

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WARKWORTH PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 9th DECEMBER 2010

Present: Cllrs. Mr Stuart Elliott, Mr Jeff Watson, Mrs June Watson, Mrs Judith Frisch, Mr Chris Ward, Miss Helen Wilson, Mr. John Heir

1 Apologies for absence: Cllrs. Mr Alan Clark, Mrs Cate MacKay, Dr. James Cox

2 Minutes of the last Meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed and have been posted on village notice boards and the web site.

3 Matters Arising

New Lay-by

Cllr Stuart Elliott said that the commencement of the works to form the new lay-by had been delayed by the snow and that the start date would be conditional upon the weather.

Footpaths at New Barns Farm

Cllr. Jeff Watson said that he had spoken to Mr Park who claimed that he had not taken away any footpaths. He will give Mr Park's telephone number to Cllr. Cate MacKay so that she can discuss the matter with him.

Cllr. Stuart Elliott said that he had received an anonymous letter about the possible improved access to New Barns Farm that Mr Park is discussing with the Planning Dept. The Parish Council acknowledges receipt of the letter, but as it is anonymous did not discuss it. In future no credence will be given to any anonymous letters; names and addresses must be attached if the matter is to be dealt with.

Warkworth Christmas Lights

Insurance cover for the lights is now in place on the all risks section of the Parish Council Insurance Policy. Discussion took place about the fact that the Castle cannot be floodlit this year as the power source has traditionally been Tower House. This property has recently been sold and is undergoing renovation prior to becoming a rented property.

Winter closure of parking area on the Stanners

Cllr. Jeff Watson said that the Rev. Canon Janet Brearley had mentioned to him that there can be problems with sufficient parking space when the Stanners is closed for the winter and large congregations are expected at St. Lawrence's Church. Discussion took place but it was agreed that the grassed area needed a rest during the winter months and it was decided to leave it closed, however, the area will be opened at Rev. Brearley's request for special occasions.

Village footpaths

The Clerk reported that Northumberland County Council had responded to the request to improve the footpath at Woodlands with a telephone message to say that work will be carried out as soon as possible.

Parking in Warkworth

The County Council meeting scheduled to be held on the 29th November was cancelled. Cllr. Jeff Watson reported that he had had a meeting with the Leader of the Council and it was thought that there would be separate arrangements for villages and that it was unlikely that charges would be imposed in Warkworth. No action or changes will take place until next September.

Warkworth Flood Defences

Cllr. John Heir said that the Environment Agency was changing the Flood Line message and that information from the upstream monitoring stations can now be accessed on line.

4 Correspondence received

Action

Mr Peter Atkinson, Secretary of the Warkworth War Memorial Hall about Capital funding. Next Agenda
Mr T. Kirkhope MEP regarding the Planning Application at 6 Castle Street Warkworth. Clerk to reply.

Letter of thanks from Warkworth Christmas Lights Committee for funding

NCC – Withdrawal of the e-consultation hub service.

Noted

NCC – informing Council that cheques will no longer be accepted for payment of commercial waste service charges.

Direct debit to be set up

NCC Additional Grass Cutting Service 2011/12 – 3 additional cuts offered.

Agreed.

5 Finance

Account sheet to date was presented.

Cheques signed on 2nd December 2010:

Broker Network for Lights Insurance	£34.51
Clerks Salary & Expenses	£226.80
<u>Monies received:</u>	
HM Revenue & Customs VAT return	£2,477.78

6 Plans

No plans received.

7 Precept for financial year 2011/12

Discussion took place as to whether the Precept should be increased for the next financial year and it was agreed that as it had remained at £27,000 since April 2007 an increase of £1,500 should be requested to cover inflation. The Parish Council will therefore request a Precept of £28,500 but state that they reserve the right to increase this amount if Northumberland County Council imposes extra responsibilities on the Parish which are not currently included in the present Precept.

8 Additional Memorial Seats in the Village

Cllr. Stuart Elliott raised the issue of whether there are so many memorial seats in the village that saturation point had been reached. The last seat installed had been very costly and no monies had been left for its maintenance and discussion took place about how many of the seats were actually used. It was also stated that memorial trees were difficult to place and needed regular maintenance. A request for a memorial seat has been received from the Mitcheson family and it was suggested that this could replace the old concrete and wood slat seat on the Stanners. The Parish Council has decided that the village has reached saturation point for memorial seats, but this decision will be reviewed as necessary in the future.

Cllr. John Heir said that there was an area of existing paving on the Stanners where a picnic table had been washed away in the 2008 flood. Quotes will be sought for its replacement.

9 Funding for Warkworth in Bloom

An application for a grant of £1,200 has been received from the Warkworth in Bloom team setting out its plans to make features in the millennium garden to celebrate the 60th year of the Queen's reign and the Olympic Games in 2012. The team is also being encouraged to enter Britain in Bloom next year which will require extra displays. The Parish Council agreed that a payment of £1,200 will be made at the January meeting.

10 Footpaths from Morwick Road to Magdalene Fields and Heatherleazes

The state of these footpaths came under discussion, the Heatherleazes path especially being described as very muddy. Cllr. Stuart Elliott said that whilst the Council is sympathetic he suggested that this issue could be dealt with in the Spring when the Councillors do their village walk.

Any Other Business

Warkworth Boundary

Cllr. Stuart Elliott reported that Amble Town Council had put out a questionnaire asking residents of the Braid area whether they would want to be included in Amble without any reference to Warkworth Parish Council. A letter will be sent to Amble Town Council stating that "The action by Amble Town Council in seeking to canvass residents of the Braid area to realign existing boundaries, without prior consultation with or even notification to Warkworth Parish Council, is considered both un-neighbourly and lacking in normal standards of courtesy.

Warkworth Parish Council wishes the residents in that area to know that it neither condones the action of Amble Town Council nor supports any such variation in the historic boundary of Warkworth. However, as in any democracy the outcome will be determined by the residents themselves.”

Visit of Iain Robson of AONB

Cllr. June Watson said she had been sent E mails between Mr Robson and Mrs Joan Robinson who runs the Warkworth Web Site, detailing existing and proposed links to AONB web pages. The Clerk will contact Mr Robson at his request to arrange for him to attend a Parish Council meeting.

British Legion and Memorial Hall 90th anniversaries

Cllr Mrs June Watson said that 2011 is the 90th anniversary of the British Legion and the 27th June the 90th anniversary of the Memorial Hall and suggested the Parish Council supports a celebratory event. She will put forward a programme of events and it was agreed that this would be supported by the Parish Council.

Guilden Road Play Park

Cllr. Mrs June Watson said that a seat on the baby swings needs to be fixed and will get a quote for the work.

Stanners snow and ice

Cllr. John Heir said that a bulldozer had cleared the snow from the Stanners but this had left 2” of what is now solid ice. The Parish Council requested grit bins for the area in the early Spring of this year and on other previous occasions, but no bins have been put in place. Cllr. Heir said that he would maintain the surface if the salt is supplied. Cllr. Jeff Watson said he would speak to County Council about the missing bins.

Village Notice boards

Cllr Judith Frisch said that she had been asked if notices could be posted on the back of the Parish Board as a resident had reported that the existing notice boards are generally full and it was difficult to find space for new notices. It was suggested that this could be put forward as a project for the next financial year.

8 Time and date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 6th January 2011 at 7.00 p.m. in the British Legion Room.