



Colton Parish Council

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Clerk: Ms Mandy Lane
Lilac Cottage
Oxen Park
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The following are the minutes of the Colton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 23rd February 2009 in Rusland Reading Room at 7.30p.m..

Members Present: Cllr Barr (Chair) Cllr Cunliffe Cllr Robinson Cllr Fishwick Cllr Watson Cllr Dean
Ms M Lane (Clerk)

Also present: 1 member of the public.

16. Apologies

Cllr Harrington Cllr Lovegrove Cllr Potts Cllr Walsh (CCC) Cllr Davies (SLDC)

ACTION

17. Minutes of Last Meeting

It was resolved that the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th January 2009 as a true record.

18. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by members in respect of items on this agenda.

19. Update on Issues and Actions from Last Meeting

The following action reports were received and noted:

- Bouth Playground inspections: The Clerk confirmed that the Council and its volunteers were covered for public liability and, on this basis, weekly inspections of the playground by volunteers in Bouth had begun, organised by Cllr Lovegrove. The Clerk had prepared guidelines and inspection forms. Any defects would be reported to the Chairman of the Bouth Village Green Advisory Committee, Mr R Smith. Mr Smith asked that a check of the electricity mains box be added to the inspection form, as this had recently been damaged. **Clerk**
- Speed Limits at Spark Bridge: Cumbria Highways had responded explaining that speed limit signs would remain where originally planned for maximum visibility and to ensure that motorists took notice. They tended to be ignored if located too far from a village centre.
- Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) update: Documents for the 2nd consultation phase had been received showing Colton included in Grange and Cartmel LAP, with a questionnaire to be completed by 9th April. Cllr Barr had responded explaining that Colton had not been formally consulted about its LAP 'membership' and was awaiting further information on LAP objectives before deciding. Cllrs Barr and Dean would attend a CALC Conference on Locality Working in South Lakeland (28th Feb); Cllrs Barr and Dean had attended a 'pre-conference meeting' of local parishes called by Blawith PC. Colton's LAP working group (Cllrs Barr, Dean and Fishwick) would meet shortly and make recommendations to the Council's 30th March meeting. **Clerk**
- Parish Plan: A first meeting of the Parish Plan Working Group is being arranged during March at which Clive Wickham, LDNPA Community Enabler will be present. **Clerk**
- Affordable Housing: In the absence of Cllr Potts, a report was deferred until the next meeting.

20. Public Participation

A member of the public raised the following issues:

- i) Local Area Partnerships: Concern that LAPs would mean more work for the Clerk and in his view funds should come from government rather than the parish precept. Cllr Barr said that this issue was frequently raised at meetings with principal authorities and he would keep an eye on developments.
- ii) Litter: The monthly clean-up by SLDC at Bouth road ends should be extended to Tottlebank. **Clerk**
- iii) Drains: The drains from Bouth to Longmire required cleaning and the road sweeping of leaves that constantly clog drains. The Clerk would follow this up. **Clerk**

21. Comments from District and County Councillors

None present.

22. Accounts

- The following payments were approved:
 - Cheque 000439: Clerk's annual website allowance - **£370.00**
 - Cheque 000440: Clerk's travel expenses Apr 08 - Feb 09 - **£133.84**
 - Cheque 000441: Clerk's annual office allowance (heating, telephone): **£150.00**
 - Cheque 000442: Clerk's salary for 3rd quarter (Oct-Dec) FY 08/09 - **£514.88**
 - Cheque 000443: Cllr Fishwick travel to Kendal funding fair, 20/11/08: **£16.00**
 - Cheque 000444: Cllr Harrington travel to CALC meeting 4/9/08 - **£9.60**
 - Cheque 000445: Cllr Cunliffe travel to NF meeting, Urswick, 2/2/09 - **£8.00**
 - Cheque 000446: Cllr Barr travel Apr 08 - Feb 09 - **£104.00**
 - Cheque 000447: C. Slater - Lengthsman's salary for Jan 09 - **£308.00**
- The quarterly bank reconciliation (Oct - Dec 08) was approved (*attached*)
- To following cheque received was noted:
 - Cumbria County Council grant for Parish Lengthsman for 08/09 - **£800.00**

23. Planning

- The following responses to planning applications were noted:
 - 7/2009/5011 - Tom Crag Farm, Finsthwaite: Alterations to ground and first floor. *No objections.*
 - 7/2009/5031 - Old Hall Cottage, High Nibthwaite: Alterations and extension including change of use of garage to living accommodation. *No objections.*
 - 7/2009/5032 - Water Park, High Nibthwaite: Extension to provide store and workshop. *No objections.*
 - 7/2009/5033 - Water Park, High Nibthwaite: Building to house teaching, changing and storage facilities including removal of existing temporary structures. *No objections.*
- The following grants of planning permission were noted:
 - 7/2008/5619 - Rusland Hall: replacement greenhouse.
 - 7/2008/5480 - Abbot Park, Bandrake Head: Change of use of agricultural land to campsite, including building for toilets/showers/storage. Granted with condition tents only.

24. Highways

- Flooding: Most flooding maps had been sent in to Cllr Lovegrove. The Highway Steward had tackled some problems, including that at Tanyards, Rusland. The Clerk would prepare a list of flooding locations and work completed for putting on the website. Cllr Robinson reported that Mr Crowe at Rusland had spoken to Cumbria Highways who had told him that engineering work would be done at Tanyards in April. The Clerk would follow this up. **Clerk**
- Salt/Grit: Letters of complaint about lack of salt/grit had been sent Rob Lawley of Cumbria Highways by Cllr Barr for Colton and by Satterthwaite PC for local parishes. Replies had been received promptly. Mr Lawley would speak to Colton at its Parish Council meeting on 22nd June. He had also offered a proposal to make the Penny Bridge to Hawkshead road a 'priority 2' route for salting. Two new salt bins were in position at Rusland and Bent Hawes, and damaged bins at Lakeside and Oxen Park had been reported.
- Unclassified Country Roads: Tim Farron MP had written enclosing a letter received from Mr Peter Stybelski (Chief Exec., CCC) in response to his enquiry about the poor condition of UCRs in Colton. This letter did not begin to address Colton's concerns and seemed to contain much mis-information, including the statement that Colton's roads did not 'show any defects which breach the inspection guidelines'. No response had yet been received to Colton's own letter to Cumbria Highways sent in June 2008. Cllr Barr would follow this up. **Cllr Barr**
- Parish and Highway Stewards: In the absence of Cllr Lovegrove, reports were deferred until the next meeting.

Three roads in Colton were to be 'surface dressed' during the summer: Finsthwaite-Backbarrow, Colton Hill and Cappy Lane, and Little Mill - Tottlebank Wood. Cllr Cunliffe was concerned about the damage done to Colton Hill during tarmac repairs; he would contact the Hotline. **Cllr Cunliffe**

25. Green Issues

Ways of encouraging 'greener living' in Colton were discussed. The Parish Plan was suggested as a suitable vehicle for this issue. Cllr Fishwick reminded the Council that matched-funding grants were available for 'Community Waste Prevention'. Colton could campaign for change on issues like environmentally friendly developments, the lack of commercial recycling, and non-collection of rubbish in wrong bins at holiday lets. Cllr Barr would draft a webpage. **Cllr Barr**

26. Consultations

The following new consultations were considered and a response agreed:

- LDNPA: Yewbarrow Woods: conversion of permitted path to footpath. Resolved to support.
- LDNPA: Bluebird Project: Proposal for new byelaw expressly for Bluebird K7 speed trials up to 100mph on Coniston Water. More information about frequency of trials was requested. **Clerk**

27. Reports of Meetings

• The following meeting reports were received:

- Forestry Commission: Bessy Bank Wood Development Plan 22nd Jan: The Clerk and Cllr Robinson had attended. The overall plan was to remove all conifer species and return to native broadleaves only. A request from the Clerk for maintaining some of the larch for biodiversity and landscape reasons was accepted and also supported by the LDNPA ecologist. A request for a permitted path through Arkliid Intake was received positively.
- Grange and Cartmel Community Board, 3rd February: Cllr Barr had attended. Nick Raymond (Area Engineer for S.Lakeland) explained that a revised schedule for Highway Stewards (HS) would mean more frequent but shorter visits to parishes. Electronic reports from the HS computer system would be available soon. SLDC had appointed a 'Empty Housing Officer' to liaise with owners about letting for local housing. LDNPA grants for village hall improvement were available; Bouth VH was mentioned as a likely recipient.

• The following forthcoming meetings were noted and attendance agreed:

- CALC Conference on Locality Working, 28th Feb, Kendal - Cllrs Barr and Dean to attend
- Open Space Protection training day, 11th March, Penrith - Clerk to attend

28. Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted:

CALC

- CALC Conference for South Lakeland Parishes, Sat 28th Feb
- CALC South Lakeland District Committee meeting, 5th March - Agenda and minutes of last meeting.
- CALC Circular Feb 2009
- "Duty to Involve" legislation for County and District Councils - info and seminars
- Invitation to nominate person (a long-serving outgoing Chairman) to attend Royal Garden Party, 7th July.
- Reminder about Land Registry presentations at CALC meeting on 5th March - registration of council-owned land.

CCC

- Letter to Cumbria Highways from Colton PC re salt/grit, and response from Mr Rob Lawley.
- Letter to Cumbria Highways from 4 parishes re salt/grit.
- Response from Rob Lawley
- Second Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 - 2008 Progress Report
- Grange and Cartmel Community Board meeting, 3rd Feb - Agenda and minutes of last meeting
- High Furness Neighbourhood Forum Agenda for 28th Jan
- Cumbria Highways - notification of road closures for surface dressing during summer 2009. (3 roads in Colton parish.)
- Grange and Cartmel Community Board - minutes of meeting on 3rd Feb, plus info on 'Investing in Communities' grants.

SLDC

- 'Single Equality Scheme' and 'Places of Worship and Faith and Belief Groups in South Cumbria'.

LDNPA

- Yewbarrow Woods permitted path - consultation on conversion to public footpath. **Respond by 28th Feb**
- Bluebird Project: Consultation on whether to allow powered trials (up to 100mph) for rebuilt Bluebird on Coniston. **Respond by 31st March** Workshop to discuss proposal to be held on 24th March, 7.00 Coniston Institute
- LDNPA Core Strategy - Minerals & Waste Preferred options Report - available on [www.lake-district.gov.uk/ldf Stage 1 Report of consultation](http://www.lake-district.gov.uk/ldf/Stage%201%20Report%20of%20consultation)
- Invitation to seek advice from Clive Wickham 'Community Enabler' on our new Parish Plan.
- Notification of change of parish areas for LDNP Rangers - (no change for Colton - remains Tony Hill)
- Notification of Malcolm Wilson Rally, 7th March and closure of rights of way in Grizedale.

Cumbria CVS and ACT (new name for VAC!)

- Cumbria CVS News Feb/March 2009

Other

- Tim Farron MP - Advice Surgeries notice - Jan-Jul 2009
- Joint letter from parishes on lack of salt/grit at beginning of December

- Rural Services Network - free access to web resources. Invitation to register
- The Charity Bank - loans for not-for-profit organisations.
- STOP campaign (Stribers wind farm) newsletter
- Mencap - request for donation
- Forestry Commission - Conservation Statement for Old Hall Wood, Bouth
- Clerks and Councils Direct newsletter & yearbook - Jan 2009
- Cumbria CVS news - Jan/Feb 09
- Cumbria Rural Housing Trust - invitation to visit community land trust in Northumberland, 25th Feb
- Coniston Parish Council - Agenda for 19th Jan and minutes of last meeting
- Update on X12 bus service discussions
- Coniston PC suggesting a CALC Conference Preliminary meeting on 19th Feb at Blawith.
- Letter from Rural Services Online re community involvement
- Malcolm Wilson Rally - 7th March 2009 - notification.
- BDO Stoy Hayward - Local Council Briefing for Audit, 2009.
- Copy of letter from parishioner, John Withers (Thwaite Head) to Cumbria County Council about gritting.
- Coniston Parish Council - Agenda for 16th Feb and minutes of last meeting
- Border DigitalUK - information about digital switchover for Border TV customers
- Satterthwaite Parish Council - minutes of 12th Jan and Agenda for 23rd Feb

29. Date of Next Meeting

- The next meeting was confirmed as a Parish Open Meeting followed by a Parish Council Meeting on Monday 30th March 2009 in Finsthwaite Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.