

**Approved Meeting Minutes of Thirlwall Parish Council held on
Wednesday 8th November 2023 at 7.30pm at Gilsland Village Hall**

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

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

Clerk: Mrs Sue Hatt (SH)

Members of Public Present: JM, MC, GD and L&JW

68/23 Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received from and Cllr Mark Barwick (MB) and Cllr Paul Jameson (PJ).

69/23 Declarations of Interest: There were none.

70/23 Public Questions

No questions were submitted.

**71/23 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 13th September 2023 were approved:
UNANIMOUSLY AGREED**

72/23 Matters arising from previous minutes not dealt with elsewhere in the current agenda.

None that were not on the agenda.

73/23 Gilsland Matters reports and resolutions arising.

73/23.01 Gilsland Play Area – Repairs and Renewals/updates.

The work on the path to the slide has still not been completed as a quote for complete replacement of the steps is now needed, following another visit by the firm carrying out the work. This new quote will have to be approved by all councillors and will be sent out for checking and approval.

Action: Cllr SS to send out new quote for approval

The solar lights have been installed but one of them is not working properly. The bulb will be returned to SH to get a replacement from the company.

Action: SH to get a replacement for the faulty bulb

The Burial Committee have informed all parishes that Sean Glenton will no longer have the necessary qualification to carry out inspections of the Play Area. It was agreed that he will nevertheless continue to inspect the equipment and report any issues regularly and Cllr JA and MB will continue their checks. The formal inspection will be carried out by Cumberland County Council.

The benches in the Play Area are being enjoyed by all and will be fixed in place after consultation with the users.

73/23.02 Landlines in Gilsland

Cllr SS reported that a meeting had been held about the digital switchover in the village. This is causing concerns due to the piecemeal provision of broadband in the area. Questions were raised about the planning application for several poles to be erected in Gap Shields but there is no information about their purpose. Cllr AS said he would make enquiries.

Action: Cllr AS to find about poles

73/23.03 Gilsland Bus Stop

Clare Hawkins has informed the Parish Council that the Bus Stop had received a “Thriving” accolade (one below “Outstanding”) from the RHS Northumbria in Bloom. There are plans to keep the project going and enter again next year.

73/23.04 Samson Inn – update

Jane McDaid kindly gave an update on the purchase of the Samson Inn as a Community Asset. A sale price of £295,000 has been agreed subject to funding. It is envisaged that the funding will take 3-6 months to raise, mainly through a Community Ownership Grant and the sale of Community shares. The application for In Depth Development Support has been approved. Pledge letters will be sent out in January 2024 but the money will not need to be paid until the legal side has been completed. It is hoped that the community will show their support for this project through their pledges. A new inspection of the building will be carried out next week and a full survey will be commissioned.

73/23.05 Website

SH has contacted a local company, XL Design and Code about designing and maintaining a website for Gilsland and its 3 Parish Councils. A draft proposal has been received with an initial estimate of £1500 for the development work and annual running costs of £200. It was agreed to approve the project subject to all councillors looking at other websites designed by the company and Cllr JA and SH having a meeting with the developers.

Action: Cllr JA and SH to meet up with the developers.

73/23.06 TVCRP

A request has been received by the Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership to support their bid to obtain charitable status. It was agreed to support their application.

Action: SH to confirm the PC support for the application

74/23 Longbyre Matters – reports and resolutions arising.

74/23.01 Benches at Longbyre

The new benches have now been painted and now fit in with the setting. They will need to be fixed permanently in place once their location has been agreed. It was suggested that one be placed behind the bus shelter and the other over the bridge. Cllr SS offered to take them to paint them again.

Action: Cllr SS to organise the painting of the benches

74/23.02 Village Green Status

It was suggested that simple forms be included in the Village News to encourage people to contribute to the evidence statements needed for the application for Village Green Status for both Longbyre and the Play Area.

Action: Cllr JA to put a form in Village News vis Chris Conrill

75/23 Highways

75/23.01 Low bridge in Gilsland

Cllr AS has had a tour of all the signage put up for the low bridge and it was agreed that the situation should continue to be monitored to see if they are effective. There have been queries about a possible sign warning drivers of vehicles in the middle of the road. Cllr AS said he would enquire about this.

Action: Cllr AS to find out about possible sign

Cllr AS has asked about the possibility of having a 30mph sign in Longbyre but is still waiting for a decision to be made. Signs warning about walkers in the road have been approved but probably won't be put up until next year. He is still looking into cattle grids at Warcar Road

76/23 Planning Applications

76/23.01 23/03153/FUL Rebuilding of garage and alterations to house, Holyrood House Longbyre Greenhead Brampton Northumberland CA8 7HN Applicant Mr and Mrs Lawrence Newsham – this was refused.

76/23.02 23/04045/FUL Rebuilding of garage and alterations to house Holyrood House Longbyre Greenhead Northumberland CA8 7HN - Mr and Mrs Lawrence Newsham. This is a new planning application for the rebuilding of the garage but without the roof terrace. It was agreed that any comments should be sent to SH before the 28th November 2023.

77/23 Financial and Administration Matters

77/23.01 Income and expenditure as of 1st November 2023 – Appendix 1

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

77/23.02 Bank Reconciliation and Accounts for Payments as of 1st November 2023 – Appendix 2

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

77/23.03 2023-2024 Precept

It was suggested that the Precept should remain the same next year,

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

77/23.04 Village Hall

A request for funding has been received from the Village Hall for the refurbishments that have been carried out (new flooring/ furniture). It was agreed that £300 would be granted to the Village Hall.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

78/23 Correspondence

78/23.01 Support for Climate and Ecology Bill

It was agreed that the councillors would look at the implications of supporting the bill and feed back their views to SH.

79/23 Haltwhistle and District Joint Burial Council

Cllr AS reported that there had been a Full board meeting and that all the members were present. There will be no increase to the budget and the figures for the year will be sent out in time. Lots of maintenance has been carried out and things are looking very positive.

80/23 Matters for the next agenda and any other business:

80/23.01 Tree at Irthing Park

Cllr JA has been asked about the tree at the entrance of Irthing Park which is obstructing the path. Cllr AS will find out who is responsible for it and report back.

Actin: Cllr AS to enquire and report back

81/23 Dates and time of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 10th January 2024 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 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 9.05pm