

Rochester with Byrness Parish Council

Minutes for the Meeting of Rochester with Byrness Parish Council held on Tuesday 26 March, 2019 in Bryness Village Hall at 7:00pm.

1 Attendance: S Chapman (Chair), M. Kelly, D. Weston, P. Softley, P. Scott, B. MacNeil, M. Chilvers (Clerk).

2 Apologies: There were no apologies

3 Declaration of Interest: P. Scott (7b).

4 Minutes of previous Parish Council meeting, 29 January, 2019 – Was agreed by all and signed by the Chair.

5 Guest speaker – a) There were no guests speakers present.

6 Opportunity for members of the public to raise matters – None was raised.

7 Matters arising

a) Revitalising Redesdale update on progress – The Chair provided an update following attendance of the Steering Group meeting on 13 March. She advised that there was a call out for anyone with old photographs of Redesdale and people in Redesdale. Alex MacLennan (Forestry Commission) had asked if he could borrow any photos in respect to the Forestry Commission 100th year anniversary celebrations. The Chair then provided an update on the latest applications received for the Community Heritage Funding. There was then discussion as to whether an application should be submitted for funding for a path and self-closing gate at the Roundhouse in Rochester.

b) Gritter garage in Byrness – The Chair advised she had spoken to the local resident but there was presently no update on this matter. Cllr Softley highlighted that the garage door had been left open and the bolt in the locked position preventing the door from being closed.

c) Byrness rubbish clean-up – There was discussion on the possibility of a skip hire. There was also a suggestion a local farmer may be able to assist by using a tractor to help load a skip.

d) New equipment for Byrness play area – The Clerk reported he had been advised by Proludic that their workmen would be attending on 8 April to install the new equipment. Cllrs Softley and MacNeil confirmed they would be available to meet the workmen. Thanks were expressed to everyone who had contributed to the fund raising of the new equipment. Particular thanks were given to Cllr Riddle, Jollybods and Mr & Mrs Taylor.

e) Treatment work on garages at Byrness – It was agreed to wait until the weather improved before undertaking this job.

f) Clearance of moss on alley adjoining Otterburn Green and South Greens – The Clerk advised he was waiting to hear from Geoff Cairns (NCC) for confirmation when this work would be done. There was discussion regarding the trees that over-hang the footpath. It was agreed that these made the path worse but however they belonged to the residents whose property ran along the footpath. It was agreed to ask Mr Cairns what could be done about this matter.

g) Byrness Village Hall usage of hall and land adjacent to hall – Cllr Softley provided details of an enquiry received for the hiring of a bouncy castle on the land just outside the Village Hall. He advised that due to delay in determining whether this would be permitted the booking had been lost. Following discussion the Councillors were in agreement that the land could be used for such activities in future providing the hiring company had suitable insurance cover for the activity.

h) Byrness community orchard support to maintain the area – It was reported that the University working at Rupert's Wood had offered to put tree protectors around the 'healthy' trees in the orchard at Byrness. This offer was agreed by all Councillors.

i) Maintenance of picnic table and bench in Byrness donated by Mr & Mrs Taylor – It was agreed that the bench known as 'Isaac's bench' did require some maintenance work and Cllr Scott agreed to assess what was required. It was reported that the small picnic table donated by Mr & Mrs Taylor to Jollybods unfortunately did not meet the required standards for public use street furniture. It was believed to be in poor condition and it was agreed to have it checked. Assuming it was not possible to repair the table it was agreed it should be dismantled.

j) Rochester traffic calming – The Clerk advised he had spoken to Neil Snowdon (NCC) who reported that the Traffic Regulation Orders were being prepared for the monitoring of the traffic speed through Rochester. It was advised that it would take approximately two months for the legalities of this matter to be completed.

k) Four flower boxes for Rochester Village – The Chair advised that the two flower boxes at the north end of the village would be put into position once preparations by NCC for the traffic monitoring had been completed.

- l) Road sweeping, weed killing and drain clearance in the Parish – The Chair advised that the wagon had been round Rochester that day. Cllr Scott reported that it had not arrived in Byrness and it was agreed the Clerk would contact Glen Harrison (NCC) for an update and date when it would be visiting Byrness.
- m) Street lighting in the Parish – The Clerk provided an update he had received from Lynsey Sawyer (NCC) on the matter for both Rochester and Byrness advising that the proposed work had been agreed and details would follow shortly.
- n) Grass cutting in Rochester and Byrness (tender process for 2019/20 cutting) – The Clerk provided details of the quotes he had received for grass cutting in both Rochester and Byrness. No contractor names were given at this stage. Following discussion it was agreed to accept the quote for £165.00 per cut in Byrness based on a provisional 10 cuts during the year and £150.00 per cut in Rochester based on three cuts during the year. The Clerk then advised that both these two quotes had been received from Chris Mowatt and it was agreed the Clerk would confirm the acceptance to him. There was then discussion regarding the rough land at Byrness that required more ‘heavy duty’ equipment to cut it. Cllr MacNeil advised her husband may be willing to cut it for £150.00 per cut. The Councillors agreed to consider this proposal as the Contractors quoting for the grass cutting had advised they would not be able to undertake that work.
- o) Parish Council vacancies – The Chair advised that there had been no progress on this matter to date and that there was still one vacancy on both wards of the Parish Council.
- p) Water treatment works – The Clerk provided details of the progress on this matter.
- q) Hyper-fast broadband in Redesdale – There was discussion whether Rochester and Byrness would be able to be included in this proposal as it was outside the catchment area of Ray Windfarm.

8 Planning –

- a) 19NP0012: Proposed replacement conservatory: 2 Elishaw Moor, Otterburn, NE19 1JH – The Clerk confirmed this matter had been considered between meetings and the Councillors had agreed to support it. NNPA had been advised.
- b) 19NP0014: Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuilding and construction of a replacement dwelling and replacement outbuilding: Evistones Cottage, Rochester, NE191RY – The Chair provided details of a telephone call she had received from the applicant on the matter. A report provided following a site visit by some of the Councillors. Following discussion all Councillors were in agreement to support the application.

9 Finance/accounts for payment

- a) The following payment were approved
- M. Chilvers salary for February and March 2019 for £214.18
 - Donation request from Horsley & Byrness churches – The Chair advised that there had been a request for a donation to assist the churches in the payment of the quinquennial inspections due in 2019. The Chair advised she had spoken to Stephen Rickett (NALC) for advice on the matter. He had confirmed that the Parish Council was not permitted to donate for such matters.

The Clerk advised he had received a further two invoices that required approval. The first was for £29.99 including VAT to Spanglefish for 12 months website subscription. The second was for £14.00 for the hire of Byrness Village Hall for the meeting on 26 March. Both were agreed by the Councillors.

A further request was presented for a donation to Rochester Village Hall to help towards maintenance costs. As a donation had already been made in this current financial year it was agreed to consider the matter at the meeting in May.

10 Any Other Business:

- a) Following discussion it was agreed that the Annual Parish Council (and Ordinary) meeting in May would be held in Byrness. It was agreed that consequently that both July and September meetings would be held at Rochester Village Hall

Date of Next Meeting. Tuesday, 28 May, 2019 at Bryness Village Hall, starting 7:00pm. This will begin with the Annual Parish Meeting

Meeting closed 8.55pm