

Otterburn Parish Council

Meeting of the Parish Council held on 5 September, 2023

Held at Otterburn Memorial Hall

MINUTES

Present – George Peto (Chair), Andrew Shone & Denise Corkin

In Attendance—Martin Chilvers (Clerk). John Hartshorne, Alison Woodcock (Headteacher Otterburn School) & Steve Crawley

1. **Apologies for absence** – There were apologies from Ruth Appleby, Joanne Nichols & Steve Bloomer
2. **Declarations of interest** – None were declared
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** – The minutes of the last 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. The Clerk advised that there was due to be an open meeting on 4 October at the Gun Inn in Ridsdale. The Ray Windfarm board will be seeking feedback on areas of grant funding including where potential investment should be made. This may include community transport and the board welcome ideas from local residents. Additionally the Clerk reported that all grant funding would be through the Ray Windfunds this year and the website <https://raywindfund.co.uk/> provided more details.
- b) item 6b: Road safety in the Parish: The Clerk provided details of the email he had received from Neil Snowdon (NCC) advising the Road Safety Audit request had been issued and an estimate for the work also requested but that he needed to hear what the RSA findings were before any further progress could be made. On the matter of the recent speed survey through the village Mr Snowdon reported that the data had been shared with the Police who would be investigating the matter as well as hopefully provide enforcement measures on a regular basis.
- c) item 6c: Revitalising Redesdale local footpaths: There was confirmation that the new fence line adjacent to the Le Petit Château as well new drainage on the steep section of the Otterburn trail had been completed.
- d) item 6d: Electric power supply in the Millennium Green: The Clerk's Report was received and agreed. The Clerk advised he was waiting for a date for the installation of the work.
- e) item 6e: Northern Powergrid energy resilience grant funding: The Clerk's Report was received and agreed.
- f) item 6f: EV charging point at the Millennium Green: The Clerk's Report was received and agreed. The Clerk provided details of the NCC two 50Kw charging points being built at the salt depot that would be for the public. As such it was agreed by the Councillors to not proceed with EV charging points at the Millennium Green.
- g) item 6g: School flashing light and other road signs: The Clerk shared the latest update provided by NCC for the replacement of the school warning signs either side of the school along the A696 that advised a date for the work had still not been confirmed.
- h) Footpath towards Otterburn school: Both the Clerk and Alison Woodcock advised that they had not received any response from NCC on the matter of restoring the original width of the footpath and removal of the overhanging shrubs that are restricting the route for the children to the school.
- i) item 6i: Redevelopment of the Otterburn public toilets: The Clerk advised he was still waiting to hear from NCC of plans and timescale for the redevelopment work.
- j) item 6j: Local Transport Programme 2024/25: The Clerk's report was received and agreed.
- k) item 6k: Bike Station proposal: The Clerk's report was received and agreed.
- l) item 9a: Speed indicator device replacement: It was confirmed that the new device had been installed by Westotec and was working OK.

7. Finance

- a) Finance update and adoption of the 2022-23 accounts: Clerk advised the current bank balance was £20,293.50. He provided details of the audit and there was agreement to adopt the accounts.
- b) Clerk's salary and expenses for July & August, 2023: The payments of £470.64 & expenses of £13.23 & £14.80 were agreed.
- c) Payment for Cllr training (D. Corkin) to Durham County Association of Councils for £10.00: The payment was agreed
- d) Payment of invoices to C. Mowatt for grass cutting: The payments of £112.00, £145.00 & £102.00 + VAT were all agreed.
- e) Payment of invoice to JRB Enterprise Ltd for dog poo bags: The payment of £108.55 + VAT was agreed.
- f) Payment of invoice to Play Safety Ltd for Play Area inspection: The payment £96.00 + VAT was agreed.
- g) Payment of invoice for £51.45 to J. Hartshorne for work at the Play Area: The payment was agreed.

h) Payment of invoice to Westotec Ltd for supply & installation of speed indicator device: The Clerk reported that he had not as yet received the invoice.

i) Refund for returned speed indicator device to Stocksigns Ltd of £2,974.50: The Clerk confirmed the payment had been received.

8. Planning

a) 23NP0064: Installation of an air source heat pump: Lodge 17, Otterburn Hall Estate, NE191HE: This application was considered by the Councillors between meetings and supported.

b) 22/03103/FUL: Retrospective: Erection of 2 x field shelters 36x12 feet, poly tunnel 60x20 feet, hay shed 60x20 feet to accommodate 75 sheep & 3 horses (ref 22/00593/ADVENF): Land NE of Bankfoot, Otterburn: This application was considered by the Councillors between meetings and supported.

9. New Business

a) Proposed maintenance work at the Play Area: Mr Hartshorne reported on the work undertaken following the recent RoSPA safety inspection. There was discussion on the damage to the fencing and gate posts. It was suggested that perhaps a metal fence similar to that at the school could replace the existing wooden fence. Mr Hartshorne provided possible options for improving the ramp up to the gate.

b) Remembrance wreaths for 2023: The Clerk confirmed he had placed an order for two wreaths as agreed by the Councillors. It was confirmed that the school would have two representatives to attend the service and lay one of the wreaths.

c) Blocked drainage gutter on path from Brierley Gardens to the RTC road: The Clerk reported he had been asked by a resident to help with the clearance of a blocked gutter. The matter had been reported to NCC but there had been no response as yet.

d) Annual Town & Parish Council Conference 2023: Cllr Corkin agreed to attend the event.

e) Otterburn Welcome pack: Cllr Corkin provided details of the work she had done for the development of a Welcome Pack for people moving into the village. Thanks were expressed for the work undertaken and discussion on the completion of the pack as well as additional ideas and comments to consider. It was agreed to seek ideas on what should be included via the Parish Council Facebook.

f) Maintenance of flower boxes: Cllr Corkin highlighted the state of the flower boxes in the village and compared these to other locations in Northumberland. It was agreed she would prepare a possible plan for consideration at the next meeting.

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

a) The Chair reported that he had received a number of messages of anti-social behaviour in the village with particular focus on Brierley Gardens and including vandalism to vehicles and the play area as well as youngsters playing in the road in front of oncoming vehicles. Whilst it was agreed there was little the Parish Council could do in such situations the Chair encouraged people to report incidents to the Police.

11. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council to be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 3 October, 2023 at Otterburn Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.