

Otterburn Parish Council

Meeting of the Parish Council held on 2 May, 2023

Held at Otterburn Memorial Hall

MINUTES

Present – George Peto (Chair), Ruth Appleby, Andrew Shone, Joanne Nichols & Steve Bloomer

In Attendance—Martin Chilvers (Clerk). John Hartshorne, Denise Corkin, Steve Crawley

1. **Apologies for absence** – There were no apologies
2. **Declarations of interest** – Cllr Bloomer item 9a
3. **Minutes of the last 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. **Opportunity for members of the public to raise matters:** Nothing was raised.
6. **Matters arising**
 - a) item 6a: Ray Windfarm update: The Clerk's Report was received and agreed. Anyone wishing to apply for a grant should visit the website <https://raywindfund.co.uk/> for details.
 - b) item 7b: Road safety in the Parish: The Clerk reported that he had no further update since the last meeting on 11 April. It was reported that the manhole covers outside The Cottage along the main road required repair as they had sunk and were causing a noise when vehicles ran over them. Mr Crawley highlighted the problem of speeding traffic at Bankfoot and that there was a Facebook petition to seek action from the Police on the matter.
 - c) item 7c: Revitalising Redesdale local footpaths: The Clerk reported that he hoped to meet Martin Dodd the following weekend with a view of receiving a quote for the two pieces of work along the trail.
 - d) item 7d: Local Otterburn directory map: The Clerk advised that he not had chance to prepare a grant application for this work.
 - e) item 7e: Electric power supply in the Millennium Green: The Clerk reported that he was seeking an updated quote from Northern Powergrid before being able to commence with the planned work at the Millennium Green.
 - f) item 7f: Northern Powergrid energy resilience grant funding: The Clerk reported that there had been agreement by the Memorial Hall committee to purchase a different generator than originally planned. This different unit whilst more expensive would remove the need for the storage heaters and gas stoves as it would provide power for the whole hall.
 - g) item 7g: EV charging points at the Memorial Hall: The Clerk reported that he had received no response from the Memorial Hall committee regarding this matter and the Councillors agreed it appeared there was no appetite from the committee to have a charging point installed at the hall. There was agreement by the Councillors to request a charging point to be installed in the car park at the Millennium Green.
 - h) item 7h: School flashing light and other roadside signs: The Clerk reported that there had been no further update from NCC since 11 April on this matter.
 - i) item 7i: Footpath towards Otterburn school: The Clerk advised he had not received any further update as yet from Geoff Cairns (NCC) on when the work may be carried out to restore the full width of the pavement.
 - j) item 7j: Parish Council vacancy: The Clerk reported that he had received confirmation from NCC that the Councillors could co-opt to fill the vacancy and it was agreed to consider the position following the meeting.
 - k) item 10c: Redevelopment of the Otterburn public toilets: The Clerk reported that Cllr Riddle had asked Paul Jones at NCC to provide an update on the work but as yet there had been no update.

7. Finance

- a) Finance update: The Clerk advised the current bank balance was £20,236.60.
- b) Clerk's salary and expenses for April, 2023: The payments of £358.16 & expenses £4.00 were agreed.
- c) Payment of the NALC annual subscription: The payment of £137.19 was agreed by all.
- d) Payment for defibrillator replacement pads and grant from Ray Windfunds: The payment of £216.11 + VAT was approved. This was for four sets of pads for local defibrillators. The Clerk confirmed funding to cover the whole payment had been received from Ray Windfunds.
- e) Approve the Annual Governance Statement 2022-23: Was approved by all.
- f) Approve the draft Annual Accounts 2022-23: Was approved by all.
- g) Approve the Accounting Statement & Explanation of variances 2022-23: Was approved by all.
- h) Confirm and approve the Certification of Exemption for 2022-23: Was approved by all

8. Planning

- a) 21NP0071: Notice of appeal: Barn Owl Lodge, Plot 19, Otterburn Hall Estate, Otterburn: There was discussion regarding the details of the appeal. It was noted that it appeared none of the four original points raised within the enforcement notice issued by Northumberland National Park Authority had been actioned. The Councillors were in agreement to reconfirm the objection on the same points as when the application was originally presented.
- b) 23/01299/FUL: Internal and external alterations (including partial demolition) to two existing dwellings at Old Town Farm and conversion of two agricultural barns to residential dwellings: Old Town Farm, Otterburn, NE191JZ: After consideration the Councillor agreed to support this application.
- c) 23/01300/LBC: Listed Building Consent for Internal and external alterations (including partial demolition) to two existing dwellings at Old Town Farm and conversion of two agricultural barns to residential dwellings: Old Town Farm, Otterburn, NE191JZ: After consideration the Councillor agreed to support this application.

9. New Business

- a) Letter of support for Redesdale Archaeology Group: The Clerk provided details of the recently created group set up following successful events by Revitalising Redesdale. There was agreement to support the group and highlight their events via the Parish Council website and Facebook.
- b) Litter in local lay-bys: The Chair highlighted the problem that he had seen across Redesdale. The Clerk reported that he had also received a call from a Councillor in Byrness on the same topic and that the fly-tipping incidents had been reported to NCC. He would provide an update when he had received a response.

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

- a) There was agreement from the Councillors for the Clerk to purchase additional data storage for the Parish Council email site at a cost of £1.99 a month.
- b) Mr Crawley asked what progress had been made about the proposed bike station and it was agreed the Clerk would look into the matter.

11. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council to be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 6 June, 2023 at Otterburn Memorial Hall.
Meeting closed at 8.55pm.