



Colton Parish Council

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The following are the minutes of the extraordinary Colton Parish Council meeting on Bouthrey Bridge reconstruction, held on Thursday 11th March 2010 in Blawith and Nibthwaite Village Hall at Water Yeat at 8.30 pm, following a Public Meeting on this topic.

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

Also present: Cllr Wilson (CCC)

032/10 Apologies

Cllr Potts Cllr Taylor Cllr Watson

ACTION

033/10 Minutes of Last Meeting

Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting was deferred until the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

034/10 Declarations of Interest

None.

035/10 Bouthrey Bridge Reconstruction

The three options for Bouthrey Bridge reconstruction had been presented at the prior Public Meeting: Option A: demolish and re-build replica bridge, Option B: Repair bridge, Option C: demolish and replace with rectangular beam-deck. The result of voting in the public meeting was noted: overwhelmingly in favour of Option B (repair).

Concern was expressed at the likelihood of the bridge being reconstructed this year, given the short time-frame. A main concern was the problems faced by the farmer, Mr Hodgson if the bridge was not re-built this year. The Parish Council would press for a temporary structure if there was any talk of delaying until next year. Concern was also expressed at the lack of an engineer present at the meeting to answer questions. There were still a number of unknowns, for example: Who was responsible for repair of field walls and farmland eroded by the floods? What would the downstream effects be of the different options? What would the effects be of flood alleviation measures planned for Coniston?

The consultation letter had referred to the lack of people with special skills to repair bridges like Bouthrey Bridge; the Council should question whether this is really the case.

Councillors voted on the three options presented. It was resolved that the Council would express its preference for Option B: Repair (unanimous vote), and if Option B was not possible, then Option A (replace with replica) as the fall-back option.

036/10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed as the Annual Open Parish Meeting followed by a Parish Council meeting on Monday 29th March in Rusland Reading Rooms, 7.30 p.m.