

**Draft Meeting Minutes of Thirlwall Parish Council held on
Wednesday 13th March 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: AD

96/24 Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received Cllr Judith Armstrong (JA).

97/24 Declarations of Interest: None

98/24 Public Questions

No questions were submitted.

**99/24 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 8th November 2023 were approved:
UNANIMOUSLY AGREED**

100/24 Matters arising from previous minutes not dealt with elsewhere in the current agenda.

None that were not on the agenda.

101/24 Gilsland Matters reports and resolutions arising.

101/24.01 Councillor Vacancy

There has been little interest from the community, so it was agreed that individuals be approached about joining the Parish Council. Cllr SS and PJ would talk to possible candidates in order to co-opt a new councillor.

101/24.02 Gilsland Play Area – Repairs and Renewals/updates.

The lights now seem to be working well, although they are affected by the weather. Cllr EG reported that the equipment was very dirty and it was agreed to ask Cllr JA to contact the person who was going to carry out a deep clean. The annual safety report has been circulated and Cllr EG asked about how often the visual checks needed to be carried out. It was agreed that visual checks should be carried out weekly, with quarterly inspections to be carried out by Sean Glenton. SH will produce a checklist of equipment to be checked so that any damage can be reported. The steps to the slide and the handrail have been repaired and the invoice from Batson Groundcare Ltd has been received and there is a 5 year guarantee on structural defects and settlement of the surfacing to the steps.

**Action: SH to create a checklist for the Play Area
Cllr JA to be asked to arrange for Play Area to be cleaned.**

101/24.03 Northumberland Open Spaces Assessment

Cllr SS and EG completed and returned the survey which highlighted problems with accessibility to the Hadrian's Wall Trail so Lorna Lazzari was emailed about the issues. Councillors agreed that the ladder stiles might be replaced with gates to enable wheelchair users and older people to use the trail.

Action: SH to send a copy of the minutes to Lorna

Cllr EG reported that the Woodland Trust now manage the Irthing Gorge and that their plans are outlined on their website. However, there are numerous inconsistencies and accessibility is limited. Cllr EG offered to send a letter to point out problems and get improvements for the community.

Action: Cllr EG to write to the Woodland Trust

101/24.04 Fibre Broadband in Gilsland

The meeting with Fibrus was well attended by Guy Opperman and members of all 3 parishes. The main aim of the meeting was for Fibrus to sell their services, but several issues were raised and discussed. Concerns were expressed about the work being carried out around the village and about a pole installed on the pavement just down the hill from the Village Hall. There is more information about Superfast broadband to be found at <https://hyperfastgb.com/faqs/> There is also an enquiry form on the website which is monitored by Fibrus so they can answer any questions or concerns that residents may have.

CLlr EG reported that the lane behind the Village Hall had been dug up and that damage had been done to the verge. The Fibrus contractors and Cumbrian Wildlife Trust have offered to provide wildflower seeds and CLlr EG requested a small donation to get some top soil delivered so that local residents and the Youth Cub could rewild the verge and encourage biodiversity. A dumpy bag of soil would cost £25 and 4 would be needed, so the councillors approved a donation of £100 towards the project.

Action: CLlr EG to organise the delivery of topsoil

101/24.05 Website

All councillors approved of the initial website design, and it was agreed that the Parish Council information should be put up. The various groups in the village need to be made aware of the new website so that they can upload information. SH will liaise with the website designers and move the project on.

101/24.06 Samson Inn update

There is still no news on the Community Ownership Fund Application for grant funding to purchase The Samson Inn but the outcome should be known by the end of March.

102/24 Longbyre Matters – reports and resolutions arising.**102/24.01 Village Green Status**

SH highlighted the event to take place at the Village Hall on the 16th March and the 6th April, which would be a good opportunity to collect statements from local residents about the Play Area and the Village Green. Amanda Drago agreed to include the Play Area and Village Green in the event and CLlr SS would attend and ask CLlr JA to assist her in collecting statements.

103/24 Highways**103/24.01 Local Transport Plan Programme 2024-2025**

CLlr AS reported that work on the B6318 Thirlwall View to Longbyre would be carried out this year. He has spent some of his allowance on signs at the bridge and has paid for the fuel for grass cutting. The councillors expressed their thanks.

CLlr SS informed the councillors that there would be further timber extractions this year, but she did not yet have all the details. Tilhill will be carrying out the work and still intend to use a convoy system.

104/24 Planning Applications

None

105/24 Financial and Administration Matters

105/24.01 Income and expenditure as of 1st March 2024 – Appendix 1

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

105/24.02 Bank Reconciliation and Accounts for Payments as of 1st March 2024 – Appendix 2

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

105/24.03 Approval of payments

The invoice from Batson Groundcare Ltd was approved for payment.

106/24 Correspondence

106/24.01 New Sports Tynedale Website

This was brought to the councillors' attention.

106/24.02 Karbon Community Fund

Cllr AS informed the councillors that funds were available for local projects.

106/24.03 Electric Vehicle Chargers

It was agreed that there are nowhere for these to be installed in the village.

107/24 Haltwhistle and District Joint Burial Council

Cllr AS reminded the councillors that Thirlwall PC did not have a representative on the Council, so he shared the minutes of the last meeting with Cllr SS. He reported that all was going well.

108/24 Matters for the next agenda and any other business:

None

109/24 Dates and time of next meeting

The Annual Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 7.30pm at Gilsland Village Hall followed by a Parish Council meeting at 8pm.**

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

Future meetings:

- Wednesday 10th July 2024 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 11th September 2024 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 7.30pm

Meeting concluded at 9.00pm