

Otterburn Parish Council

Meeting of the Parish Council held on 5 December, 2023

Held at Otterburn Memorial Hall

MINUTES

Present – Ruth Appleby (Chair), Andrew Shone & Joanne Nichols

In Attendance—Martin Chilvers (Clerk).

1. **Apologies for absence** – There were apologies from George Peto, Steve Bloomer & Denise Corkin
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**: None were raised.
6. **Matters arising**
 - a) item 6a: Ray Windfarm update: The Clerk's Report was received and agreed. There was nothing significant to report this month. Anyone wishing to learn more about possible grants should initially refer to the website <https://raywindfund.co.uk/> or contact Jo Willis on either admin@raywindfund.co.uk or 07762 179579.
 - b) item 6b: Road safety in the Parish: The Clerk reported that he had received an email from Neil Snowdon (NCC) advising that the Road Safety Audit had made a site visit on 14 November. A number of issues had been raised and were being considered by the designer in NCC.
 - c) item 6c: Electric power supply in the Millennium Green: The Clerk provided an update on progress including new estimate of the costs for the project. It was planned that Northern Powergrid would undertake the connection in early / mid March. There was agreement from all to proceed.
 - d) item 6d: Northern Powergrid energy resilience grant funding & emergency plan: The Clerk confirmed that the second grant application he had submitted to NPg for £2,925 had been agreed. He also provided details of the meeting he and Cllr Bloomer had attended with the Memorial Hall committee in respect of the creation of the Emergency Plan. There was agreement from all to the proposals to be included within the plan.
 - e) item 6g: Footpath towards Otterburn school: There was agreement that the pavement to the school was looking much better now after the original width had been restored. It was also noted that the gully at the side of the pavement at Brierley Gardens had been cleared however the weeds along Lonnis Lane still needed to be cleared.
 - f) item 6h: Redevelopment of the Otterburn public toilets: It was noted that work had begun on the redevelopment of the toilets.
 - g) item 6i: Proposed maintenance work at the Play Area: There was agreement that the quote for the replacement of the fencing at the Play Area was too expensive to proceed. It was agreed to make repairs to the damage of the wooden fence. There was also agreement to proceed with the ramp to the main entrance of the Play Area. The Clerk highlighted that a repair had been made to the gate post of the second entrance however a longer term solution would need to be considered in the new year.
 - h) item 6j: Otterburn Welcome pack: The Clerk advised that he and Cllr Bloomer had been assisting Cllr Corkin with the pack and that Cllr Corkin would be putting the finishing touches to it in the near future before it was ready for making available.
 - i) item 9a: Community Transport in Redesdale: The Clerk provided details of the options and organisations that had been approached by Ray Windfunds. The Chair provided details of an email she had received from Jane Reed at Bellingham Surgery and how they may be able to assist in the matter.
 - j) Item 9c: Donated bike racks: The Clerk provided details of the 'anchors' for the two bike racks. There was agreement to purchase these but to wait until the bike racks had been delivered to Otterburn first.
7. **Finance**
 - a) Finance update and precept 2024: The Clerk advised the current bank balance was £16,808.26. He provided details of the possible forecast to the end of the financial year. There was discussion regarding the plans for 2024/25 and agreement to maintain the precept at the present figure of £6,582
 - b) Clerk's salary and expenses for November, 2023: The payments of £337.44 & expenses of £5.99 were agreed.
 - c) Reimbursement to the Clerk for batteries for the Christmas lights: The payment of £16.80 + Vat was agreed.
 - d) Payment of invoice to C. Mowatt for grass / hedge cutting: The Clerk advised he had not received the expected invoice.
 - e) Donation request from Tynedale Hospice at Home: There was agreement to make a donation of £100.00.
 - f) Donation request from Great North Air Ambulance: There was agreement to make a £150 donation. The Clerk advised of an invoice received from Otterburn Memorial Hall for £40.00, for room hire for meeting in September, October, November and December. There was agreement to pay the invoice.

8. Planning

a) There were no application to consider this month.

9. New Business

a) *Date of March 2024 meeting:* There was agreement to make the meeting the second Tuesday of the month in March which would be the 12th.

b) *Local preparation for winter weather:* Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would speak to Mr Hartshorne regarding the snowblower that had been given to him. Additionally a message would be shared seeking volunteers to apply grit and remove snow as and when necessary during the winter.

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

Nothing was raised

11. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council to be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 6 February, 2024 at Otterburn Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.04pm.