

Minutes of the Meeting of Skirlaugh Parish Council held on 25th September 2024

Present: Cllr. McDonald (in the chair), Cllrs. Harrison, Johnston, Navier.

Apologies for absence: Cllr. Richards, Wilson.

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2024, having previously been circulated, were taken as read.

- **Resolved** that the minutes should be approved and signed.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

(a) **D-Day planter:** planting has been completed. The final report form has been submitted to ERYC and the grant funding received. Cllr. Johnston will look for a suitable plaque; wording to be agreed. It was suggested the planter could be planted up with a wildflower mix for future years.

(b) **Frog Cottage;** a second, informal meeting took place in August. It was felt this was a positive event and there have been no further reports of problems.

(c) **School reflection garden planter:** the school will place the order for the planter and the donation will be paid to the school.

(d) The overgrowing vegetation on Rise Road has been cut back.

3. Pavilion

Queries raised by ERYC are to be addressed by the playing field committee. The new grass mower has been delivered and is in use. There is some graffiti on the play equipment; ERYC has offered to quote for removing this. Passed to playing field committee.

4. Churchyard Maintenance

A further tree survey can be carried out at the same cost as previously, £165.00

- **Resolved** that this quote is accepted.

It was agreed that Cllrs. Johnston and Harrison will look at other forms of surfacing for the footpath and side path to the burial ground.

5. Grass Cutting Tender Form

Some minor amendments were made and the invitation to quote was finalised.

- **Resolved** that the form is sent to three potential contractors. To be returned to the Clerk by 18th November 2024.

6. Jubilee Wood

Some vegetation growing through the fence was cut back following a complaint, but following an inspection it was found the work had been done along a different section of the fence. It was found there is little overgrowth in the area of the complaint; this will be monitored over winter.

Cllr. Johnston will draft a maintenance plan for discussion at the next meeting. Cllr. Johnston will check whether the litter bin needs to be emptied.

7. Purchase of Land

Cllr. Johnston suggested that the unsold land at Crown Park is purchased to provide a dog walking area.

- **Resolved** that ERNLLCA is asked for more information regarding borrowing approval.

Minutes of the Meeting of Skirlaugh Parish Council held on 25th September 2024

8. Recording of Meetings

Cllr. Johnston suggested that meetings should be recorded to retain details of discussions prior to decisions being taken. Clerk to find out more information from another parish council.

9. Youth Club

Cllr. Johnston suggested a meeting is held between various interested parties to discuss setting up of a youth club, for which funding is available. It was agreed this should take place prior to the October meeting.

10. Christmas Tree Lighting Event

It was suggested the coffee shop and pub are asked if refreshments could be available. Tree to be ordered from the supplier and contractor asked to collect and erect the tree. Wattage of light and motifs to be checked.

11. Activity Workshops

Cllr. Navier suggested that the provision of activities would be a means of engaging with residents. She will prepare an item to be included on social media, website and newsletter to ask whether residents would be interested and what type of activity they would like.

12. Review of Policies

The updated financial regulations had been circulated.

- **Resolved** that these are approved and adopted.

A draft Biodiversity Policy was circulated.

- **Resolved** that this policy is approved and adopted.

Cllr. Johnston has updated the Wilder Skirlaugh document and the Climate Emergency Declaration.

- **Resolved** that these are approved and adopted as amended.

13. Planning Applications

(a) **24/02216:** installation of solar panels, St. Augustine's Church. No comments.

(b) **24/01980:** all weather turnout area, Bracken Hill stables. No comments.

(c) **24/02260:** single storey extension, High Flags. No comments.

14. Highways and Grounds Maintenance

(a) **Traffic speed:** reply received from ERYC. A speed survey has been placed on the A165. It was agreed that surveys will be requested for the north and south ends of the A165 and also on Benningholme Lane east of Dorset Avenue.

Zebra crossing: Details received from ERYC regarding options for upgrading the zebra crossing. Standard option to replace existing beacons with new standard £1110.20. Premium option to replace with internally lit columns with LED beacons £14,421.57. ERYC may be able to fund the standard option but not the premium option.

- **Resolved** that ERYC is asked to install two new standard beacons.

(b) **Litter bin, Langdale Villas.** The nearby resident has been consulted, no objection was made.

- **Resolved** that ERYC is asked to supply and install a bin at the location agreed.

(c) **Speed Indicator Devices:** Information received regarding part funding for SIDs electronic equipment. Clerk to enquire about total cost.

Minutes of the Meeting of Skirlaugh Parish Council held on 25th September 2024

(d) **Poplar Close litter:** report received from resident regarding litter accumulating next to their property. This appears to have blown from the rear of the Sun Inn. Reported to ERYC.

(e) **War memorial cleaning:** quote received for £350 plus VAT.

- **Resolved** that this quote is accepted.

15. ERYC Correspondence

(a) Community Governance; Training, election and casual vacancy procedures; meet and greet events; council tax support scheme consultation; local plan modification consultation; street lighting schedule.

(b) **Withernwick Wind Farm Fund:** applications invited. Suggested that an application is submitted for replacing old planters. Cllrs. Johnston and Harrison will check the planters.

16. ERNLLCA Correspondence

(a) Training sessions: finance, HR appraisal. Health and safety advice.

17. Other Correspondence

(a) **PKF Littlejohn:** completion of audit, no matters arising.

(b) **Dogger Bank D windfarm:** consultation.

(c) **Website:** new noticeboard feature.

(d) **Poppy wreath:** this will be ordered by the local supplier. It was agreed that a donation of £30 will be made.

- **Resolved** that in accordance with its powers under Sections 137/139 of the LGA 1972, the expenditure for a poppy wreath is incurred which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure.

18. Payment of Accounts

Salaries, August and September	785.40	
Tony Cook Ltd	1008.00	Jubilee Wood fence
Tony Cook Ltd	462.00	July grass cutting
Ionos	3.60	Councillor emails
Down to Earth	100.00	Trees, A165
Travis Perkins	270.00	D-Day planter soil
Middle Lane Nurseries	195.80	D-Day planter plants
Slate & Foxglove	340.00	Playing field cutting
Cumbria Clock	234.00	Clock service
PKF Littlejohn	504.00	Audit fee
J. Naylor	200.00	Ditch clearing
ERYC	534.74	Christmas motif connections
Tony Cook Ltd	396.00	August grass cutting

- **Resolved** that payment of these accounts is approved.

19. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 23rd October 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.