

**Minutes of the meeting of Kaber Parish Council Meeting held on
Monday 5 October 2015 at 19.00 in Kaber Village Hall**

Present: Mary Leathes
Stuart Hird
Sam Fisher
Julie Reeves
Steven Hastwell
Mike Walker Clerk & RFO

Libby Bateman Cumbria County Councillor

Mike Slack

1. **To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence:** Apologies had been received from Eden District Councillors Trevor Ladhams and Val Kendall.
2. **To approve the minutes of the August 2015 meeting:** The clerk pointed out that an error had been corrected in the first paragraph of page 2 which should read “Councillors report ...” Julie Reeves proposed and Steven Hastwell seconded that the minutes be adopted and the Chairman signed them.
3. **To hear reports on actions from the previous minutes:**

The Council is unaware of any progress on Clay Lane, although Libby Bateman informed the Council that Cumbria Highways had been busy on the Tour of Britain route in the last few weeks.

The Clerk had completed the CALC questionnaire on data transparency.

Highway repairs on the south side of the road to Kaber Cross have been completed, although some problems are now becoming apparent on the other side. The Clerk will thank Highways for the work done and suggest that attention may be needed on the north side when they are next in the parish.

Further problems at Duckintree have been reported, but it is not known whether attention has been given to this.

Julie Reeves has enquired of Lonsdale regarding Broadband in the parish with no response as yet. Mike Slack, as a member of the public was permitted to ask about the new cable for Heggarscales. This is for the mandatory provision of telephone lines and will not be fibre optics for broadband. There is significant activity in Eden with cabinets being fitted with fibre optic cabling, but for those villages without cabinets little progress appears to be made. It was pointed out that many villages had concrete slabs covering telephone equipment which were cabinets in many respects, but provision appears to be in the hands of the Lonsdale company. Inclusion of remoter villages such as Kaber may breach state aid rules.

Dates have been submitted for the 2015/16 audit as agreed.

Bushes have been pruned at the village end of Popping Lane to improve visibility.

The Chairman and Clerk produced a letter which was sent to all landowners in Kaber

suggesting that some trees should be allowed to grow in hedges to replace ash trees suffering from ash die-back. No response has been received.

4. **Declarations of Interest on items on the agenda:** No declarations of interest were made by Councillors.
5. **To consider and decide on Requests for Dispensations:** There were no requests for dispensation.
6. **Public Participation:** Mike Slack had attended the meeting to discuss broadband at Heggerscales, and this had been permitted under item 3.
7. **To consider and comment on planning applications if submitted before the meeting:** No planning applications have been received.
8. **To review the position on a replacement Clerk for 2016:** The Chairman reported that Janice Woolley does not feel that she can commit to taking over as Parish Clerk in 2016. Options to find a replacement Clerk were discussed. Council agreed to circulate all houses in the parish to give residents the first chance to take on this role. The Clerk agreed to draft a letter asking if there was any interest and Councillors would distribute them. It was agreed that a deadline of 31 October should be set. If this proved negative, then advertisements could be placed via CALC, in The Way, and in the KS Community Newsletter. There is also the possibility of asking existing Clerks in other parishes if they would be willing to take on the additional role. It was noted that an increase in remuneration might be necessary to attract candidates
9. **To decide on registration for a pension scheme:** Following distribution of information about the NEST scheme set up for the auto-enrolment process, Julie Reeves proposed and Stuart Hird seconded that Kaber Parish Council should register with NEST and Council agreed that the Clerk should proceed.
10. **To note the letter from EDC about Council Tax Reduction Scheme:** The Clerk read out a letter regarding the CTRS highlighting that the payment is estimated to be £1 lower for 2016. This was noted by the Parish Council.
11. **To receive feedback on Brough Show:** The 2015 show had again been successful with fractionally increased attendance. No problems were encountered in the village.
12. **To note the proposed meeting regarding the impact of the Appleby Horse Fair on the A685 and agree participation:** The meeting of parishes along the A685 will be held on 14 October and the Chairman agreed to attend to represent views of Kaber Parish.
13. **Consideration of future issues in Kaber:** There were no matters raised which were not already being considered by the Council.

- 14. To hear input from Eden District Council and Cumbria County Council:**
Libby Bateman raised the consultation being held in Kirkby Stephen regarding the move of the Post Office from The Emporium to The Posy, with increased opening hours. Councillors were encouraged to respond to this consultation.

There were no reports from Eden District Council.

- 15. To review Sundry Correspondence and agree any action:**
Kirkby Stephen and Upper Eden Newsletters were received and distributed to Councillors.
CALC has sent the following communications:
- October newsletter
 - Invitation to the CALC AGM on 14 November 2015
 - Revised NALC briefings on Public Contracts, Health & Safety, Occupiers Liability, Legal Proceedings and Procurement.
 - NALC Consultation on a National Training Strategy
 - Information on a Good Neighbour Scheme was put on the village hall noticeboard.
- 16. To consider any items to be raised at the next Council meeting:** It was agreed that the following items should be included in the next Council meeting:
- a. To follow up actions to identify a new Parish Clerk
 - b. To Agree a budget for 2016 to 2017
 - c. To Fix the Precept for 2016
- 17. To decide a date for the next Parish Council Meeting:** The next meeting of Kaber Parish Council will be held on Monday 23 November 2015 at 1900 in Kaber Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 20.15