

03 12 2020 Minutes for Meeting held via zoom at 18.00hrs.

Welcome all.

Present: Kirsty Bell (Chair) Louise Kirkwood Neil Fowler Nigel Fisher.

Gary Scorer gave his apologies later that evening: there had been an emergency at work.

Co-option of Nigel Fisher approved by Councillors.

Nigel completed before meeting and signed in front of Councillors his Declaration of Financial and Pecuniary Interests Form and Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form. Nigel to post Declaration of Interest form to Monitoring Officer, County Hall and send the Declaration of Acceptance form to Sue to sign after the meeting with Kirsty as witness.

Reminder to all Councillors of their duty to inform County Council of any changes to their Financial/Pecuniary Interests.

County Council Update from Glen Sanderson who joined the meeting at 18.07

1 Councillors updated re Covid 19 restrictions and the roll out of the vaccine. Public Health experts are advising the County Council leaders. Neil asked whether we would move back to Tier 2 on 16th December which Glen felt would be doubtful due to non-compliance of rules and rising number of cases. Hospitality sector has been affected, those within Tier 2 have no financial support whilst those in Tier 3 do have support.

2 Neil asked whether the lane from Wingates to Haggys Gate on Wards Hill was going to be resurfaced or patched, Sue to email Glen re exact location and he will chase this up. Nigel reported all roads near Ritton okay, whilst Louise said Rothbury to Lordenshaws roads are atrocious, unfortunately not within our Parish. Neil reported that the lane from Forget me Not caravan Park to Todburn was undergoing some repairs. Glen thanked for the update as he left the meeting.

No parishioners attended via zoom and no questions forwarded before the meeting

Declaration of Interest in items on the Agenda other than standard declaration of interest - NONE

Minutes of meeting held Thursday 17th September 2020 approved (last minutes dated 17/09/2020- amount in A/C altered from £1.149.00 to £1.149.07, circulated for reading before meeting). Alteration noted and minutes to be taken to Kirsty within the next few days by Sue for signing.

MATTERS ARISING

1 Emails to Neil Snowdon 13/10/2020 and 16/11/2020 with attached letter (copied in Glen Sanderson and Highways Programme) re alleged speeding issues and flashing signage with no reply. Neil stated that Snitter has a speed limit and no street lights, Louise added that Embelton Terrace have speeding and parking problems due to more people staying at home

to work. In Wingates the emergence of Covid restrictions during the year has resulted in more delivery vehicles and speed issues also continue with other drivers.

Kirsty advised that we await the response from the Local Transport Plan of which we did ask for some assistance to address the speed issues. Louise asked if it was possible to email Glen as Councillors are still extremely concerned. Glen already aware of ongoing problems. Sue to ask Glen for any assistance he can give us in achieving a satisfactory result.

2 Email to Martin King 28/10/2020, 17/11/2020, 23/11/2020 for an update on the issue of boulders illegally in situ on approach to Wingates. Letter is in the process of being drafted and sent to resident as boulders are illegally positioned.

3 Councillors have read their Code of Conduct, Model Standing Orders, Disciplinary and Grievance Arrangements and Model Complaints Procedure prior to the meeting. All policies readopted at meeting.

4 Update from Neil re WVI committee membership/ongoing works being carried out at WVI. At the AGM Robert Famelton was elected as Chairperson and they now have a committee of 7 members, plus a Committee of Legal Trustees. All 3 holding trustees present at meeting.

New pathway to rear entrance has been completed, creating a one way system of entering and exiting, in line with Covid 19 regulations. Lights to be erected shortly. Money granted for pathway works from Wingates Windfarm Community Benefit fund. All being well there will be a Highlights performance in early spring and online events to be arranged.

5 Email sent re LTP requests -none. After email to Neil Snowdon re alleged speeding/flashing light installation he suggested I add this to LTP request. Copied the attached letter to Neil Snowdon to Highways programme. See agenda item Matters Arising 1.

6 Cattle grid at Wingates damage reported, NCC have carried out the repairs promptly.

CORRESPONDENCE

1 Emails re WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) received. Sue contacted Stephen Rickett (NALC) who are in the process of collating information to send to Parish Councils on how to address this.

2 Parish/Town/Community Councils Elections to be held on the 6th May 2021.

3 Request/map sent 28/10/2020 for grit heap replacement and 2 grit bin replenishments within Wingates. Some heaps are in situ, Sue to check the Parish and request more heaps if necessary.

4 Wingates House- Plans for removal of existing porch and conservatory to be built on front of house approved by all Councillors. Sue to send response to planning.

5 Forget me Not Caravan Park plans response sent no objections 29/11/2020.

MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS

1. Cluster meeting 13/10/2020 attended by Louise. Kim McGuinness the new Police Commissioner spoke about the work across the area and the volunteer network. Louise raised the issue of Domestic violence, a Community Consultation had been sent out, and could be disseminated through Parish Councils.

Road patching discussed. Broadband still not effective in some rural valley areas County Council tried their best with BT, to no avail. Thropton village experiencing traffic problems due to more people working from home during the pandemic, resulting in more parked vehicles during the day, resulting in the narrowing of the highway and vehicles being unable to pass. Spa store proposal in Thropton no progress. Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst Parish reported speeding issues. Lordenshaws area has experienced a problem of dog waste and fouling.

Community Chest funding for 2021 uncertain.

Next meeting to be held April 13th 2021

2. Wingates Wind Farm Community Benefit meeting Mon 30 November 2020 attended by Kirsty and Louise.

Funding approved for:

Brinkburn/Hesleyhurst Parish Council defibrillator £2,000

Longhorsley Parish Council Archies Pond resurface pathways and edges enabling better accessibility. (Total cost £23,000) Total approved from Windfarm £5,000.

Coquetdale Group Northumberland Wildlife Trust Owl/Kestrel nesting boxes and small bird nesting boxes £430.00 approved.

St Giles damp patch repair approved £350.00

Local History Group underspend on display cabinet to be spent on leaflet dispenser, approved.

Ventient are looking at producing plaques to be given to grant recipients to display to show project funded by the Windfarm.

Next meeting Monday March 1st 2021

FINANCE

1 In Account as of 03/12/2020 £1.149.07

2 Precept (Budget and Actual sheet sent to Councillors prior to meeting). Increase in Clerk's wages in April 2021 to £8.91 per hour and possible WCAG costs discussed, agreed by all, Councillors to request a 5% increase on the precept.

3 Letter from GNAA re donation, Councillors agreed on a £20.00 donation.

4 Rental to Wingates Village Institute for 2 meetings- £20.00 approved.

5 Expenses approved to pay Kirsty for purchase of new mouse for laptop £4.65

6 Clerks wages /expenses approved. Hours worked 1 ½ hours per week over 20 weeks at £8.72 per hour - Wages £261.60, Expenses: £7.15 stamps, £2.40 T/Call's **Total £271.15**

MINUTES AND CHEQUES TO BE SIGNED AND COUNTERSIGNED BY Kirsty Bell, Sue Rollitt and Neil Fowler within the next few days.

AOB

Neil raised concerns re depletion of red squirrels in the area and asked whether a donation could be made from the Windfarm Funding to a local organisation to address the situation. It would be best to contact the Coquetdale Red Squirrel Group to enquire if Wingates was in their area and/or to ask for advice.

Meeting closed at 19.20.

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY FEBRUARY 4TH 2021 AT 18.00 HRS via zoom.