

Otterburn Parish Council

Meeting of the Parish Council held on 18 May, 2021

Held at Otterburn Memorial Hall

MINUTES

Present – Andrew Shone – Chair, Cllrs Gemma Cook, Joanne Nichols, George Peto and Appleby

In Attendance—Martin Chilvers – Clerk

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 meeting, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.
4. **Public Question Time** – a) Cllr Riddle was unable to attend

5. Matters arising

- a) item 5a: Ray Windfarm update:* The Clerk's report was received and agreed. The Clerk highlighted that the Small Grants Fund for charitable / non-profit organisations was open for applications until 31 May.
- b) item 5b: Road safety in the Parish:* There was discussion regarding the report received from NCC covering potential solutions to the speeding vehicles through Otterburn and pavement parking. There was agreement that whilst something has to be done to prevent pavement parking, double yellow lines was not the answer. It was agreed to contact the businesses that are located along the main road regarding the suggestions received from NCC. There was cautious agreement for the other suggestions including the build-outs either end of the village and the road markings at the top of Bankfoot to reduce the speed of vehicles through the village. It was questioned as to whether the 30mph speed restriction could be moved to the top of Bankfoot and even if a 20mph speed restriction through the village could be introduced.
- c) item 5c: Revitalising Redesdale update:* The Clerk advised he was attending a Steering Group meeting the next day.
- d) item 5d: Northumbria Water (NWL) Treatment Works, legacy (speed cameras):* The Clerk provided an update following conversation with the supplier of the speed indicator cameras. The Clerk also provided an update on investigation to remove the security bolts from the existing posts. Time would be arranged to adjust the camera and fit the second unit. The Clerk also updated on the continued communication with Northumbria Police regarding their assistance to control the speed of vehicles travelling through Redesdale.
- e) item 5f: Solar light near Redewater View houses:* The Councillors discussed the options following details received NCC. It was agreed the most favourable option would be to have NCC install the solar light and the Clerk was asked to investigate if further funding would be available to meet the increased costs.
- f) item 5g: Maintenance of public toilets in Otterburn:* The Clerk advised he was waiting an update from NCC.
- g) item 5h: Street lighting near Council Depot:* The Clerk reported that he was waiting on confirmation as to the type and when the lights would be installed to illuminate the pavement alongside the Council Depot.
- h) item 5i: Building a better community:* Cllr Peto advised there were nine residents presently taking part in the 'Village in Bloom' competition. He also reported that he was due to speak to Georgie Kenny at the RTC about possible future events.
- i) item 5k: Flower boxes:* It was reported that the four flower boxes were in position and planted. There had been many positive comments from residents how good they looked. The Clerk advised that the funding request to Revitalising Redesdale for funds towards the four flower boxes and plants had been successful.
- j) item 5l: Community litter picking 2021:* There was thanks to the volunteers who helped on April 10 to pick up litter across the village. 15 bags were collected. It was agreed that perhaps there should two events each year to help keep the village tidy.
- k) item 5m: Tree in Millennium Green to remember Elsie Kinghorn:* The Clerk confirmed the weeping cherry tree had been planted and that Rev Canon Peter Mander would be conducting a service the next day in the Millennium Green.

6. Finance

- a) Review of Parish finances and plans for 2021-22:* The Clerk provided an update on the income and expenditure for the financial year to date. There was discussion on the possible projects for the forthcoming year and it was agreed to consider possibilities before discussion at the next meeting.

- b) Approve the Annual Governance Statement 2020-21: Was approved by all.
- c) Approve the draft Annual Accounts for 2020-21: Was approved by all.
- d) Approve the Accounting Statement & Explanation of variances for 2020-21: Was approved by all.
- e) Confirm and approve the Certificate of Exemption 2020-21: Was approved by all.
- f) Clerk's salary and expenses for April, 2021: The Clerk's claim for salary (£258.26) and expenses (£18.39) was agreed.
- g) Payment of invoice to NALC for annual subscription: The payment of £152.54 was agreed.
- h) Review and payment of the Parish insurance: The insurance was considered appropriate for requirements and the premium of £479.09 agreed.
- i) Reimbursement to G. Peto for community compost & plants: The payment of £108.44 was agreed. This is to be covered by the grant from Revitalising Redesdale.
- j) Reimbursement to A. Shone for brackets for the speed cameras: This matter will be covered at the next meeting.
- k) Payment to J. Hartshorne for public seating and play area maintenance: The payment of £127.80 was agreed.
- l) Payment of invoice to Stocksigns Ltd for 2 speed indicator cameras: The payment of £5,057.50 + VAT was agreed.

7. Planning

- a) There were no planning applications to consider this month.

8. New Business

- a) Vacancy on the Parish Council: It was agreed to advertise the vacancy and give consideration to the matter at the next meeting.
- b) Free parking at Kielder Water & Forest Park for local residents: The Clerk advised the details for this matter were on the Parish Council website.
- c) Superfast broadband in Otterburn: The Clerk provided details of the broadband plans received from Gill Cowell of iNorthumberland. It was agreed to invite Gill to a meeting later in the year.

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

- a) Cllr Nichols highlighted that the footpath finger post just beyond the bridge on B6320 was down and needed repairing.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council to be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 1 June, 2021. This is due to be held at Otterburn Memorial Hall unless otherwise advised.
Meeting closed at 8.35pm.