AS will investigate the issue.

There have been no complaints about the timber removal operation at Crammel Rigg since the working hours have been amended.

47/23.01 Parking at Rosehill

Clerk: Mrs Sue Hatt Email: clerk@thirlwallparishcouncil.org.uk www.visitgilisland.org.uk

There have been complaints as to the number of vehicles parked at the end of Rosehill on the pavement. Cllr SS suggested that she could go and talk to the residents, but Cllr AS thought it would be better to ask the police to get involved in the situation. Councillors said they would take pictures of the offenders so they can be forwarded to the police with the concerns of the Parish Council.

47/23.02 Samson Bridge – update

There have been several incidents of lorries getting stuck at the Samson Bridge. Cllr AS will check on the progress of the work as not all the signs have been put up yet and report back at the next meeting.

48/23 Planning Applications

There were none.

49/23 Financial and Administration Matters

49/23.01 Income and expenditure as of 1st July 2023 – Appendix 1

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

49/23.02 Bank Reconciliation and Accounts for Payments as of 1st July 2023 – Appendix 2

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

49/23.03 Annual AGAR has been audited and returned for approval.

49/23.04 Change of bank: The process of moving from HSBC to Lloyds Bank has been started and the documents are ready for signing and returning to the bank for approval.

50/23 Correspondence

There was none.

51/23 Haltwhistle and District Joint Burial Council

Cllr AS reported that SG was doing well and the whole organisation is working much better now. Susan Saunders is helping out with the administration and there are 2 new volunteers helping as well.

52/23 Matters for the next agenda and any other business:

52/23.01 Cllr JA suggested that the Play Area equipment should be disinfected professionally. Sean Betton from Clearview Cleaning in Gilsland carries this out on other Playgrounds in the area and has quoted £150.

Action: Cllr JA to organise the cleaning operation

53/23 Dates and time of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 13th September 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 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