**Upper Denton Parish Council (PC)**

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held by conference call**

**on Thursday 13th May 2021**

**Present:**

**Parish Councillors: -** D. Newrick (DN) (Chairman), W. Makepeace (Vice-Chairman) & T. Gordon (Councillor)

**Other: -** Sue Hatt (SH) (Clerk)

**Absent :** Keith Meller (KM) (City Councillor), Raymond Tinnion (RT) (City Councillor) and Mike Mitchelson (MM) (City Councillor)

**The meeting opened with DN in the Chair**

1. **Opening Remarks** -DN greeted those present to the meeting and welcomed everyone to the conference call.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Raymond Tinnion and Mike Mitchelson
3. **Notification by Members of Pecuniary and other Registrable Interest:** none received.
4. **Election of Officers:**

 **Chair:** Dan Newrick **Proposed:** Wilson Makepeace **Seconded:** Tim Gordon

 **Vice Chair:** Wilson Makepeace **Proposed:** Dan Newrick  **Seconded:** Tim Gordon

1. **Minutes of the meeting held on 4th February 2021.**

 Agreed as a true and correct record, to be signed as such by DN.

1. **Matters Arising:**
2. **Highways:** The signs put up at the school are city car park signs that limit parking to 2 hours. DN has been informed that staff and parents will not be fined but the signs should deter any overnight parking.
3. **Crammel Linn:** Although the issues at Crammel Linn have settled down, it was agreed that a contingency plan should be agreed with the relevant authorities in case there is a re-occurrence of the problems over the summer months. The residents could then be informed of the correct channels to report concerns. **Action:** TG to draft letter for approval and circulate
4. **Notice board and Jubilee stone**: Both the Parish noticeboards have been repaired by Jim Hodgson and the Jubilee Stone has been taken to Northern Stone Direct to prepare it for relocation.
5. **Noise Monitoring at Spadeadam**: DN reported that the person responsible for reporting on this has moved on but will return in the summer.
6. **Communications:** none received
7. **Reports:**
8. **COGS:** MPs Dr Neil Hudson and Guy Opperman have secured the backing of railways minister Chris Heaton-Harris - and an application to re-establish the station has now been submitted as part of the Restoring Your Railway fund. A new engineering study is planned to obtain a more accurate idea of costs.
9. **County Council:** None
10. **City Council:** None
11. **Finance:**

**Accounts for the period 1st April 2021** **to date** –Credit balance of £2793.04

1. **Receipts since the last meeting:**

**Payee Reason for Payment Amount**

 Waterhead Parish Council Repair of Noticeboards £163.79

 City of Carlisle 2021-2022 Precept £1216

1. **Payments due:**

**Payee Reason for Payment Amount**

Came and Company Annual Insurance £218.00

P. Gauntlett Yearly PAYE £30

Jim Hodgson Repair of Noticeboards £441.20

Dan Newrick Repair of Noticeboards £50.17

1. **It was agreed to make the following payments:**

**Payee Reason for Payment Amount**

Sue Hatt Clerk’s 6 months’ salary £250

Sue Hatt Clerk’s 6 months’ expenses £69.58

1. **AGAR and final accounts:** the accounts for 2020-2021 were scrutinised and approved unanimously.
2. **Planning Matters:**

**20/0666** Erection Of A Greenhouse For Commercial Horticultural Use Location: Land to the north east of Willowford, Gilsland, CA8 7DA – no objections were noted.

1. **Any other business:**
2. **Noticeboard repairs:**  These have been carried out by Jim Hodgson and Dan Newrick.
3. **Churchyard maintenance:** Alison Higgs has contacted all Parishes to ask for contributions towards the maintenance of the churchyard. It is believed that the total cost is expected to be £600. It was felt that a pro-rata contribution would be acceptable but that a formal request needs to be made so that it can be approved by the councillors.
4. **Popping Stones:** The damage to the Popping Stones was discussed and SH reported that the owner was keen to restore them but was being stalled by Natural England, who were overseeing the repairs.
5. **Poltross Pollution:**  DN said that he has looked into reports of grass cuttings being dumped into the Poltross and that Will Higgs was currently complaining to the Environment Agency about more serios pollution. He believes that the pollution is coming from further upstream and needs to be dealt with by the Agency. DN also reported that the owners of the Bridge Inn have been cutting down trees alongside the Poltross and that they appear to be breaching the spirit of the agreement with their neighbours about not carrying out any work until the boundary dispute has been resolved. SH will ring Barbara Percival to let her know about the situation.

 **Action: SH**

1. **Overnight Parking in Gilsland:** Malcom and Jenny Redman have reported that there is no infrastructure for overnight parking for camper vans in Gilsland and that this could be an issue following the pandemic, as the number of staycations increases. They suggested that the Spa Hotel might offer overnight facilities for visitors. It was suggested that visitors could be signposted to Barron House in Gilsland and Herding Hill Farm and Seldom Seen Caravan Park in Haltwhistle , all of which offer places for campervans.
2. **Low Bridge signage:** SH asked the coucilllors to consider the signage at the Low Bridge following the Thirlwall Parish meeting where concerns were raised. DN responded that on the Cumbrian side, there was a sign opposite the Bridge Inn and another one at the entrance of Irthing Park then on the bridge itself. It was agreed that this was sufficient to warn drivers.
3. **Speeding under the bridge:**  It was agreed that this was within the boundaries of Thirlwall Parish.
4. **Dates of future meetings: T**hursday 4th November 2021

 Thursday 3rd February 2022

 Thursday 12th May 2022

 Thursday 28th July 2022

1. **Next Meeting** – The next Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 29th July 2021 at 6:30pm in the Methodist Chapel Room.

Minutes prepared by Signed as a true and correct record

**Sue Hatt Dan Newrick**

**Clerk to the PC Chairman**