



Colton Parish Council

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The following are the minutes of the Colton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th January 2010 in Blawith and Nibthwaite Village Hall at 7.30 p.m..

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

Also present: Cllr Wilson (CCC) Cllr Davies PC John Baldwin and 1 member of the public

001/10 Apologies

Cllr Cunliffe (working) Cllr Watson (working) Cllr Fishwick (holiday) Cllr Robinson (holiday)

ACTION

002/10 Minutes of Last Meeting

It was resolved that the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th December 2009 as a true record.

003/10 Declarations of Interest

None

004/10 Update on Issues and Actions from Last Meeting

- Bouth Playground surface and repairs: Cllr Lovegrove had spoken to Mr Osborn (Chair of the BVGP Advisory Committee). The damage to the safety surface was mainly due to poor drainage. The plan was to create a new drain, jet-wash the surface once the ice had melted and repair the edges. A bid was to be submitted to Low Furness Neighbourhood Forum for funds towards repairs to the edge of the safety surface.
- Green Energy: Cllr Taylor reported that the meeting on hydro power had been re-scheduled for 21st January. He asked that green energy be raised as an issue for the Local Area Partnership to address; Cllr Barr agreed to do so when the opportunity allowed.

**Cllr
Lovegrove**

005/10 Public Participation

PC John Baldwin asked that the Agenda item 13. on Shooting and Public Rights of Way be brought forward to the public session to allow him to leave for another Parish Council meeting.

i) Shooting and Public Rights of Way: PC Baldwin reported that Section 161(2) of the Highways Act 1980 stated that it was an offence to discharge a firearm within 50 feet of the centre line of a highway or a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT). Although it was not a specific offence to shoot across other rights of way, it was an offence to disrupt users of that way and cause a nuisance. In addition, under the Public Order Act 1986, it was an offence to use threatening behaviour towards another person; this could include the pointing of a gun, whether loaded or not, which could lead to a charge of assault.

ii) Burglaries: The spate of thefts of equipment from the south end of Coniston had stopped. There had been no burglaries recently in Colton. Arrests had been made following theft of drugs from a veterinary surgery in Duddon Parish, and following a 'sneak-in' burglary at Penny Bridge by a con-man. There had been a break-in at Canny Hill (Newby Bridge) and theft of 2 flat screen TVs; no arrest had yet been made. There had been reports of suspicious activity around the closed hotels at Newby Bridge

iii) Poaching: DNA evidence had been used to bring three people to court for poaching offences at Milnthorpe. Four deer carcasses had been found in Ulverston and enquiries were ongoing; this seemed to have stopped a major avenue for illegal meat entering the food chain.

iv) Rusland Crime Survey: The survey had highlighted poaching and illegal off-road vehicle behaviour as the main concerns. The police would continue to focus on poaching and then concentrate on off-road vehicles in the spring.

006/10 Comments from District and County Councillors

Cllr Wilson (CCC) reported on the following items:

i) Field of pigs and flooding at Ealingheath: The overstocking of the field was known to the RSPCA and Defra, and stocking levels had been reduced. He asked Councillors to inform him if the flooding was still a problem.

ii) Bouth speed limit: The Dept. of Transport had issued a consultative document recommending that speed limits could be lowered in rural villages. County had responded negatively to this, mainly due to the expense. Cllr Wilson would raise this issue at the South Lakeland Local Committee and point out County's inconsistency with national policy.

iii) Green Roads: The proposed Cumbria Countryside Access Partnership Working Group had still not been convened, despite requests from Cllr Wilson and the Clerk. It was unclear who had responsibility. There had also been no response to the request for a survey of Colton's worst-case green roads. Cllr Wilson would continue to pursue.

iv) Bouthrey Bridge: Keith Masser (Area Highways Engineer) had asked for evidence from the two parishes concerned on the need for urgent bridge repairs, and the Clerk had sent him information for Colton. Cllr Wilson and Cllr Salisbury were working closely on this issue.

v) Backbarrow Bridge: An inspection had been carried out and County was considering opening it for single-file traffic. Cllr Taylor suggested that the bridge needed to be re-built in order to cater for similar floods in future.

vi) Salt/Grit: The issue of no salt/grit delivery would be reviewed by the South Lakeland Local Committee. Cllr Wilson asked for a list of new salt bins required in Colton; the Clerk had compiled a list and would forward it when confirmed.

Clerk

Cllr Davies (SLDC): was urging District and County to coordinate and organise more flexible use of resources. Rubbish could not be collected during the cold period because of the lack of salting of the roads. The externalising of services (e.g. Capita, Amey-Mouchel) was also causing communication problems and there was a lack of organisation. Cllr Wilson suggested that flexible use of resources would be a key issue for the Local Area Partnerships to consider.

007/10 Accounts

The bank reconciliation for April-Nov 2009 was approved.

The following payments were approved

- Cheque number 000479 - C.Slater, Lengthsman salary for Sep/Oct 09 - **£308.00**
- Cheque number 000480 - Hawkshead PCC - photocopying - **£34.16**
- Cheque number 000481 - Blawith and Nibthwaite Village Hall Hire - **£20.00**

The following receipt was noted:

- HMRC - VAT return for 08/09 - **£342.13**

008/10 Planning

The following responses to planning applications were noted:

- 7/2009/5688 - The Old Post House, Low Stott Park. Glazed porch to back door. *No objection*
- 7/2009/5713 - Snows Heights Outdoor Centre. Construction of new retaining wall; widening of gateway and felling of 8 trees. *No objection.*
- 7/2009/5696 - Woodlands, Lakeside. Conversion and extension of existing garage to gymnasium and spa for private use. *No objection.*

009/10 Highways

i) Flood Damage - Bouthrey Bridge: (*discussed and minuted under item 006/10 above*)

ii) Salt/Grit: Despite Colton's complaints to Highways and their reassurances on future delivery of salt-grit last winter, and despite the fact that Colton had sent in a detailed map of bins and heaps required, no grit had been delivered to the majority of Colton's bins and heaps yet again this winter. The result was that many communities had been ice-bound for weeks, with ambulances unable to reach vulnerable people (mountain rescue having to be called out in one instance), post undelivered and rubbish uncollected.

On 5th January, Highways offered a single delivery of 7 tons of salt to one location in the parish; Colton accepted this offer and it duly arrived the next day. Cllr Barr and other volunteers distributed the grit to Rusland, Ickenthaite, Bouth and Bandrake Head, and some was collected by local farmers.

It was resolved to send a complaint to Highways about the lack of salt/grit delivery to Colton and to ask for an explanation.

Clerk

The possibility of finding an accessible, secure and covered location for single deliveries of salt/grit within the Parish was raised. Councillors were asked to identify possible locations and ways of ensuring sufficient volunteers for onward delivery; this would be discussed at the next meeting.

All Cllrs

iii) Highway Steward (HS): The new HS time-table for 2010 was noted. Cllr Barr reported that the HS found Colton's list of road repair tasks very useful and that the system worked well.

iv) Lengthsman: Cllr Lovegrove reported that the Lengthsman had been gritting junctions over the cold period. She had asked him to be more specific about reporting what he had done and where, on his worksheets. Cllr Barr asked that he try to coordinate efforts with the HS.

010/10 Nibthwaite Phone Kiosk

Nibthwaite residents had indicated a desire to keep the phone kiosk and were willing to raise funds of around £50 per year to cover costs. BT's letter asked parishes to confirm adoption

with the local planning authority by a deadline. However, Clive Wickham (Community Enabler for the National Park) had now confirmed that this was not a requirement. He had also been advised of 'internal discussions' about BT meeting the 'on costs' or disconnection charges associated with 'adopted' boxes, and gave an email address for further information. The Clerk had sent an enquiry but no reply had yet been received. **It was resolved** that the decision to adopt be deferred until the situation was clarified. The Clerk confirmed that BT's letter was not a warning of imminent removal of the kiosk.

Clerk

011/10 Community Plan

The planned Community Plan event on the evening of Thursday 28th January at Rusland Reading Rooms had been advertised in local newsletters. Cllr Fishwick and Mr Baxter were organising the event. The aim was to get people to come up with wish-lists and ideas for how they wanted the parish to be in 2020. The event would include supper and a quiz. The Clerk had asked Elizabeth Bruce if she would speak about sustainable energy (having been unable to give her talk to the Council on 7th December), and was awaiting a reply. The Clerk would be producing fliers which she would circulate. All were asked for offers of help.

Clerk
Cllr
Fishwick

012/10 Consultations

Nuclear Power Stations in Cumbria: The government's draft Nuclear Policy Statement lists possible sites, including 3 on the west coast of Cumbria. The deadline for response was 22nd February. **It was resolved** that Cllrs Barr, Dean, Potts and Lovegrove would draft a response on behalf of the Council and circulate for comment before sending.

Cllrs Barr
Potts,
Dean,
Lovegrove

013/10 Shooting and Rights of Way

This item was considered under item 5. of the Agenda - Public Participation.

014/10 Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted in particular:

- Coniston and Crake Partnership (South Cumbria Rivers Trust): Cllr Barr had been asked to become a member of the core group which was to meet on 12th January. He would clarify whether his membership was in a personal capacity or representing the Parish Council.
- LDNPA: Windermere speed limit: Receipt of letter clarifying the speed limit as 10 nautical miles per hour.
- SLDC Code of Conduct course, Ulverston, 11th March: Councillors were asked to let the Clerk know if they wanted to attend.

Receipt of the following correspondence was noted:

CALC/NALC

- SL District Association meeting 26th November - copy of presentation on South Lakeland Local Plan
- CALC Circular December 09
- NALC Conferences and Events Survey
- SL District Association - minutes of meeting on 26th Nov.
- Allotments in South Lakeland - update and questionnaire

CCC

- Flood Bulletin No. 6
- Papers for the SL Local Committee Highways and Transportation WG meeting on 9th Dec. (*forwarded on request from Glynis Andrews, Sec.*)
- High Furness LAP (29th Nov) - Meeting notes and action plan
- Flooding: Various email exchanges between Clerk, Cllr Wilson, Keith Masser (Highways) and neighbouring parishes about flood issues, mainly: Bouthrey Bridge, Lakeside, 'Pig field' (Ealinghearth)
- Emergency Road closure notices: Backbarrow and Bouthrey Bridge
- Salt provision: email exchanges with Keith Masser (Highways) and neighbouring parishes re lack of salt provision - urgently needed. Actioned.
- High Furness Neighbourhood Forum - notes from meeting of 7th Dec
- Cumbria Minerals and Waste Development Framework. Final consultation - by 8th Feb.
- SL Area Highways - correspondence re Bouthrey Bridge
- Highway Steward - timetable for 2010.
- Adult Social Care - information on opening hours over Xmas period.

SLDC

- Notification of Training sessions - Code of Conduct - Feb/March
- Agenda for Council meeting 10th Dec - for info.
- Request form for new Register of Electors
- Email exchange - lack of rubbish collection over Xmas & New Year at Rusland.

LDNPA

- Windermere navigation and registration bye-laws 2008 - clarification of speed limit - 10 nautical miles per hour.

Cumbria CVS and ACT

- Cumbria CVS Newsletter Dec09/Jan10

Other

- Cumbria Countryside Access Partnership: MPV sub-group minutes of meetings 28th May, 29th Sept and 18th Nov (forwarded by John Atkinson)
- Coniston Parish Council - link to minutes of 3 meetings held in November
- Blawith PC - Letter to Claire Salisbury (CCC) re flood damage, including Bouthray Bridge.
- Cumbria NHS Partnership - Flood Bulletin
- Blawith PC - request about sharing reference books and subscriptions to newsletters
- North-West Partial Plan Review: Gypsy, Traveller, & Travelling Showpeople Accommodation and Parking Standards Examination in Public (EiP)
- Consiton PC - Season's Greetings!
- Consiton and Crake Partnership - invitation to join core group.
- Coniston PC - Agenda for 21st Dec
- Government consultation on nuclear power station sites in Cumbria
- Police Liaison Fora - Kendal (11th Jan) and Barrow (14th Jan)
- Blawith PC - Agenda for 7th Jan

015/10 Date of Next Meeting and Meeting Dates for 2010/2011

The next Parish Council meeting was confirmed as Monday 22nd February in Finsthwaite Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.

Dates for meetings for 2010/2011 were confirmed as follows (venues to be confirmed in due course):

Date	Meeting	Proposed Venue
Mon 10 th May 10	Annual Parish Council 2010	Bouth Village Hall
Mon 21 st June 10	Parish Council	Colton Church Hall
Mon 26 th July 10	Parish Council	Rusland Reading Room
Mon 13 th Sept 10	Parish Council	Finsthwaite Village Hall
Mon 25 th Oct 10	Parish Council	Bouth Village Hall
Mon 6 th Dec 10	Parish Council	Rusland Reading Room
Mon 10 th Jan 11	Parish Council	Water Yeat Village Hall
Mon 21 st Feb 11	Parish Council	Finsthwaite Village Hall
Mon 28 th March 11	Parish Open Meeting and Parish Council	Rusland Reading Room