

**Approved Meeting Minutes of Thirlwall Parish Council held on
Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7.30pm at Gilsland Village Hall**

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

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

Clerk: Mrs Sue Hatt (SH)

Members of Public Present: JM, JD, GD and Neil Northman from Fibrus.

82/24 Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received Cllr Judith Armstrong (JA). Cllr Mark Barwick (MB) has resigned due to personal reasons. The Parish Council accepted his resignation and thanked him for his support and contributions to the council over the years. SH will contact the Election Office to advertise the vacancy and coopt new councillor. **Action: SH to contact Election Office about vacancy**

83/24 Declarations of Interest: Cllr SS declared an interest in item 90/24.02.

84/24 Public Questions

No questions were submitted.

**85/24 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 8th November 2023 were approved:
UNANIMOUSLY AGREED**

86/24 Matters arising from previous minutes not dealt with elsewhere in the current agenda.

None that were not on the agenda.

87/24 Gilsland Matters reports and resolutions arising.

87/24.05 Gap Shield Farm – Broadband

The poles being installed at Gap Shield Farm are part of the work carried out by Fibrus to provide broadband to Gilsland properties. Neil Northman from Fibrus explained that the work was being funded by the government and that the company had won the contract. Fibrus is based in Belfast and has been connecting homes in Northern Ireland, before bidding for the work in Cumbria. There will be a meeting held in the Village Hall on 16th February 2024 (date to be finalised) attended by Guy Oppenheimer MP to explain the scheme and answer any questions from residents.

87/24.04 Samson Inn

Jane Mcdaid thanked the Parish Council for their letter of support and explained that, although they were in receipt of £80,000 of pledges, they needed £130,000 by the end of January to be successful in their bid to the Community Ownership Fund. All the preparations have been made and they are ready to proceed if they can meet the required amount. People who have pledged already will be asked to increase their pledges (many have already agreed to this) and further pledges will be sought. The Founding members of the GCBS have asked the Parish Council if they could use the remaining money granted (£450) for an updated valuation of the asset to be prepared.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

The councillors also asked about the possibility of making a donation or pledge towards the Samson Inn Community Pub. Jane confirmed that a pledge was not contractually binding, and that the money would only be requested if the purchase went ahead. The shares would be withdrawable and could attract nominal interest, depending on the performance of the business. The shares also secure a vote and a say in the affairs of the business at General Meetings. Cllr SS suggested that the Parish Council would pledge to buy £1000 of shares in support of the project.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Action: SH to send in the pledge for shares

87/24.01 Gilsland Play Area – Repairs and Renewals/updates.

The quote for the work on the path to the slide has now been received (£5104.59 exc VAT) and was discussed. It was agreed to accept it if there was a guarantee for the work of 5 years. Cllr SS would contact Batson Groundcare and report back to councillors.

Action: Cllr SS to contact Batson about guarantee

The solar lights are now working after Anthony Stewart carried out repairs to the faulty light. SH will also be sent a replacement circuit board in case of future problems. An invoice for the additional work has been received and the councillors approved the payment.

Action: SH to pay the invoice for additional work.

Quarterly inspections will continue to be carried out by Sean Glenton and the Annual Report from the Cumberland Council will be received.

87/24.02 Green Croft Arts

Having consulted other councillors, Cllr SS sent a letter to Amanda in support of their application for funding to provide a space for art type activities at their barn.

87/24.03 Gilsland Bus Stop

Fiona Bullock had requested to attend the meeting to discuss funding to use up the left-over Mosaic tiles, maybe to frame the Bus stop. As she was unable to attend, she or a representative will come along to the March meeting.

87/24.06 Village Hall

The Village Hall has been registered as an emergency centre for Northumberland Council and now have an emergency bag in the kitchen (contains torches, Hi-Viz jackets, blankets and tape). There is a key safe at the door and the number is available from the committee.

St Mary Magdalene are planning to run their soup lunches during Lent and requested a donation of £20 from the three Parish Councils to cover startup costs.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Action: SH to arrange for payment of the grant

88/24 Longbyre Matters – reports and resolutions arising.**88/24.01 Village Green Status**

No progress has been made over the Christmas period. This will be revisited at the March meeting.

89/24 Highways**89/24.01 Samson Bridge**

Cllr AS reported that the signage warning drivers of vehicles in the middle of the road had to be approved by Network Rail before being installed.

The costings for a cattle grid at Warcarr Farm have been obtained and will be shared with the owner.

Cllr AS was concerned about standing water at Chapel House Farm and has asked Northumberland Council to investigate the problem. It was suggested that the drains might have been blocked when road works were carried out. The signs about pedestrians in the road was still in progress.

90/24 Planning Applications

90/24.01 24/04045/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. **This has been granted.**

90/24.02 23NP0113 Conversion of agricultural buildings to 3 no. holiday lets, activity workshop space, kitchen and butchery; and associated external works at Moss Peteral Farm, Greenhead, Brampton, Northumberland, CA8 7HY.

Cllr SS excused herself from the discussions. There were no objections to the application.

91/24 Financial and Administration Matters

91/24.01 Income and expenditure as of 1st January 2024 – Appendix 1

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

91/24.02 Bank Reconciliation and Accounts for Payments as of 1st January 2024 – Appendix 2

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

91/24.03 Requests for grants

Grants for the Samson Inn and the Village Hall were approved previously.

92/24 Correspondence

92/24.01 Northumberland Open Space Assessment - Town/Parish Council Survey

It was agreed that Cllr SS and Cllr EG would complete the survey on Open Spaces and return it.

Action: Cllr SS and Cllr EG will complete the survey

92/24.02 Healthwatch Northumberland cost of living booklet

This was shared with councillors and will be put on the website for residents.

Action: SH to put the leaflet on the website

93/24 Haltwhistle and District Joint Burial Council

Cllr AS asked for a volunteer to represent Thirlwall PC on the Board as Mark Barwick had resigned. He reported that there were still vacancies for allotments and that surplus money was available due to the increase amount of work carried out. The Board feels that it has turned a corner financially and that all is going well.

94/24 Matters for the next agenda and any other business:

None

95/24 Dates and time of next meeting

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