

Otterburn Parish Council

Meeting of the Parish Council held on 3 March, 2020
From 7.30pm at Otterburn Memorial Hall

MINUTES

Present – Andrew Shone – Chair, Cllrs Ruth Appleby, George Peto, Joanne Nichols, Steven Farrell

In Attendance - Martin Chilvers – Clerk, Cllr John Riddle (until 7.40)

1. **Apologies for absence** – There were no apologies.
2. **Declarations of interest** – None were declared
3. **Minutes of the last Ordinary meeting** – The minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair
4. **Public Question Time** – a) The Chair welcomed Cllr Riddle who advised that whilst he was still to review all the details of the Otterburn Salt Dome application it was likely he would be against the development. He stated that he had been trying to get this and other depot's in his area relocated outside the village for sometime. There was discussion on the possible options and outcomes. Cllr Riddle left the meeting at 7.40.
5. **Matters arising**
 - a) item 5a: Ray Windfarm update: The Clerk highlighted the Community Network meeting on 5 March at Corsenside. He also spoke of the Small Grants Funding that was open for applications again shortly via Community Foundation. Finally reference was made to the vacancy of the Community Development Officer role and welcomed enquiries and applications.
 - b) item 5b: Road safety in the Parish: The Clerk advised there was no update on this matter this month.
 - c) item 5d: Revitalising Redesdale update: There was discussion regarding the options of the sculpture at the source of the river Rede. There was agreement that the budget that would be required for the goat sculpture could be better used elsewhere within the project and if a sculpture was to be installed the free 'viaduct' would be better. There was believe among the Councillors that perhaps not many residents or visitors would associate the goat sculpture to Revitalising Redesdale. It was highlighted that the next Steering Group meeting was on 11 March.
 - d) item 5e: Otterburn street lights: The Clerk advised he was still chasing Gavin Barlow for an update and timescale for the work to be carried out.
 - e) item 5f: Dog mess dispensers and signage: There was discussion regarding the options provided for possible dog mess bag dispenser to replace the broken unit on the fence alongside the RTC. It was agreed by all to purchase the unit costing £68.99 plus VAT.
 - f) item 5g: Northumbria Water Treatment Works, legacy: The Clerk provided an update following a conversation with Paul Wood (NWL). It was reported that up to £10,000 would be provided across Otterburn, Rochester and Byrness as a legacy and that it was up to the communities to decide how it should be split. It was agreed that the flashing speed restriction lights would still be the highest priority for Otterburn.
 - g) item 5h: Work at the Children's Play Area: It was agreed that the Clerk should look to obtain a quote for the work. Cllr Cook advised she had point of contact who may be able to provide a quote.
 - h) item 8i: Maintenance of public seating and possible new seating: The Clerk advised the seat decking should arrive this week at which stage he would look to obtain a quote from the 'handy man' to install.
 - i) item 5k: Social media for the Parish Council: Following discussion the set up and features of a facebook page for the Parish Council was agreed. Cllr Peto agreed to get the matter forward.
 - j) item 8a: Litter picking event, 2020: The Clerk confirmed the event would be on Saturday 28 March starting 10.00am outside the Memorial Hall.
 - k) item 8e: Northumberland Day 2020: Following discussion it was agreed not to proceed this year.
 - l) item 8f: Condition of railings on road to RTC Sport Centre at entrance of footpath to Brierley Gardens: The Clerk advised that Glen Harrison (NCC) had reported replacement railings had been ordered.
6. **Finance**
 - a) Clerk's salary and expenses for February, 2020: The Clerk's claim for salary & expenses including a book of stamps was agreed.
 - b) Payment of invoice to Turtle Engineering for defibrillator battery: The invoice for £154.99 plus VAT was agreed by all.

7. Planning – a) *19/03962/CCD: Construction of new salt barn, NCC Highways Dept, Otterburn – Update information:* There was confirmation that between the Parish Council meetings four Councillors agreed to support the application whilst Cllrs Peto and Cook had recorded their decision to decline the application. The Clerk highlighted the comments received from some local residents.

The Clerk reported on an application received that day 20/00557/FELTPO – Tree preservation order, application for beech (1) fell: The Kennels, Tower Hotel, Otterburn. The Councillors took time to review the details and all agreed to support the application.

8. New Business

a) *Grass cutting in Otterburn 2020:* The Clerk confirmed that Mr Mowatt charges would be the same as 2019. It was agreed that the frequency of the cutting in 2020 should be the same as 2019. There was a request for a quote on how much would it be to remove the grass cuttings from the play area.

b) *Free parking at Kielder Water & Forest Park:* The Clerk highlighted the free parking availability for Otterburn residents and that details were on the Parish Council website.

c) *Maintenance of defibrillators in the community:* It was noted by all Councillors that there had been no agreement when the communities defibrillators had been purchased who would maintain and fund replacement parts. There was agreement that the Parish Council should fund the maintenance of the defibrillator at the Memorial Hall however the Hall's committee should actively check the unit on a regular basis and obtain quotes as well as investigate any problems at the unit was attached to the Hall.

d) *Flood plan in Otterburn:* The Clerk advised that a meeting with the EA had been arranged for 25 March to develop the Flood Plan further. The meeting would include Le Petit Château, Otterburn Mill and any residents who wished to be included.

9. Any other business / Matters for discussion at the next meeting of the Parish Council

a) It was two road signs had collapsed in the village and the Clerk advised he had reported these to Glen Harrison (NCC).

b) Cllr Nichols reported that the hedge alongside Snaiths property was over-hanging the pavement and making it very narrow.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council to be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7 April, 2020 at the Otterburn Memorial Hall. Meeting closed 8.25pm