

## Kirkbride Parish Council



### Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council Held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.00pm in Kirkbride School.

Present:

Councillors: Kirk (Chair), Benson, A Hedworth and J Hedworth, Noblett and Simpson.

Cumbria Councillor: M Johnson.

Public attendance: 14 Members of the public attended along with 3 representatives from Eden Home Solutions and a representative from NADT (see item 4.5)

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

Cllr Day had sent his apologies, the medical reason given was accepted as a fair reason for absence.

#### REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

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

#### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Cllr Benson declared an interest in item 7.4.2.

#### 2 Minutes (previously circulated).

2.1 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th November 2023 – **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.

Cllr Kirk allowed Public Participation at this point and then the Planning items under item 7.4 were discussed.

#### 3 Report on action taken.

3.1. by councillors

No matters were reported at this point.

3.1.1 Play area –

See item 4.1.

3.1.2 Footpaths –

Cllr Day, ahead of the meeting, had raised the possibility of improving the footpath from Birch Hill Lane to the Church.

It was **agreed** that this would be explored. The clerk advised that landowner approval should be sought and Cllr J Hedworth commented that the Council could be liable for any improvement works carried out.

3.1.3 Highways steward –

The entrance to the farm owned by the Littles continued to be in poor condition and would be reported again to the Authority.

Other potholes had been, and continue to be reported.

3.1.4 Newsletter group -

It was not considered that a newsletter was required at this point.

3.2- by the clerk -

Submission of Precept to Cumberland Council.

The clerk confirmed that the Precept request had been sent to the Authority. - **noted.**

HSBC online payment problem.

The clerk reported on a difficulty he had encountered when he attempted to pay a contractor online. – **noted.**

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### 3.3 Public participation (at the Chairman's discretion)

The representatives of Eden Home Solutions outlined their plans (see item 7.4.1) for the new proposed development. They covered the number and nature of the planned homes. Their aim was that disruption during construction would be kept to a minimum. The planned timescale was explained. Cllr Johnson commented and advised that a suitable S.106 agreement could be incorporated into any given approval granted by the Authority. The developers answered questions from Cllrs and parishioners concerning access to the site and passage to the village by the planned new residents. Questions relating to water drainage and links to existing footpaths were also addressed.

Parishioners then commented on the Bush Inn planning consultation (see item 7.4.2)

Those speaking were opposed to the proposal. Objections resulted from the view that the pub was a key community asset to the village and provided a much-needed warm space. It was pointed out that there was no evening transport available to other local licensed premises. The consensus was that the proposal went against the policy of Cumberland Council to support and maintain tourism facilities.

The representative of NADT then provided information concerning the Youth Group and the legal status of her organisation, then answered questions from Cllrs.

Cumberland Cllr Mike Johnson informed the meeting that due to the Christmas break there was little to report. The budget situation was 'challenging' and it was anticipated that there would be a sizeable budget deficit. He gave notice of the planned increases that would affect residents to pay for services. He believed that the service delivery methods needed to change in some areas of activity in order for the Authority to become more efficient.

The Chair thanked them for their contributions and they then left the room.

## 4 New business

### 4.1 Playground and Woodland Area.

Review of maintenance and repair. Playground inspection report and rota.

Consideration of the estimate for work on trees in the playground and woodland area.

There were not considered to be any major issues with the playpark. The Inspection Report would be circulated amongst members.

Cllrs were aware of the inspection rota and Cllr Kirk said she would draw up a new one when necessary.

A quote for work to trees at the playpark and woodland area, following on from a site meeting, was discussed and **approved**.

It was **agreed** that approval for the work needed to be given at the meeting due to Health and Safety requirements and the need to carry out the work as soon as possible. Cllrs were aware that no trees had been planted in the gap made when the fence was repaired following the damage by the motor vehicle. The clerk was instructed to raise this with the contractor that carried out the repair.

Review of the Carol singing event. Authorisation of spending of £200 for bark/gravel and bird food.

The Carol singing event had been badly affected by the weather but had proceeded inside the village hall. A sum of £200 was **approved** for the purchase of bird food and an additional figure of £350 ex VAT was **approved** to purchase materials to improve the footpath on the Claypit land near the woodland area along with the hire of any required machinery.

### 4.2 Asset register and Risk Assessments.

These were considered fit for purpose and **approved unchanged**.

### 4.3 Great North Air Ambulance Service – request for grant funding.

Following discussion a donation of £200 was **agreed** in accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. The expenditure, in the opinion of the council, being in the interest of the area and its inhabitants.

### 4.4 Grasscutting – review of tenders and award of contract for 2024.

The submitted tender figures were examined and discussed. The tender for a two-year period from Solway Garden and Landscapes was unanimously accepted. The clerk was instructed to write accordingly to the contractor.

### 4.5 Current situation concerning the Kirkbride Youth Group. Possible request for funding.

Following the briefing given to Cllrs earlier, the clerk was instructed to obtain accounts from NADT, who were looking for support, and to include the item again on the March agenda.

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### 4.6 Website update.

The clerk notified Cllrs of a recent problem he had encountered with the website. which had been resolved by the web designer. A possible issue with a specific web browser may still be a problem that needed to be resolved. Cllr Kirk updated Cllrs on the history of the website. The clerk reminded Cllrs that the website is currently also used/shared by Holme East Waver PC and mentioned that some of their Cllrs were exploring the possibility of having their own dedicated Parish website. – **noted.**

## 5 Correspondence

To review correspondence received and take any appropriate action.

### 5.1 Royal British Legion receipt and thanks for donation.

This was **noted.**

### 5.2 Croft Surgery Spring Into Health Event – request for support of £150.00.

The clerk provided details of the e-mail he had received and Cllr J Hedworth provided additional information.

Following discussion an amount of £100 was **agreed** to support the event.

Cllr Simpson gave her apologies and left the meeting.

## 6 Finance

### 6.1 Information

6.1.1 To approve accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 – available at the meeting. –

**approved.**

6.1.2 Consideration of any budget/precept related correspondence.

There was no additional correspondence to consider and the clerk re-iterated that the Precept had been sent to the Authority and he had proof of safe delivery. – **noted.**

### 6.2 Payments to approve.

6.2.1 Clerk's salary: 643.50 + backpay £190.64 = **£834.14 – approved.**

6.2.2 Expenses: postage etc. £34.09; telephone and broadband £43.90 = £77.99, SLCC/ALCC Contribution Cost £81.00 travel 19m @ 45p= £13.09 Total **£172.08 – approved.**

6.2.3 HSBC – banking charges **£10.00 Nov + £9.00 Dec = £19.00 – approved.**

Any additional charges will be notified by the clerk.

6.2.4 Cumberland Council playground inspection **£69.60**

Anticipated amount shown. The clerk advised that the invoice had not yet been received but Cllrs gave their approval for payment to be made if it was for the anticipated amount.

6.2.5 Chair's allowance **£60.00 – approved.**

Cllrs **agreed** to continue beyond 9.30 in order to complete the agenda.

## 7 Planning

### 7.1 Applications outstanding with Cumberland Council.

None - **noted**

### 7.2 Applications dealt with under standing order.

None – **noted.**

### 7.3 Applications decided by Cumberland Council

7.3.1 - HOU/2023/0173 Single storey rear extension to semi-detached dwelling to create Kitchen/Dining room, 19 The Lees, Kirkbride (Mr Douglas Kean) – permission granted.

7.3.2 – FUL/2023/0214 Conversion of garage to form dwelling, Lilac Cottage, Birch Hill Lane, Kirkbride (Mr P Richardson) – permission granted. - **noted.**

### 7.4 Applications for consideration by this Parish Council meeting.

**The following section was discussed after Public Participation.**

7.4.1. - FUL/2023/0266 New residential development of 23 no. dwellings together with associated infrastructure including Landscaping, Open Space, Access, Highways, and Drainage Design, The Piggeries, Bridge Hill, Kirkbride, Wigton. (Eden Home Solutions)

See also item 3.3.

Following discussion of the plans which had been available to view online Cllrs **agreed** that they had no objections to this proposal, subject to the provision of an agreeable S.106 agreement.

The concerns of the Parish Council and parishioners regarding access to the site for vehicles and pedestrians would be passed on to the Authority.

The clerk would submit the Council's view to the Authority ahead of the given deadline.

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Cllr Benson left the room for the following item.

7.4.2 - FUL/2023/0244 Proposed conversion and extension of public house to two dwellings, The Bush Inn, Kirkbride. (Mr C. Smithson)

See also item 3.3.

Following discussion of the plans which had been available to view online Cllrs **agreed** to object to this proposal. The reasons for objection being:

The Bush Inn is a major community asset to the village and its closure would impact negatively on the area if lost. The Council is keen to bring the community together and the pub provides a much-needed warm space.

There are no evening transport links to the other nearby locations with licensed premises. The Council believes that the loss of the public house would be in contravention of Cumberland Council's policy to build a strong competitive economy and of supporting and maintaining tourist facilities and sites.

The clerk would submit the Council's view to the Authority ahead of the given deadline.

Cllr Benson re-joined the meeting.

All members of the public and the representatives of the developers were thanked for their contributions and departed after this item.

### **8.1 Documents received for comment.**

8.1.1 Cumberland Council budget consultation – **noted without action.**

8.1.2 Police and Crime Commissioner – Council Tax Precept Consultation. – **noted without action.**

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

8.2.1 CALC Circular.

8.2.2 Snowball - disability group app information.

The above were **noted**.

### **9 Claypit Charity**

9.1 Annual return submitted by clerk.

The clerk confirmed that, after some initial difficulty with a new website, the report had been submitted.

### **10 Any items of information brought by...**

10.1 Clerk

No matters were raised.

10.2 Councillors

No matters were raised.

### **11 Meeting dates**

11.1 **Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting** Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.00 p.m. in Kirkbride School.

11.2 **Future meetings: on Tuesdays:** 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.00 p.m. in Kirkbride School.

The dates were **noted** and the Chair closed the meeting at 9.38p.m.