**Woolsington Parish Council**

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| **Chairperson of the Council: George Pattison** | **39 Wellburn Road** |
| **Clerk to the Council: Andrew Richardson** | **Washington** |
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**Minutes of Electronic meeting of Woolsington Parish Council**

**held via Zoom on Wednesday 11th November 2020**

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| Present: | Councillor G. Pattison (Chair) |
|  | Councillors J. Couchman, L. Kennedy, J. Littleton, L. McGuinness, S. Pattison, J. Robinson, J. Sabarre, A. Thomas and L. Wright. |

In attendance: A. Richardson – Clerk

Pam Gill – PLAYinNEWCASTLE

Michelle Mitchell – PLAYinNEWCASTLE

Caroline Herbert – Action for Children

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| **114.**  **115.**  **116.**  **117.**  **118.**  **119.**  **120.**  **121.** | **Apologies for absence**  Apologies for absence were received from B. Hunter.    **Minutes of Previous Meeting**  The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 9 September 2020 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.  **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**  Item 99: Cllr Littleton advised that there had been no response from NCC regarding email query around Dementia Garden at Sovereign Lodge and Health & Safety issues at Newbiggin Hall. Cllr S. Pattison advised that work was to commence 17th November, however the Chair requested that Clllr Littleton send a follow up email.  Item 101. Cllr Sabarre advised that the percentage figures for the survey may be slightly inaccurate, and would provide correct figures.  **Bedeburn Ward Vacancy** Following the resignation of Glenn Pendleton, a vacancy arose in the Parish Council Bedeburn Ward. A notice of vacancy was posted stating that an election would be held if TEN electors for the said Parish was made in writing to the Returning Office, otherwise the vacancy would be filled by co-option. No interest was received, therefore members were able to co-opt and agreed to accept the expression of interest received from Alexander Hay. It was therefore:-  Resolved: That Alexander Hay be co-opted to the vacancy in the Bedeburn Ward for the current term of office.  **Grant Applications**  The Clerk advised that following the discussion at the previous meeting, the revised Grant Application forms had been circulated and agreed by members.  There were 3 funding applications to be discussed at this evening’s meeting.  **PLAYinNEWCASTLE**  Pam Gill (PG) and Michelle Mitchell (MM) took the Parish Council through their application for funding. PLAYinNEWCASTLE have been providing after school provisions since 2013 which started with one session at one venue, they now operate across the City running 16 sessions a week out of 10 venues, with children and young people registered, ages 5-21yrs. PG explained the sessions they would deliver at the Gala Field would include sport/fitness, mental health projects, music studio, and projects around issues in Newbiggin Hall as well as any guidance and support needed.  Cllr Kennedy asked what sort of reaction was currently being received from the various groups, MM advised that a good rapport has been built up with the groups of youths.  Cllr Sabarre inquired what level of reporting can we expect, PG advised that a monthly report would be provided for each session undertaken.  PG and MM left the meeting.  The application was discussed by members, Cllr McGuiness noted that PLAYinNEWCASTLE were not a charity and are a not-for profit organisation, Cllr Littleton raised concerns around ongoing funding and the sustainability of the project.  Following the discussion, it was agreed to support the application, and that the funding application for £8671.00 should be granted in full and allocated from the CIL funding.  **St Marks Primary School**  Cllr S. Pattison declared an interest (School Governor) and took no part in the discussion.  An application was received for £800 to support Christmas activities, including an Interactive Virtual Pantomime, Class Parties and Chocolate.  After a short discussion, the members voted in favour to grant the application.  **Action for Children**  Caroline Herbert (CH) advised they had recently, in September 2020, taken over the management of the Gala Field Centre and had great ambitions to return this to a multi-use, vibrant community building with a community café and soft play area. CH took the Parish Council through the application and explained that the funding was to support the start-up of the Café. Current Covid restrictions would obviously mean the Café opening gradually beginning with takeaways.  Cllr McGuinness queried whether this would lead to problems with litter, CH advised that they had inquired about getting the youth offending team involved to help with litter picking. Cllr S. Pattison and Cllr Kennedy both commented they were impressed with the proposed project.  A discussion took place around future funding, CH advised that funding had also been raised from other fundraising.  CH left the meeting.  The application was discussed by members, Cllr Wright inquired what funding this would come out of if granted, Cllr G. Pattison advised the CIL funding.  Following the discussion, it was agreed to support the application, and that the funding application for £9217.00 should be granted in full and allocated from the CIL funding.  **Woolsington Parish Area Biodiversity Plan**  Progress Report 2020/21  Cllr Littleton provided an update on the 2020/21 Biodiversity project.  Bankfoot unable to proceed because of Covid and a delay on Bedeburn site, however good advice provided by Grounds Maintenance who will clear the site free of charge, and have helped with the design, this is unlikely to happen this year though.  In summary the project is going very well, the only issues might be the slight underspend on the budget, Cllr G Pattison suggested looking at Whorlton Grange.  Proposals for 2021/22  Cllr Littleton requested the members approval for the 2021/22 Biodiversity Project and provided a recommended budget breakdown of work by Ward, which is £3500, the schools have also been factored in as they are now expressing an interest in the scheme, which is £4000, in total £7500. Cllr Littleton advised that supporting documents are referenced and available on request from the Clerk, all of which is CIL compliant.  Cllr Robinson inquired if this request would be the annual budget going forward, Cllr Littleton advised that it wasn’t, and would be reviewed on an annual basis.  Cllrs Littleton, Couchman, Thomas, S. Pattison, Robinson and Sabarre (School Governors) all declared an interest.  Cllr Sabarre queried what the schools funding would be spent on, Cllr Littleton advised that all schools are including conservation and outdoor learning as an important component in the curriculum, and funding would be spent on a variety of biodiversity related schemes, Forest School, purchase of plants, equipment and learning materials.  Cllr G. Pattison requested that Cllr Littleton liaised closely with the schools and that the Head Teachers confirm the applications.  The members agreed the budget subject to school’s applications.  Requests for sponsorship had also been made to Costain Jacobs to assist with Bluebell Dene plans and Taylor Wimpey to assist with other bulb planting plans.  Parish Ponds Scoping Study Cllr Littleton provided background and presentation on the issues with the Parish Ponds, which are based on the boundary of the Callerton and Woolsington Wards. The land is owned by the Duke of Northumberland, and the area is part of the Ouseburn corridor, however they are enjoyed extensively by people from all areas of the Parish Community for recreational purposes, including walking, cycling, fishing and picnics.  In 2018, Groundworks NE & Cumbria had funding to desilt the western pond and to carry out planting, very successfully. However, the eastern pond has bigger problems because there has been an invasion of water soldier; an invasive, light excluding species which renders the pond sterile. The water soldier problem needs to be addressed. Community workers tried to eradicate this two years ago, but the work requires a contractor.  Cllr Littleton requested members agree to a scoping study on the ponds, and that £10k from the CIL funding is reserved for pond cleansing. Members of the Parish Council were invited to visit the site, and provide thoughts and ideas on improvement and developments for inclusion in the study.  Cllr Sabarre inquired what the total cost would be, Cllr Littleton advised between 8-10k.  Cllr Hay asked what the figures were based on, Cllr Littleton advised that quotations had been sought, however if the funding was agreed further quotations would be obtained.  The clerk updated the members as to how much CIL funding was available.  Following a lengthy discussion, and subject to further investigations, it was agreed that £10k would be ringfenced for the ponds project.  **Neighbourhood Plan / CIL Funding**  Following the meeting held in October regarding the Neighbourhood Plan, it had been agreed that a vote would be held whether to continue with the Plan. The Parish Council currently receives 15% CIL funding, however if a Neighbourhood Plan was in place, this would increase to 25%.  The votes were as follows, 8 Members voted not to continue with the Plan, 2 Members voted to continue and 1 Member abstained.  Resolved: The Parish council would not continue with Neighbourhood Plan based on the majority as voted by members.  **Planning Matters**  The Clerk advised the Members that from January’s meeting, an update would be provided on Planning Applications received.   |  | | --- | |  | |
| **122.** | **Assets**  The Clerk advised the members of a list of assets the Parish Council currently hold including Callerton Play Area, Open Space at Woolsington Bridge and a Lease of land on Newbiggin Lane.  The Chair and the Clerk had met on site with a colleague from Newcastle City Council’s Property Services regarding the 50-year lease on the land next to the Galafield Centre which had commenced in 1977. The lease now seems to be an anomaly as it appears the playground, roadway and grounds are managed by the Council though under the lease the Parish Council has responsibility for its repair, managing the land, indemnifying the Council for its use, and a few other things. The use is restricted to public open space and/or such games and recreations as approved by the Council. Property Services were interested in what the Parish Council’s views are on what it wishes to do with this lease. As things stand it has seven years to run but seems to have been overtaken by events and a lack of knowledge of its existence.  Following a discussion, the members agreed to relinquish the lease. |
| **123.** | **Correspondance**  The Parish Council noted the following correspondence –   * Paul Head (Get a Head Gardening) letter of thanks. * Mrs Fullerton letter of thanks for feedback and update. |
| **124.** | **Police Update**  The Chair read out a written update around crime and anti-social behaviour which had been provided by Northumbria Police for the month of October.  21 incidents in the Callerton Ward.  58 incidents in the Woolsington & Bankfoot Ward.  232 incidents in Bedeburn/Newbiggin Hall Wards. |
| **125.** | **Financial Matters / Accounts for Payment**  Approval was given to the following payments, itemised in the Report of the Clerk circulated with the papers for the meeting –   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  | | Clerk Salary | October/November | £ 802.41 | | HMRC | October/November | £ 200.80 | | Stationary | | £ 33.36 | |  | |  | | For Information purposes only as already approved via Biodiversity Project: - | | | | J. Parker Dutch Bulbs | | £ 300.00 | | Cowells Garden Centre  Cowells Garden Centre  Simonside Primary School | | £ 404.42  £ 95.93  £ 200.00 | |  | |  | | For Information purposes only as agreed at previous meeting: - | | | | Paul Head (Get a Head Gardening) | | £ 75.00 |   The Clerk also shared the financial statement document. |
| **126.** | **Any Other Business**  Cllr Couchman advised that Lee Gallon, Executive Head Teacher of Farne & Cheviot Schools, has offered the use of either school as a venue for future Parish Council meetings when COVID measures allow. |
| **127.** | **Date of next meeting**  The next meeting was scheduled for 13th January 2021 at 6.30pm online via Zoom.    Chairman …………………….  Date ………… |