

Kirkbride Parish Council



Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council Held on Wednesday 8th November 2023 at 7.00pm in Kirkbride School.

Present:

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

Public attendance: Four Members of the public attended.

Clerk: M Abbs

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

Apologies had been received from County Cllr Johnson, Cllr Noblett and Cllr Simpson whose caring responsibilities reason 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 matter where a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.

No requests for dispensations were made.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Cllr Benson has declared an interest in item 7.4.1

2 Minutes (previously circulated).

2.1 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th September 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.

3 Report on action taken.

3.1. by councillors

No matters were reported at this point.

3.1.1 Play area –

See item 4.3.

3.1.2 Footpaths –

Update on the fallen tree on Birch Hill Lane.

Cllrs were aware that the tree had now been removed.

3.1.3 Highways steward –

No urgent matters were raised but potholes were always an ongoing issue.

3.1.4 Newsletter group -

Cllrs **agreed** that a newsletter was not required at that point.

3.2- by the clerk -

Report on Fells & Solway Community Panel Workshop

The clerk updated Cllrs on the meeting at which the role of the panel, funds available, and size of the geographical area was explained. – **noted.**

The clerk then advised Cllrs of a letter he had received from HMRC requesting payment of an amount they believed was due.

The accountant handling PAYE had been consulted and confirmed that the correct declarations had been made and believed that the letter was an error made by HMRC. - **noted**

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3.3 Public participation (at the Chairman's discretion)

The four members of the public present expressed their concerns over item 7.4.1.

They were aware that objections to the proposal had been submitted by a number of individuals.

They believed that local opinion was opposed to the proposal. If approved, they believed that there would be significant traffic problems from congestion on the road caused by parked cars resulting in an increased safety risk to pedestrians and vehicles, particularly those emerging from the nearby junction. The visiting motorhome business, which was popular was believed to contribute significantly to the success of the pub. The pub was an important community space that needed to be maintained.

Flooding was considered to be a significant issue both currently and in the future especially if the proposal proceeded. One parishioner informed the meeting that there is a sewage drain that runs under the proposed site. A further individual was concerned about the impact the development would have on the plans he had for his own property.

Cllrs thanked them for their contributions.

The Chair then addressed item 7.4.1. – see below.

Following the completion of item 7.4. all members of the public left the meeting.

4 New business

4.1 Grass cutting tender consideration and awarding of contract for 2024.

The clerk updated Cllrs on the tenders received to date. Following discussion Cllrs **agreed** to postpone a decision until the January 24 meeting. He said he would contact the contractors who had expressed an interest in the work to date.

4.2 Annual Donation to Poppy Appeal. Decision required.

A donation of £150 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.

4.3 Playground.

Review on maintenance and repair. Possible consideration of the Playground inspection report.

Replanting of trees to fill gap caused by fence damage. Condition of Trees.

The clerk advised that that the Inspection Report had not yet been received but he believed that it might have been carried out.

The condition of the trees in the playground and woodland area was discussed and it was **agreed** that Cllr Day would contact a known tree surgeon and ask him to inspect and provide a quotation for any required work. The playground was regularly inspected and Cllrs believed that there were no urgent matters requiring attention.

4.4 Vacancies on the Council.

Consideration of any applications.

The clerk advised that there had been no interest in the vacancy. - **noted**

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

The anticipated attendance of an organiser of the group had not occurred and the item was **deferred** to the January meeting.

5 Correspondence

To review correspondence received and take any appropriate action.

5.1 Football pitch – Report on any development and consideration of any received correspondence.

Disappointingly there had been no further developments. – **noted**.

5.2 The Pension Regulator - Confirmation of the re-declaration of compliance received.

The clerk confirmed that the legal requirements had been met. – **noted**.

5.3 Stagecoach – request to install a poster frame in a bus shelter. Sample poster for examination and approval.

The clerk presented the proposed poster which was **approved of and supported** by all Cllrs.

5.4 Wigton Baths Trust – request for grant support.

Following presentation of the appeal and discussion a grant of £500 was **agreed**.

6 Finance

6.1 Information

6.1.1 To approve accounts to 30th September 2023 and 31st October 2023 – available at the meeting.

Following examination the accounts were **approved**.

6.1.2 **Budget** for 2024/25: see prepared sheet.

& therefore **precept request to Cumberland Council for 2024/25**

The clerk outlined the latest situation relating to the setting of the Precept and reminded Cllrs of their current financial position. Members then considered the estimates for the rest of this year, and at the same time considered the grants usually paid to parish organisations. The need to keep the Council in a sound financial position was a major consideration in the discussions. Together with the anticipated expenditure for 2024/25 and some allowance for possible contingency, a budget was **approved** and it was **agreed** unanimously that the precept request for 2024/25 would be maintained at the current level of £10000. The Clerk was authorised to send the precept to Cumberland Council.

6.1.3 Electricity North West – Wayleave receipt - **£3.39 – noted**.

6.1.4 Confirmation of receipt of second Precept payment from Cumberland Council **£5000**

6.1.5 Holme East Waver PC – share of consumables **£29.64**.

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6.2 Payments to approve.

6.2.1 Clerk's salary: **£595.83**

6.2.2 Expenses: postage etc. £11.27; telephone and broadband £40.82 = £52.09, travel 13m @ 45p= £5.85 Total **£57.94**

6.2.3 Mr I Rumney Grass cutting (VAT £116.00) **£696.00 – approved.**

6.2.4 XMA Ltd – print cartridges (VAT £11.85) **£71.13 – approved.**

6.2.5 S & A Williamson Ltd – gate posts (VAT £30.40) **£182.40 – approved.**

6.2.6 HSBC Bank plc – charges **£18.00 – approved.**

Anticipated amount shown.

7 Planning

7.1 Applications outstanding with Cumberland Council.

None – **noted.**

7.2 Applications dealt with under standing order.

7.2.1 Conversion and extension of garage to form dwelling, Lilac Cottage, Birch Hill Lane, Kirkbride (Mr P Richardson)

There had been no objections to the proposal and the Authority had been informed.

7.3 Applications decided by Cumberland Council

None – **noted.**

7.4 Applications for consideration by this Parish Council meeting.

7.4.1 - FUL/2023/0197 proposed semi-detached dwellings, Bush Inn, Kirkbride (Mr C. Smithson)

Prior to any discussion Cllr Benson left the room.

The plans had been examined by Cllrs ahead of the meeting. Following discussion it was **agreed** that the Council would object to the proposal on the following grounds.

1. The loss of parking at the pub would cause a safety issue to pedestrians and vehicles due to the resulting vehicles having to use the road.
2. Parking of vehicles on the road would cause a reduction of visibility for vehicles using the nearby junction and for nearby residents exiting their drives.
3. The Council understands that the sewage system is already at full capacity and believes that the proposed properties would need to be built over an existing sewage pipe, which the Council thinks may not be permissible under current regulations.
4. There is concern about the potential flood risk.
5. If the pub loses its car park the Council is concerned about the impact on a currently thriving community, which currently utilises the premises regularly.

The clerk would inform the Authority of the Council's view.

Cllr Benson re-joined the meeting.

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

The plans had been examined by Cllrs ahead of the meeting. Following discussion it was **agreed** that there were no objections and the clerk confirmed that he would inform the Authority.

8.1 Documents received for comment.

None – **noted.**

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

8.2.1 CALC Circular for October and November.

8.2.2 Kirkbride Bowling Club newsletter.

The above were **noted.**

9 Claypit Charity

Charity Commission – confirmation from the clerk of the submission of the required Annual Report.

The clerk informed Cllrs that the procedure had been more complicated following the introduction of a new website but that the required report had been submitted within the required timeframe. - **noted**

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10 Any items of information brought by...

10.1 Clerk

The clerk had no additional information.

10.3 Report from the County Councillor

Absent

10.3 Councillors

CLr Kirk advised that she had handled an email from a parishioner concerning a local footpath.

11 Meeting dates

11.1 **Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting** Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7.00 p.m. in Kirkbride School.

11.2 **Future meetings: on Tuesdays:** 12th March 2024 at 7.00 p.m. in Kirkbride School.

The dates were **noted** and the Chair closed the meeting at 9.05 p.m.