

Bowness-on-Solway Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 11th November 2015 in the Bower at Port Carlisle at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Councillors: Graham (Chair), Carruthers, Harrington, Hinks, Hodgson, Hutton, Knowles, Reay and Wills.

Public attendance: Mr R Howard, Mrs D Ellis-Jones, Mrs L Laval

Clerk: M Abbs

1.1 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest.

The clerk reported apologies from PCSO P Nichol and County Councillor Markley.

Declarations of interest were made by the following in respect of the items shown:

Cllr Hinks items 5.5.5.9, 6.2.4 and 6.2.5

Cllr Harrington 5.5

Cllr Reay 5.5

REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

The clerk to report any requests received since the previous meeting for dispensations to speak and/or vote on any matter where a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.

An on-going dispensation is in force in respect of the precept.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations by elected and co-opted members of interests in respect of items on this agenda.

Members are reminded that, in accordance with the revised Code of Conduct, they are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or other registrable interests which have not already been declared in the Council's Register of Interests. (It is a criminal offence not to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest either in the Register or at the meeting.)

Members may, however, also decide, in the interests of clarity and transparency, to declare at this point in the meeting, any such disclosable pecuniary interests which they have already declared in the Register, as well as any other registrable or other interests.

If a Member requires advice on any item involving a possible declaration of interest which could affect his/her ability to speak and/or vote, he/she is advised to contact the clerk at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

2 Minutes (previously circulated)

2.1 To approve the draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th September 2015 – **approved and signed.**

3 Report on action taken

3.1 Report on action by members of the Council

No matters were reported.

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3.2 Report from the clerk

The clerk explained that the printer he uses had required some attention and may require replacement in the near future.

Cllr Wills arrived.

3.3 Public participation (at the Chairman's discretion)

Mrs Laval and Mrs Ellis Jones addressed the meeting concerning the letter that had been sent to the Parish Council concerning the magazine. (see item 5.13). The magazine committee are keen to establish a link with the Council and to obtain news reports with a view to publishing contemporaneous articles. It was felt that many residents were not aware of the local Councillor and they are keen to publish an up to date listing. The clerk and the Chairman confirmed that some minutes were now available online via the CALC website. The Chairman thanked them for their contribution.

Borough Cllr Hodgson then addressed the meeting.

He had been contacted by Mr P Haley of Allerdale BC concerning bonfire residues on the marsh at Bowness. He believed that more sensitive management of the Event may be required in future. There had been flooding on the road near Glasson and he understood that County Cllr Markley was addressing this issue. There had also been a problem with dog fouling in Glasson about which the dog warden had been consulted.

The siting of the dog faeces bin and dispenser at Bowness was still a problem and Cllr Knowles confirmed that he would work with him on this to provide a solution.

An update was given on the proposed Water Level Management Board with new ways forward being considered. An announcement was expected in the New Year.

Cllr Carruthers asked Cllr Hodgson if old traffic signs at Glasson would be removed following the installation of new ones. She also requested a grit bin at Low Flow and Cllr Knowles requested that the situation concerning the grit bin at Bowness School be checked. Cllr Hodgson confirmed that he would investigate.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Hodgson for his contribution.

Cllr Hodgson and Mrs Ellis-Jones and Mrs Laval then left the meeting.

4 Correspondence

To review correspondence received and take any appropriate action.

4.1 Rural Payments Agency and H&H Land and Property – Latest Commons Information.

The clerk provided details of the correspondence which was **noted without action**.

4.2 Natural England – planned work update.

The clerk provided details of the correspondence which informed the Council that the planned work was being suspended for the time being pending further investigations - **noted**.

4.3 NFU – Update on the Proposed Water Level Management Board for the Waver.

Cllr Hodgson had provided Cllrs with a full update on the situation earlier in the meeting – see item 3.3

4.4 Natural England – Improvements to public access along the coast: Gretna to Allonby – initial conclusions.

The clerk provided details of the correspondence which was **noted without action**.

5 New business

5.1 To receive Community reports.

Cllr Graham reported on the installation of the seat in memory of Ms G Walton at the Banks in Bowness and Cllr Hinks reported in the successful bazar held at the Lindow Hall.

5.2 Police Report.

The clerk gave the report. – **noted**.

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5.3 Grass Cutting tenders for 2016 season. Discussion and appointment of contractor.

Mr Howard volunteered to leave the room for this item.

The discussion began with consideration of the four submitted tenders for grass cutting. Following discussion the tender from Colvilles Grounds Maintenance was **accepted**. The clerk was instructed to write accordingly to the contractors. Cllrs confirmed that any issues that arose between meetings should be referred to the clerk as soon as possible to enable him to take the required action.

Mr Howard re-joined the meeting.

5.4 Donation to British Legion Poppy Appeal.

A donation of £50 was **agreed** in accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. The expenditure, in the opinion of the council, being in the interest of the area and its inhabitants.

5.5 Request from the Lindow Hall for £400 towards the cost of provision of toilet facilities.

Cllrs who had declared an interest played no part for the following item.

The remaining Cllrs discussed and **agreed** the request.

5.6 Connecting Cumbria Broadband update.

The clerk provided details of the correspondence which was **noted without action**.

5.7 Footway and Conservation/Heritage Lighting - Current situation and discussion of any required action.

The clerk advised that the recently installed light, and those in some neighbouring Parishes, had not yet been connected and he was pursuing this with the Borough Council.

The lighting situation in Port Carlisle raised at the last meeting by Mr Howard was discussed. It was **agreed** that the clerk should contact the Authority concerning a light near the Playground and in addition draw attention to the generally poor state of lighting in the village.

5.8 Nuclear Waste correspondence and Issues, including CALC latest.

The clerk provided details of the correspondence concerning a recent meeting which was **noted without action**.

5.9 70 Plus Committee – donation and request for support for 2015.

Cllr Hinks played no part in the following item.

A donation of £200 was **agreed** in accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. The expenditure, in the opinion of the council, being in the interest of the area and its inhabitants.

5.10 Parish benches update on installation and possible decision on additional purchase.

The clerk updated Cllrs on the situation concerning the installation of the two benches. The estimate of £312 including VAT from Chris Turner Fencing Services having been **accepted** under the Council's Standing Order procedure. The clerk was aware that work had commenced and would alert Cllrs as soon as he was aware of the completion of the installation. Cllrs were asked to consider the sites where bench replacement was next required. Cllr Hinks would provide information to the clerk from Mr Hinks to assist with this decision. – **noted**.

5.11 Co-option of new Cllrs to fill existing vacancies.

Consideration and discussion of applicants and possible decision.

The clerk had previously circulated the letter of application from Ms Claire Bradshaw. Following its consideration and discussion it was **agreed** with the required majority that Ms Bradshaw be co-opted to the Council. The clerk was instructed to inform Ms Bradshaw and arrange for the completion of the legally required paperwork.

The clerk advised that the prospective candidate from Anthorn, following comprehensive investigation of the legislation with Democratic Services at Allerdale BC and CALC, did not currently meet the eligibility criteria. – **noted**.

5.12 Consideration of grant application from Anthorn Sports Club/Tennis Club.

The clerk updated Cllrs on the latest communication from Mrs Dugdale, providing details of the grant funding obtained and fund raising activities to date and the current shortfall. In response to the appeal for funding Cllrs **agreed** to providing a grant of £2000 to be used solely towards the resurfacing work.

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5.13 Letter from the St Michael's Church magazine committee concerning the preparation of the 'short report'.

The received letter was discussed and it was **agreed** that the clerk should provide Draft Minutes to the magazine editor as soon as practicable following the meeting. The consultation procedure proposed by the magazine committee would then be followed prior to publication.

5.14 Transparency Code and Audit arrangements update and discussion of any required action.

The clerk confirmed that the Council was making good progress towards compliance with a number of documents now being available online via CALC.

5.15 North West Ambulance Service – Defibrillator request for co-operation.

The clerk reminded Cllrs of the details which had been circulated prior to the meeting. He pointed out that he was not aware of Allerdale BC having made a decision on the outstanding planning application – see 8.1.1. The information supplied by the NWS raised many questions which would require satisfactory answers before a decision to become involved could be taken. At this point the Council felt that **no action could be taken**.

Cllr Hinks left the meeting.

6 Finance

6.1 Information

6.1.1 To approve accounts and bank statements to 30th September and 31st October 2015 – available at the meeting. – **approved**.

6.1.2 To note ABC Precept Receipt £9392 + CTRS £274.14 =**£9666.14** – **noted**.

6.1.3 **Budget** for 2016/17: see prepared sheet

& therefore **precept request to Allerdale BC for 2016/17**

The clerk explained the latest situation relating to the setting of the Precept and reminded Cllrs of their current financial position. Members then considered the estimates for the rest of this year, and at the same time considered the grants usually paid to parish organisations. Together with the anticipated expenditure for 2016/17 and some allowance for possible contingency, the budget was approved it was agreed unanimously that the precept request for 2016/17 should again be £18784. It was noted that the council may receive further additional support from the Council Tax Reduction Scheme paid by Allerdale Borough Council. The Clerk was authorised to send the precept to Allerdale District Council.

6.2 Payments: to approve the following payments:

6.2.1 Clerk's salary **£620.82** – **approved**.

6.2.2 Clerk's Expenses: post + stationery £9.91, phone £4.00 broadband £10.66, travel 20miles@36p= £7.20 **Total £31.77** – **approved**.

6.2.3 Colville Grounds Maintenance grass cutting invoices (VAT **£189.00**) **£1134.00** – **approved**.

6.2.4 Lindow Hall – provision of toilet facilities. (see item 5.5) **£400.00** – **approved**.

6.2.5 Port Carlisle Village Hall (Mr S Hinks – payment for strimming under benches.) - **£180.00** – **approved**.

7 Highways

Any issues arising.

Cllr Reay raised the matter of the poor condition of the road to Kirkbride near the bowling club. As this was the major route for Bowness Parish residents to travel to Wigton it was **agreed** that the clerk should report this to the Highways Authority. The clerk said that he would also make Kirkbride Parish Council aware of the situation as this section of road lies just within their Parish.

Cllr Hutton asked if a cattle grid had to meet a standard required by the Highways Authority and whether they had to install it. He felt that a cattle grid would be beneficial in Bowness village. The clerk said he would make enquiries and report back at the January meeting.

8 Planning

8.1 Applications outstanding with Allerdale BC

8.1.1 – PB/2015/0037/0003/0041/0042/0043 – Removal of telephone and replacement of defibrillator in phone boxes, Glasson/Drumburgh/Cardurnock/Bowness/Port Carlisle. – **noted**.

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8.2 Applications dealt with under standing order

8.2.1 Cumbria CC - Proposed diversion of Public Footpath No 214012 near Anthorn. (Mr R Irving)

The clerk confirmed that no objections had been raised. – **noted.**

8.2.2 Allerdale BC – Conservation Areas, Supplementary Planning Document.

- the clerk advised that no comments had been submitted. – **noted.**

8.2.3 - Cumbria CC - The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012
Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2014-2029

Regulation 18 Supplementary Sites Consultation.

- the clerk advised that no comments had been submitted. – **noted.**

8.3 Applications decided by Allerdale BC

8.3.1 – 2/2015/0486 Erection of livestock building, Anthorn Farm, Anthorn.

(Mr R.Irving) – permission granted.- **noted.**

8.3.2 – 2/2015/0463 Construction of clay dabbin interpretation centre, RSPB North Plain, Bowness

(Mr C Spencer) – permission granted. – **noted.**

8.3.3 – 2/2015/0501 Proposed new viewing platform, End of access track leading to Glasson Moss Nature Reserve, Port Carlisle. (Mr A Brock – Natural England) - permission granted. – **noted.**

8.4 Applications for discussion by this meeting

None – **Noted.**

9.1 Documents received for comment.

9.1.1 Cumbria CC - Budget Consultation.

No comments were made and the clerk confirmed that the full documentation was viewable online. – **noted.**

9.1.2 Cumbria CC – Health and Wellbeing Consultation.

No comments were passed but the opportunity to do so was **noted.**

9.2 Documents received for information (available on request to clerk)

9.2.1 CALC Circulars for October and November.

9.2.2 Agenda for CALC Annual General Meeting November.

9.2.3 Glasdon product information.

9.2.4 Wicksteed Product Information.

9.2.5 Cumbria CVS AGM in Barrow details.

9.2.6 Allerdale Team Cumbria CC - Funding availability for Rugby League Development.

9.2.7 Allerdale Team Cumbria CC – Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

9.2.8 CALC Annual Report.

9.2.9 G Views Product Information.

All the above were **noted.**

10 Any items of information...

10.1 brought by members

Cllr Reay gave his apologies in advance for the January meeting.

10.2 brought by Borough Councillor

Not present.

10.3 brought by County Councillor

Cllr Hodgson had given his report earlier.

10.4 brought by the clerk

The clerk brought a communication he had received from Aikton PC and Beaty & Co solicitors to the attention of the Council. After examination Cllrs observed that the land in question was in Aikton Parish and the clerk said he would advise the Aikton Clerk accordingly.

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11.1 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13th January 2016 at 7pm at THE BOWER, PORT CARLISLE

11.2 Date of future meeting: Wednesday 9th March 2016 at 7pm at the LINDOW HALL, BOWNESS

The dates were noted and the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.27p.m.