



Colton Parish Council

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The following are the minutes of the Annual Colton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th May 2009 in Bouth Village Hall at 7.30p.m..

Members Present: Cllr Barr (Chair) Cllr Lovegrove Cllr Potts Cllr Dean Cllr Robinson Cllr Watson
Ms M Lane (Clerk)

Also present: Cllr Davies(SLDC) and 2 members of the public

44. Election of Chair for Council Year 2009/2010

Cllr Barr was elected Chair for 2009/2010

ACTION

45. Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Barr signed the declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chair.

46. Election of Vice-chair for Council Year 2009/2010

Cllr Potts was elected Vice-chair for 2009/2010

47. Vice-chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Potts signed the declaration of Acceptance of Office of Vice-chair

48. Apologies

- Apologies received from: Cllr Cunliffe (holiday) Cllr Fishwick (working) Cllr Walsh(CCC)
- Resignation: Cllr Harrington (*see item 59*)

49. Minutes of Last Meeting

It was resolved that the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 30th March 2009 as a true record.

50. Changes to Register of Members' Interests

Councillors present checked and recorded any changes in financial and other interests.

51. Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies and Internal Working Groups

It was resolved that the following be appointed as representatives to outside bodies for 2009/2010:

Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC)	Cllr Dean (reserve: Cllr Barr)
Local Area Partnerships/Community Board	Cllr Barr (reserve: Cllr Dean)
Highways Liaison (Cumbria Highways)	Cllr Lovegrove
Grizedale Project Consultative Group	Cllr Robinson
Low Furness Neighbourhood Forum	Cllr Cunliffe
Rusland Valley Informal Liaison Group	Cllr Barr, Cllr Robinson
Rusland Reading Room Committee	Cllr Robinson
Finsthwaite and Lakeside Village Hall	<i>decision deferred to next meeting</i>
Coniston Water Association	<i>decision deferred to next meeting</i>

It was resolved that the following members be appointed to internal Working Groups:

Affordable Housing Working Group	Cllrs Potts (Chair), Barr, Lovegrove
Bouth Village Green & Playground Advisory Committee	Cllr Lovegrove
Newsletter Working Group	Cllrs Potts (Chair), Barr, Lovegrove
Community Plan Working Group	Cllrs Fishwick, Barr, Lovegrove
Standards Working Group	Cllrs Barr, Dean, Lovegrove
Website Support Group	Cllr Barr
Finance and Budget Working Group	Cllrs Dean, Potts, Fishwick, Barr

52. Declarations of Interest

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

53. Update on Issues and Actions from Last Meeting

- Query over publication of County's balance sheet: Cllr Walsh was unable to be present, so this item was deferred until the next meeting.

54. Public Participation

No items were raised by members of the public.

55. Comments from District and County Councillors

- Cllr Davies gave a summary of his activities during the year. He had resigned from the SLDC Planning Committee as his ward lay entirely within the LDNPA jurisdiction. There was a possibility that he might be able to join the LDNPA Planning Committee should a place become available. He had joined the SLDC 'Resources, Overview and Scrutiny Committee' and was also about to join the 'Housing Policy Advisory Group', the 'Audit and Governance Committee' and the 'Access and Services Group'.

56. Accounts

- The following payments were approved:
 - Cheque 000454: Armers, Leece - Bouth Village Green hedge-trimmer service: **£70.72**
 - Cheque 000455: C.Slater (Lengthsman) salary for March 09: **£308.00**
- The following receipts were noted:
 - SLDC: Precept for 09/10: **£9024.00**
- The balance sheet for 2008/2009 was approved and signed.
- The annual audit arrangements were received and noted
- The quotation for insurance cover from Zurich Municipal was approved subject to confirmation over acceptability for monthly inspections to be carried out by volunteers.

Clerk

57. Planning

Responses submitted to planning applications were noted as follows:

- 7/2009/5100 The Syke, Rusland - Refurbishment/alteration of farm building into stable/dairy. Replacement of craft building, including office and farm shop. *No objection.*

58. Bouth Village Green and Playground

Mr John Osborne read the Bouth Village Green and Playground Advisory Committee (BVGPA) annual report for 2008/2009. Mr Roderick Smith had resigned from the Chair after 34 years on the Committee and 20 as Chair. Cllr Barr expressed thanks on behalf of the Council for his many years of service to Bouth Village Green. The officers of the BVGPAC were listed as follows: Mr John Osborne (Chair), Mr David Hammer (Vice-chair), Cllr Lovegrove (Secretary), Mrs S Dean (Book-keeper).

59. Vacancy in East Ward

Cllr Barr reported that Cllr Harrington had decided to resign due to ill-health. Cllr Barr expressed thanks on behalf of the Council for his hard work and commitment. The Clerk explained that a vacancy notice would be placed on all notice boards for the statutory 14 days within which a bye-election could be claimed should 10 electors request one. If no bye-election was called, then the place could be filled by co-option at the next meeting.

Clerk

60. Highways

- Additional Parish Council meeting on Off-road Vehicles & Unclassified Country Roads:

The Cumbria Countryside Access Partnership (CCAP) had been set up in 2008 to bring together Cumbria County Council and both National Parks to agree policy and action plans on countryside access. The Clerk reported that information on the CCAP had been disappointingly difficult to find and it was not clear how it interacted with Parish Councils.

It was resolved that the additional Parish Council meeting would:

- Address the two separate but related items of: i) Responsibility for repairs to Colton's unmetalled UCRs, and ii) Behaviour of off-road vehicle-users.
- Focus specifically on problems within Colton Parish.
- Include invited representatives to attend as follows:
 - CCAP - Maintenance Task Group (Chair David Gibson, CCC)
 - CCAP - Motor-Propelled Vehicles (MPV) Sub-group (Chair: Steve Pighills, Cumbria Trail-riders Fellowship)
 - Tony Hill - LDNPA Ranger for Colton area
 - John Atkinson - Local farmer and National Trust representative on Lakes Local Access Forum and CCAP MPV sub-group.

- PC John Baldwin (Local Community Police Officer)
- Local MP (Tim Farron)'s office
- Representative from Cumbria Highways
- Include representatives from neighbouring parishes invited to 'listen-in'.
- Seek to clarify how Parish Councils were to be represented at and informed about CCAP activities.

The Clerk would first write to the two CCAP groups

Clerk

Cllr Barr reported that he had replied to Tim Farron MP concerning the unhelpful response on the state of Colton's UCRs from Cumbria County Council's Chief Executive, with some specific questions to be asked about responsibilities and repair.

- Parish Steward (Lengthsman) Funding: £1500 had been allocated for the Parish Steward in 2009/2010. No indication had yet been received of any further funding from County for this financial year. Colton's allocation could pay for only 5 months of Mr Slater's usual 4 days per month of work. It was proposed and resolved that Mr Slater would be asked to work at the rate of 2 days per month for the time being. Cllr Lovegrove would liaise with Mr Slater and confirm this arrangement.

**Cllr
Lovegrove**

Cllr Fishwick would be asked to look into possible grant opportunities.

**Cllr
Fishwick**

61. Consultations

- Responses to the following consultations were noted:
 - Commission for Rural Communities' Uplands Inquiry: Cllr Barr explained that the short notice for this submission (3 weeks, including Easter) meant that he had decided to hold meeting of local farmers in particular to gather information and opinion. Cllr Robinson had also been present. A response had been submitted, to be circulated on request.
 - Local Area Partnerships questionnaire: submitted according to resolution of last meeting.
 - Amey-Mouchel Roundabout at Greenodd: supported with safety concerns as discussed at last meeting.
- Feedback had been received from the LDNPA on Colton's response to the Local Development Framework Core Strategies proposals.
- The following new consultation was noted:
 - LDNPA: Developing Core Strategy Policies (by 5th June): In view of the short notice, it was agreed that Cllr Barr would liaise with Cllr Fishwick and make a submission.

Cllr Barr

62. Reports of Meetings

- The following meeting reports were received:
 - Community Open Spaces (COS) Training Day (11th March, Clerk attended): Key points included: i) the complexity of COS law: advised strongly not to pursue legal channels when disagreements arise - just get community agreement: "know the law and help people understand it", ii) The Land Registry is the only ultimate proof of land ownership: if not registered, ownership can be claimed through squatter's rights, iii) Village Greens and Common Land are mutually exclusive classifications - their status is registered with the County Commons Registration Office. Various laws and regulations apply to both concerning e.g. non-enclosure and access. The CROW Act 2000 gives people the right to walk over commons.
 - Grange and Cartmel Community Board (21st April, Cllr Barr attended): Key points included: i) the appointment of an SLDC Empty Homes Officer, targeting houses empty for 6 months or more (not holiday or second homes), and ii) Locality Working: 21 parishes failed to respond to the questionnaire. The expectation was that LAPs could take up to 2 years to establish, and it was not yet clear how the funding would operate.

63. Correspondence

The following correspondence was highlighted in particular:

- Invitation to attend a meeting of the Coniston & Torver Housing Group on 15th May: Cllr Barr would attend.

The following correspondence was noted:

CALC

- Agenda for SLDA meeting on 16th June and minutes of last meeting.
- Agenda and papers for Lake District Parishes meeting, Keswick, 27th April - plus response to comments on Lake District Parish Charter.

- CALC Circular for May

CCC

- Cumbria Highways newsletter - Spring 2009

- Grange and Cartmel Community Board - Agenda for 21st April and minutes of last meeting
- High Furness Neighbourhood Forum minutes - 18th March

SLDC

- South Lakeland Sustainable Community Strategy - 2008-2028
- Allocations of Land Development Plan Document - update
- Speed Limits at Spark Bridge - implementation of approved proposals - after 30th May 09.
- Standards Committee papers for 28th April - for info.

LDNPA

- Coniston Water Association - Agenda for 21st April - *meeting now cancelled*
- Local Development Framework - Response to Colton PC's comments
- Lakes for Living Conference info
- Local Development Framework: invitation to comment on draft policies of Core Strategy - by 5th June

Cumbria CVS and ACT

- Cumbria CVS - nominations for representative on Third Sector Executive
- National Village Hall Survey questionnaire sent to:
Bouth, Oxen Park, Rusland & Finsthwaite. (Completed for Bouth, OP, Rusland - no information re Finsthwaite)
- Info about grants for projects arising from Community Plans
- Cumbria CVS News - April/May 2009
- Cumbria CVS - Link-up newsletter spring/summer 2009

Other

- New release - Cumbria & English Heritage Conservation Areas Survey
- Satterthwaite Parish Council - Agenda for 6th April and minutes of last meeting
- Hawkshead Parish Council - Agenda for 21st April
- Information Commissioner - DVD on FOI Act.
- Rural Academy of Cumbria - newsletter Spring 2009
- Lakes Leisure looking for open space next to indoor space with toilets for running sports activities for 20 young children in summer 2009.
- Blawith Parish Council - LAP response
- Coniston Parish Council - LAP response
- Commission for Rural Communities - call for evidence from people living/working in high hills and moorlands of England - by 30th April
- Penny Bridge Hall Estate - letter asking for support over dispute with Highways over damaged wall, and PC response.
- Rural Housing Enablers: Invitation to workshops examining the case for a RHE in the north-west.
- Coniston PC - minutes of meeting on 20th April.
- Cllr Peter Harrington - letter resigning from Council
- Equality & Human Rights Commission: leaflet on public sector equality duties.
- Cumbria Playing Fields Association - request for funds.
- Digital switchover information pack and April newsletter
- NW Air Ambulance - letter of thanks for donation
- Blawith & Subberthwaite PC - Agendas for Annual Parish Meeting, Annual Parish Council and Parish Council meeting 30th April
- NALC - invitation to Annual Conference (London) - 'Putting People First'
- Coniston and Torver Local Housing Group - invitation to attend meeting on 15th May
- Coniston/Grizedale Mountain bike Triathlon Risk Assessment for event 12th July - (received via Coniston Clerk).
- Request for volunteers for OutReach Cumbria - (received via Cllr Fishwick)
- Invitation for over-60's residents to attend meeting on CRC Inquiry on Uplands discussion group, 11th May. (received via Cllr Fishwick)

64. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed as Monday 22nd June 2009 in Colton Church Hall at 7.30 p.m.