



Website: <http://www.tillside.uk/>

**Minutes of Tillside Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 9th February 2023
in Chatton Village Hall Commencing at 7pm**

Present: Chairman M Strother,
Parish Councillors: H Prytherch, I Fiddes, R Tebay, J Renner, A MacDonald-Smith,
H Scrivens, & R Ord
County Councillor M Mather
1 member of the public.
Clerk I Hunter

Public Question time: - None

Apologies for Absence: Parish Councillors A Wrangham, I Straughan, I Brown, D Spours, &
T Faa-Thompson
County Councillor C Hardy

Declaration of Interest: None

Request for Dispensation: None

Community Police: The Clerk read out the following report:

No crimes to report on this month, no incidents of anti-social behaviour and no incidents either of vulnerability or that might increase community tension.

There has been some thefts in the wider area in relation to rural crime so the advice is to ensure everyone's security is up to speed and to report anything suspicious via either 101/999 or web submission if appropriate.

Minutes- The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th January 2023 previously circulated were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Any urgent matters arising from the minutes if not already on the agenda-

Min 1906 (Min 1885)-Gateway signage to Chillingham- County Councillor M Mather provided a summary to the previously circulated proposed locations plan. Parish Councillors considered the proposed locations and agreed to support the proposals. Parish Councillors gave a vote of thanks to County Councillor M Mather and asked him to progress the works.

Min 1907- Website- Parish Councillors agreed the payment of the annual website fee invoice of £79.06 to a resident.

Min 1908- Financial Statement

- Bank Balance £ 29722.19

Including £2K for Covid -19 Contingency fund
£9K play equipment funding.

Min 1909- Accounts

Receipt

- Chatton Village Hall £ 160.00 50% share of bench at Chatton V Hall

Payments

- E I Hunter £ 96.00 Clerk's February Salary
- HMRC £ 24.00 PAYE February
- E I Hunter £ 8.36 Expenses
- Resident £ 79.06 Annual website fee

Min 1910- Chatton Village Hall- Parish Councillor I Fiddes provided the following updates:

- The Village Hall Committee had met with Louise Currie of CAN on 1st February about possible funding. We will undertake the refurbishment of the kitchen and toilets in phases, as well as look into accessibility.
 - The Village Hall Committee attended a meeting at Ellingham Village Hall on 24th January in relation to grant funding for play areas.
 - We are organising an accessibility report.
 - The gym fees will be increased by £1 and we are setting up a Friends of Chatton Village Hall which will raise additional funding.
 - The roof of the Village Hall had been assessed and there are ongoing issues.
 - The installation works for the new playground will commence in the spring.
 - We are looking for a volunteer/s who could collate digital local memories as part of a heritage project.
 - Chatton Village Hall Committee are applying for a licence for the building which will save individual hirers having to apply for a licence.
 - Chatton Village Hall Committee are looking into possible VAT registration.
- The Clerk advised the meeting that the Chatton Village Hall Treasurer had asked for confirmation on predicted grass cutting costs in 2023. Parish Councillors agreed that the estimated grass cutting costs for 2023 could be up to £600 for both the Parish Council & Chatton Village Hall. The Clerk agreed to update Chatton Village Hall Treasurer.

Min 1911- Correspondence

- **NCC-** Invite for locations for EV Chargers. Parish Councillors agreed not to make any suggestions.
- **NCC-** Revised Local Charter
- **Belford PC-** Request to support a letter to the MP to lobby for dualling of the A1. Parish Councillors debated this request and agreed by a majority vote to support a letter on safety grounds and to hopefully reduce the level of HGV's etc using the A697.
- **NCC-** Dog control in public spaces protection order- Notice of extension
- **NCC-** Sea-changers Coastal Fountain Fund 2023- £2.5K towards installing a fountain.

Min 1912- Public footpaths & Rights of Ways

- Parish Councillors considered the annual report prepared by a volunteer.

- Parish Councillors agreed the Chairman to contact the landowner of the footpath which is still impassable following storm Arwen.
- Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk contact the volunteer thanking him for his annual report, stating the Parish Council is contacting the landowner and Northumberland County Council Footpath's Officer in relation to the blocked footpath.

Min 1913- Projects- Parish Councillor I Fiddes provided the following update on the benches:

- Chillingham Wild Cattle Association bench is currently undercover in the bandstand.
- There are still 2 benches outstanding which will be made from sycamore wood.
- County Councillor M Mather agreed to add £250 to his £2K contribution towards the Chillingham signage project to cover a contribution towards 1 bench. Parish Councillors thanked County Councillor M Mather.
- Parish Councillors agreed they hoped County Councillor C Hardy would consider a contribution towards 1 bench.

Min 1914- Playground Group

- The Chairman reported that the Northumberland County Council monitoring form had been completed, submitted and approved.
- Parish Councillor H Prytherch advised the meeting that a go funding page had been set up to fill the funding gap to allow the project to be completed, and encouraged everybody to share the link. The Clerk agreed to ask for this to be placed on the website.

Min 1915- Consultation- County Councillor M Mather gave a brief update on the Phase 2 Consultation on Education in the Berwick Partnership, concluding by saying people need to respond to the consultation. Parish Councillors agreed the Parish Council would not submit a response, however, individually Parish Councillors may complete the consultation.

Min 1916- County Councillor updates- County Councillor M Mather provided the following updates:

- I will be attending a site meeting with the Northumberland County Council Bridges Officer at Chatton Bridge on 10th February.
- The repairs to Lilburn Bridge may take some time as it is not straight forward and the current estimate is £180k.
- The Northumberland County Council budget for 2023/24 is not proposing any cuts to frontline services.
- There is a boundary review ongoing looking into the County Councillor divisions.
- The Town & Parish Council conference in Alnwick on 16th January was not well attended from Parish Councils in North Northumberland, the main concerns raised were in relation to highways.
- During the recent bad weather spell Northumberland County Council were gritting 23 hours per day. I have asked what could be done better.
- Please continue to report potholes through the report page on Northumberland County Council website.
- Northumberland County Council has 3 priorities, value for money, inequalities as well as growth & jobs.

Min 1917- Annual Audit 2022/23

- Parish Councillors agreed Mr E Rathbone as the Internal Auditor for the 2022/23 Parish Council Accounts
- Parish Councillors undertook the annual review of the Asset Register and agreed it was up to date.

Min 1918- Chatton News- Parish Councillors agreed the following to be included in the next edition of the Chatton News:

- Benches update.
- Chillingham signs, Parish Councillors have agreed locations etc.

Any Other Urgent Business.

Min 1919- Chatton War Memorial- Parish Councillor I Fiddes advised the meeting that the War Memorial needs repointing, and the surrounding paving needs attention. The Chairman agreed to make contact with an appropriate Stonemason to obtain a quote. The Clerk confirmed the Parish Council are required to obtain 3 quotes if the works are £500 +.

Min 1920- Village Green- The Chairman informed the meeting that he had a large stone which if permission is received could be placed on the Chatton village green, it could be ground out to take a Christmas tree, also a Stonemason could carve the stone with the Tillside emblem.
Parish Councillors agreed the Clerk contact Northumberland Estates to see if they would grant permission.
Parish Councillors to receive an update at the April meeting.

Min 1921- Parish Councillor vacancy- The Chairman informed the meeting that somebody may be interested in filling the current Parish Councillor vacancy. Parish Councillors agreed the Chairman ask the person to submit an application to join the Parish Council and make them aware they would be representing Lilburn ward.

Min 1922- Allotments- Parish Councillor H Scrivens advised the meeting that she had attended the Allotment group's AGM earlier tonight, and members had asked when the fence will be completed, as they have hedging plants which they would like to plant. The Chairman agreed to speak to the volunteer who was leading on this work.
H Scrivens advised the meeting she had also been asked about the condition of the footpath in this area, as people with wheelchairs & buggies would struggle to use the footpath. Parish Councillors debated this matter, and agreed the footpath had been installed by volunteers at no cost to the Parish Council. Parish Councillors agreed Parish Councillor H Prytherch check the footpath the next day, and the Clerk contact Northumberland County Council Footpath's Officer to check the liability of unregistered footpaths.

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting: 13th April 2023.

Chairman _____ Date _____

Ch's Initials _____