

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CHOPPINGTON PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**Members present:**

Cllr E A Barrell  
Cllr K Grimes  
Cllr G Huntley  
Cllr A Iley  
Cllr J Rowell  
Cllr P Vaughan

**In attendance:**

Mr D L Nicholson, Parish Clerk and Mrs A Brindley, Deputy Parish Clerk and County Councillor D Ledger.

**CD&E 006/17      1.      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr H Allsopp (child care) and Cllr J Foster (work commitment). The meeting accepted that these were valid reasons for absence.

**CD&E 007/17      2.      MEMBERS' DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER REGISTERABLE INTEREST(S).**

No declarations were made.

**CD&E 008/17      3.      PUBLIC QUESTIONS.**

None received.

**At this point the Chairman introduced Mr Paul Taylor of KOMPAN, the council's partner for the development of play areas, who gave a presentation on KOMPAN's commitment to play and learning and answered questions from members of the Parish Council.**

**CD&E 009/17      4.      TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 JUNE 2017.**

The minutes were received and accepted as being a true record..

**CD&E 010/17      5.      MATTERS ARISING.**

Cllr P Vaughan had presented his apologies for his absence at the previous meeting because of work commitments, but these were not recorded in the minutes. The Parish Clerk indicated the error would be corrected.

CD&E 011/17

**6. BUILDING PROJECTS.**

The Parish Clerk detailed progress being made towards gaining planning approval for the replacement building at West Sleekburn and on 2 applications being made to the Secretary of State relating to proposed developments at Choppington and Guide Post. Members were also advised of an options appraisal being undertaken to provide improved community meeting rooms for the Parish Council.

The Parish Council has occupied the same offices located in Stakeford and Bomarsund Welfare since it was established in 2009. The rent paid by the council is assessed independently by a qualified surveyor and reassessed at regular intervals. In addition to office and storage space the Parish Council requires meeting rooms to support its activities and services and for use by community groups it supports. The Parish Council has assessed its forward needs and requires an additional 36 square metres of space plus 10 cubic metres of internal storage. The Parish Council also has a requirement for external storage for vehicles and other equipment. Currently this need is satisfied by utilising secure storage at 3 separate locations as a short term solution.

Stakeford and Bomarsund Sports and Social Welfare Centre cannot offer additional community space without building alterations. The external secure storage can be achieved as part of a planned joint venture with the Welfare to improve facilities to support youth activities and senior sports.

**RESOLVED: Members authorised the Parish Clerk to conduct an options appraisal and report back to a future meeting.**

CD&E 012/17

**7. PLAY AREAS.**

The Parish Council was advised that it has legal authority to provide, manage and maintain play areas and currently has responsibility for 6 local play areas. These play areas were previously the responsibility of Wansbeck District Council. On Local Government Reorganisation Northumberland County Council and Northumberland Association of Local Councils suggested in the Local Charter for Northumberland that responsibility for play areas should migrate to local councils. The 'Charter', whilst not a legal contract has been accepted by the Parish Council as a document that should inform decisions of the authority.

The Parish Council has made financial provision for the replacement of all play areas over a period of time and undertaken a condition survey of each play areas. The survey indicates that the replacement programme should be front loaded and members were asked to consider how this could be achieved.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. Members agreed to form a members working group to steer the development of a replacement/improvement plan for play areas and green space at Guide Post Fields and Doorstep Green.**
- 2. The Parish Clerk was asked to prepare financial estimates and outline plans for consideration by members.**

CD&E 013/17

**8. HERITAGE STRATEGY.**

The Parish Clerk reported that the Council has made budget provision for the maintenance and repair of War Memorials and other memorials related to the history of the area and its people. In 2016 the Parish Council resolved to take responsibility for mining memorials, indicating its desire to develop a heritage trail to link our various communities.

It was suggested that a Heritage Strategy will be a useful guide for the future work of the Parish Council and that experience indicates the benefit of appointing a lead member to oversee the development of particular strategic policies.

**RESOLVED: Members agreed to appoint Cllr L Watson**

as the lead member for heritage issues.

CD&E 014/17

**9. LEAD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SPORT.**

Members were requested to consider to nominate a lead member for sport and to ask that member to support and guide the biannual review of the Parish Council's sports policy.

**RESOLVED: Members agreed to appoint Cllr A Iley as the lead member for community sport.**

**Agenda – Part 2. In consideration of Standing Order 46a and because of the special and confidential nature of the business to be conducted members resolved that discussion on the award of grants required the exclusion of press and public.**

CD&E 015/17

**10. CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS FOR GRANTS:**

**RESOLVED: Members agreed to award a grant, not exceeding £50, to the Gloster Society to pay for room hire for their annual show.**

In the absence of any other business to be conducted the meeting closed at 12.15.

Chairman.....

Dated