

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

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr S Seymour (SS), Cllr Owen Wilkins (OW), Cllr Emma Guerrero (EG) and Cllr A. Sharp (AS)

Clerk: Mrs Sue Hatt (SH)

Members of Public Present: GD, J&LW, MC

15/25 Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received Cllr Judith Armstrong (JA), and Cllr Paul Jameson (PJ)

16/25 Declarations of Interest: None

17/25 Public Questions

No questions were submitted.

**18/25 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 8th May 2024 were approved:
UNANIMOUSLY AGREED**

19/25 Matters arising from previous minutes not dealt with elsewhere in the current agenda.

None that were not on the agenda.

20/25 Gilsland Matters reports and resolutions arising.

20/25.01 Gilsland Play Area – Repairs and Renewals/updates.

SH has contacted Batson Groundcare Ltd and talked to Stephen about the solutions to the gravel problem on the steps leading to the slide. He explained that the nature of self-binding gravel is such that twisting of feet onto the surface will loosen a small amount of material resulting in small chippings being able to be picked off the surface. Possible solutions would be to either install a bound surface i.e. resin bound gravel, install a honeycomb type plastic grid into the surface making the picking up of the material more difficult. A further solution could be to remove the self-binding gravel, mix it with cement and water and relay onto the steps. It was agreed that SH would ask Stephen for a quote for each option so that the councillors can decide which option would be best.

Action: SH to contact Batson about quotes

The Zip wire has been fixed after a visit from Paul Taylor from Kompan. He checked the apparatus and ensured that the repair was correctly carried out.

Cllr JA has reported that goalposts range in cost from £150 to £1000 depending on quality and use. Cllr AS said he would contribute towards the goalposts and Cllr SS suggested that Paul Taylor at Kompan be contacted about the goal posts that are advertised in their brochure. She would give the brochure to Cllr JA to investigate.

Action: Cllr JA to look at the goal posts available from Kompan

SH has produced a checklist of equipment to be checked by Councillor EG so that any damage can be reported. It was agreed that visual checks should be carried out regularly.

20/25.02 Co-option of new Councillor

Cllr Paul Jameson has requested to stand down as Councillor as he has moved away from the village. David Keen has agreed to rejoin the Parish Council and the relevant paperwork will be sent to him over the summer so that he can be co-opted at the September meeting.

Action: SH to send David Keen the paperwork

20/25.02 Website

SH has received the details of the draft website and has asked Ben Johnson from Upper Denton to oversee the project and initially manage the website. The invoice will be approved for payment during Financial Matters and will be settled when the website is handed over and goes live. The contributions from Upper Denton and Waterhead Parishes will be paid following their next meeting in September.

20/25.04 Samson Inn update

The Gilsland Community Benefit Society Ltd have reported that progress since the election has stalled and that the sale will not be approved for the foreseeable future. They have been financially prudent and made no commitments to any contracts so that any delays should not adversely affect them. They are liaising with the Plunkett Foundation, local MPs and the National Park and Northeast Combined Authority and awaiting developments.

There will be a GCBSL Committee Meeting planned for Thursday 11th July 2024 at Gilsland Village Hall at 7.30pm.

21/25 Longbyre Matters – reports and resolutions arising.**21/25.01 Village Green Status**

SH has gathered the paperwork and will meet up with Cllr JA to finalise the details for the Play Area before the forms are sent to Open Spaces for advice.

Action: SH to meet with Cllr JA regarding the Play Area

21/25.02 The benches are now ready to be installed. Cllr SS has asked Sean Betton to fix them in place when he does the Play Area benches. Although he has declined payment, it was agreed that he should receive a gift from the Parish Council to thank him for his help.

Action: Cllr SS to organise a gift for Sean Betton

22/25 Highways

22/25.01 Cllr AS has contributed to the hanging baskets in the village and Cllr SS thanked him for his generous contribution. He has not received any more complaints about the timber wagons and MC reported that these would be operating for the next 3 weeks at least.

Cllr EG reported that one of the drains near Irthing Farm was covered with grit and that water was running across the road. Cllr AS would investigate.

SH informed the councillors that she had asked Dan Newrick about bus links to Gilsland from Cumberland County Council but he was not aware of any funding available. Cllr AS was prepared to contact Neil Easton, Public Transport Manager for Northumberland County Council, about local bus services and the local MP about future funding for local transport.

MC reported that the bench at the entrance to Rosehill had been removed but Cllr EG explained that it was been taken away because it was rotting. He has kindly reinstated the sign for Crammel Lin.

The residents of Longbyre raised concerns about the lack of a speed limit through the village, especially during the summer months when there are greater numbers of walkers and cyclists, as well as children playing outside. Cllr AS explained that the road was for access only and therefore would not qualify for a speed limit, but he would enquire about getting a sign warning motorists to drive carefully through the village.

23/25 Planning Applications

None

24/25 Financial and Administration Matters

24/25.01 Income and expenditure as of 1st July 2024 – Appendix 1

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

24/25.02 Bank Reconciliation and Accounts for Payments as of 1st July 2024 – Appendix 2

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

24/25.03 AGAR 2024-2025

The financial information for the AGAR and annual audit was completed and sent off. SH is now awaiting the Certificate of Exemption.

25/25 Correspondence**25/25.01 B4RN – Fibre for Northumberland.**

Although this company is delivering broadband in Northumberland but it would not be covering Gilsland. MC asked how he could contact Fibrus about their future work in Gilsland. SH agreed to send him contact details for Fibrus.

Action: SH to email MC the contact details for Fibrus

25/25.02 Local Transport Plan Programme

This was noted by the councillors.

25/25.03 Forestry Consultation

This was noted by the councillors.

26/25 Haltwhistle and District Joint Burial Council**26/25.01 Vacancy for representative on the Haltwhistle and District Joint Burial Committee**

David Keen has expressed interest in becoming the representative for Thirlwall Parish Council on the Burial Committee and would be appointed at the September meeting.

Cllr AS reported that Susan Saunders has resigned as Clerk of Haltwhistle Parish Council and her replacement is being sought. There has been a drop in funerals over the last few weeks but otherwise, all was going well.

27/25 Matters for the next agenda and any other business:

27/25.01 Cllr EG reported that poor signage for Hadrian's Wall through the village was resulting in walkers missing the path and wandering down Riversdale Lane, where they ask for help to rejoin the Path. Cllr SS offered to contact Lorna Lazarri again as she had no response about the accessibility issues raised previously. She will raise the matter of signage with her as well.

Action: Cllr SS to contact Lorna Lazzari about signage and accessibility issues on Hadrian's Wall trail

28/25 Dates and time of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 11th September 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 November 2024 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 14th May 2025 AGM at 7.00pm followed by a Parish Council meeting
- Wednesday 9th July 2025 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 10th September 2025 at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 12th November 2025 at 7.30pm

Meeting concluded at 8.45pm.