

Kirkbride Parish Council



Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council Held on Tuesday 14th September 2021 at 7.00pm in Kirkbride School.

Present:

Councillors: Kirk (Chair) Day, Hedworth, Mostyn, Noblett and Simpson.

County Councillor: Absent.

Borough Councillor: Hedworth

Public attendance: None

Clerk: M Abbs

1.1 Apologies for absence, declarations of interest and dispensation requests from Cllrs.

Cllr Irving sent apologies the reason for absence was work/Covid related and accepted as a fair reason.

REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

The clerk to report any requests received since the previous meeting for dispensations to speak and/or vote on any matter where a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.

No dispensations were requested.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations by elected and co-opted members of interests in respect of items on this agenda.

Cllr Hedworth declared an interest with respect to item 4.4.

Members are reminded that, in accordance with the revised Code of Conduct, they are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or other registrable interests which have not already been declared in the Council's Register of Interests. (It is a criminal offence not to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest either in the Register or at the meeting.)

Members may, however, also decide, in the interests of clarity and transparency, to declare at this point in the meeting, any such disclosable pecuniary interests which they have already declared in the Register, as well as any other registrable or other interests.

If a Member requires advice on any item involving a possible declaration of interest which could affect his/her ability to speak and/or vote, he/she is advised to contact the clerk at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

2 Minutes (previously circulated).

2.1 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13th July 2021 – **approved and signed.**

Note 1: reminder that the order of business may be changed at the chairman's discretion to avoid undue delay for visitors

3 Report on action taken

3.1. by councillors

No matters were reported at this point.

3.1.1 Play area –

See also item 4.3

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3.1.2 Footpaths –

CALC advice on Parish Council powers to maintain footpaths.

The clerk appraised Cllrs of the legal position concerning payment for the maintenance of footpaths. Cllrs discussed which footpaths required the most attention and instructed the clerk to approach a contractor to obtain a quotation for the work. Cllr Kirk was prepared to show the contractor the required areas which it was felt would probably require cutting three times a year.

3.1.3 Highways steward –

Cllr Day advised that a 'huge hole' had been repaired in Birch Hill lane. The Highways Authority had been sent photographs of the fencing that was required along the B5307. The clerk advised that no response had been received to date.

3.1.4 Newsletter group -

Cllrs were not planning another newsletter at this point.

3.2- by the clerk –

Details of a call received from a parishioner concerning nuisance caused by roosting starlings.

The clerk outlined the call he had received and the enquires he had subsequently made prior to the meeting. There was no legal restriction on discouraging roosting starlings but it was not encouraged due to the fact that it was a declining species. – **noted without action.**

3.3 Public participation (at the Chairman's discretion)

3.3.1 Report from the Borough Councillor

Cllr Hedworth had no matters to report.

3.3.2 Report from the County Councillor

Absent.

4 New business

4.1 Hedge Cutting in the village latest situation and any required decision.

Untidy hedges in the village.

The clerk was instructed to remind the playground contractor of the requirement to cut the hedge inside the playground.

Cllrs approved the cutting of the usual playground hedges. Cllr Hedworth said he would arrange this.

4.2 Grass cutting specifications for 2022.

Review of the current tender procedure and possible action.

Cllr discussed the specification and requested the clerk to make a small amendment to the hedge cutting requirement.

Cllrs instructed the clerk to approach the same contractors as in 2020. The clerk would discuss any new interest in the work with the Chairman.

4.3 Playground – Update and discussion of any required action.

Equipment removal. Possible decision on sculpture.

The best method to carry out a minor repair to the climbing wall was discussed. Cllr Day agreed to ask Cllr Irving to have a further look at the item. Cllr Kirk notified Cllrs of the advice she had obtained from the supplier, Miracle, concerning some bolts on the equipment. – **noted.**

Cllrs were updated on the situation concerning the approved removal of a piece of equipment by a contractor. The work had been authorised but not yet carried out.

Cllr Simpson updated Cllrs on the situation concerning the possible sculptures or the installation of a rainbow arch. Following discussion Cllrs approved the indicated price and specification for the installation of the arch at a location previously agreed at a site meeting. Cllr Simpson had previously indicated that a substantial contribution towards the overall cost had been raised by her family during lockdown.

A quotation of £620 from a contractor for a suitable plinth was also approved. Cllrs thought that plinth should feature a suitable plaque. The clerk and Cllr Simpson were instructed to take the matter forward.

Cllr Hedworth asked if a seesaw could be installed in the playground and Cllr Kirk explained why this had been considered previously and not proceeded with.

Cllr Day confirmed that he had now received a maintenance pack from Fresh Air Fitness. Allerdale BC had not yet delivered the promised bins for the playpark and bus shelter and the clerk said he would chase this up. Cllr Day had placed an order for bird food for the woodland area and Cllrs **agreed** that the clerk could arrange payment of the invoice when he received it.

4.4 Vacancy on the Council. – consideration of applications.

Cllr Hedworth left the meeting at this point.

Details of the applicants' submissions had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. A current member of the Council informed the meeting of their intention to resign as a Cllr. The clerk explained the process by which this would create a further vacancy. Cllrs then **approved** a proposal to postpone making any appointment until the November meeting, by which time a further vacancy would exist.

Cllr Hedworth re-joined the meeting.

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4.5 Update on possible football pitch.

Cllrs had visited the site in question since the last meeting.

The clerk confirmed that a letter requesting a site meeting had been sent to a local landowner. No response had been received and the clerk was instructed to write again requesting the meeting.

5 Correspondence

To review correspondence received and take any appropriate action.

5.1 Cumbria CC – Working Together initiative.

The clerk had anticipated further correspondence on this which had not been forthcoming. – **noted**.

5.2 HSBC – changes to pricing and Safeguard review.

Cllr Kirk confirmed that in response to a written request from the bank a phone appointment had been made and the clerk said he would prepare material for it.

5.3 Citizens Advice Allerdale – request for support.

The clerk outlined the details which were **noted without action**.

5.4 HMRC – correspondence concerning the National minimum wage.

The clerk outlined the details which were **noted without action**, the Council already being compliant.

5.5 NSPCC Fundraiser – request for support and/or meeting.

The clerk outlined the details which were **noted without action**.

5.6 CALC - Local government reorganisation in Cumbria – interim position statement.

The clerk outlined the current position which was **noted without action**.

6 Finance

6.1 Information

6.1.1 To approve accounts to 31st July and 31st August 2021 – available at the meeting. – **approved**.

6.1.2 Allerdale BC – receipt of second Precept payment – amount to be confirmed at the meeting.

The clerk advised that to date the payment had not been received but he would check the September bank statement for it. – **noted**.

6.1.3 VAT reclaim **£1171.40** – **noted**.

6.1.4 PKF Littlejohn LLP – Confirmation of receipt of ‘notification of exempt status’ audit document.

The clerk that he had not heard anything further during the Public Consultation period so the audit had been completed for this year. – **noted**.

6.1.5 M&J Baird Wedholme Flow Licence **£5.00** – **noted**.

6.2 Payments to approve.

6.2.1 Clerk’s salary: **£538.63** - **approved**.

6.2.2 Expenses: postage etc. £1.42; telephone and broadband £38.22 = £39.64, travel 8m @ 36p= £2.88 Total **£42.52** – **approved**.

6.2.3 B Day – re-imburement for sprayer **£51.22** – **approved**.

6.2.4 Allerdale BC - playground inspection – paid by clerk and reclaimed (VAT £12.39) **£74.34** – **approved**.

7 Planning

7.1 Applications outstanding with Allerdale Borough Council.

None. – **noted**.

7.2 Applications dealt with under standing order.

None. – **noted**.

7.3 Applications decided by Allerdale BC.

None. – **noted**.

7.4 Applications for consideration by this Parish Council meeting.

7.4.1- FUL/2021/0237 Change of use of outbuildings for cattery to domestic dwelling, Silver Hill House, Kirkbride, Wigton. (Mrs Zoe Saunders)

Cllrs had examined the papers online prior to the meeting and **agreed that there were no objections**. The clerk would advise the authority accordingly.

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8.1 Documents received for comment

None. -**noted**.

8.2. Documents received for information (available on request to the clerk)

8.2.1 CALC Circulars.

8.2.2 Playground product information from several suppliers.

The above were **noted**.

9 Claypit Charity

No matters to consider.

The clerk confirmed that the annual report for 2020-21 had now been submitted. – **noted**.

10 Any items of information brought by...

10.1 Clerk

The clerk had no matters to report.

10.2 Councillors

Cllr Day reported that he had been approached by a parishioner about the possibility of the old BT phone box being converted into a library. Cllrs instructed the clerk to include this on the next agenda and Cllr Day said he would contact BT.

11 Meeting dates

11.1 **Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting** Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 7.00 p.m. in Kirkbride School.

11.2 **Future meetings: on Tuesdays:** 11th January 2022 at 7.00 p.m. in Kirkbride School.

The dates were noted and the Chairman closed the meeting closed at 9.10p.m.