

## DRAFT -Bamburgh Parish Council

Minutes Parish meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at Victoria Hotel Lounge.

**Present** – Barbara Brook (BB) Andrew Bardgett (AB) John Mackey (JM) Kirsty Dobson (KD) Kate Morton (KM) Sue Aldred (SA) Joan Mitchell (JMC)

Also present 1 member of the public

1. **Apologies** –Guy Renner-Thompson (GRT)
2. **Declaration of interest** – None
3. **Minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022** – Accepted and signed as correct record with one spelling correction – AB and JM
4. **Public Questions** – None
5. **Financial Statement** – JMC update on the financial statement, bank statement @ 16/02/23 = Current A/C – £4,852.76, Saver A/C – £30,460.51
6. **Matters Arising:**
  - **Highways Update/Traffic Calming/Speeding/Wynding/Ingram Road** – AB – After a recent teams call between Parish councillors, members of NCC and the AONB a date of the 20<sup>th</sup> February has been arranged to meet at The Wynding to agree a plan to potentially continue double yellow lines further to the golf club. AB also requesting NCC to prioritise the flat top speed humps and agree prior to consultation, councillors will meet to further to discuss.
  - **Wheelchair Access to Beach** – KD/BB – new battery now obtained for the Trekinetic electric chair, this will allow one battery to be charged whilst chair in use, enabling full day usage. Nick Muse has advised he will be stepping down before Christmas 2023, from his role as booking system co-ordinator, KD will make enquiries for a new contact.
  - **Playpark Update**– JM – The play park is now complete although the area behind the tennis court remains fenced off pending the germination of grass seeds. Concerns have been expressed regarding the time it will take to achieve robust grass cover particularly in the light of pigeons feeding on the seed. It was agreed that the practicality and cost of turfing would be considered to facilitate and speed up the establishment of grass cover. **Subsequent event...**the day after the Parish Council meeting, Bamburgh Castle Estates indicated their willingness to partially finance the installation of rubber mulch on this fenced off area and as a consequence, the decision was taken to revisit potential funding partners with a view to extending the rubber surface over the whole of the play area.
  - **Neighbourhood Plan** –AB and JM attended a conference of Parish & Town Councils, at which, Cllr. Glen Sanderson raised the possibility of being able to charge double council tax on second homes. AB had previously been in correspondence with GRT & NCC concerning the increasing number of properties now let out and changing to business rates rather than council tax and the lack of scrutiny of whether a property was now a 'holiday let', which should be subject to a change of use planning application. AB was concerned that a doubling of council tax on second homes would probably make matters worse. As a result, he had written in response to the

Neighbourhood Plan review pointing out the implications of this and that a weakness in the planning system is that there is no correlation between the rating and planning departments.

- **Water Bottle Filler – KD/GRT** – GRT confirmed still awaiting response to last email of 25<sup>th</sup> January.
- **Jubilee Bell – AB/KM** – discussed the success of the Jubilee Bell and the possibility to potentially automate all 8 bells in the future but gave assurance that this would not affect bell ringing.
- **Website Update KM/JM** – contact made with local businesses to advertise on the BPC website, ongoing.
- **EV Charging Points – AB** – no opportunity for Parish Council, as the responsibility to install falls to Landowners, noted that two points are planned for Walled Garden.
- **Village Coronation Celebrations – AB/KM** – Pavilion committee have plans for fish & chips on the Green with a possibility of screened coronation broadcast. Further meeting of councillors to be planned.
- **Planning Application – 23/00274/FUL – NE69 7AD** – discussed and agreed comments to be added to the portal.
- **Other Business –**
- Castle Estates agreed the request to plant a tree in memory of Martin Spruce, AB to pursue.
- BB advised electrician repairing and re-siting broken lights on The Green.
- Public question was raised suggesting a visitor donation box for the Play Park, agreed as good idea and the council will research a contactless donation pad etc.
- Public question raised regarding noise from Walled Garden tree felling etc. AB assured that planning for this was already agreed.

**Date of next meeting - Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 6.30pm – location Victoria Hotel resident's lounge**