



Colton Parish Council

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Lilac Cottage
Oxen Park
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The following are the minutes of the Colton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 25th October 2010 in Bouth Village Hall at 7.30 p.m..

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

Also present: Cllr Wilson (CCC) Cllr Davies (SLDC) and 4 members of the public

118/10 Apologies

Cllr Cunliffe (ill health).

ACTION

Cllr Taylor submitted his request to resign from the Council to date from 25th November, his 86th birthday. He expressed his thanks to the Chairman and Clerk for their support. The Chairman thanked Cllr Taylor for his involvement, words of wisdom and particularly his efforts in taking forward the Council's green energy initiative.

119/10 Minutes of Last Meeting

It was resolved that the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th September as a true record.

120/10 Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Vanessa Champion signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor.

121/10 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Watson declared an interest in item 9., Planning, in relation to his tenancy of land at Low Longmire Farm, Oxen Park, and signed the register.

122/10 Update on Issues and Actions from Last Meeting

- Oxen Park Phone Box: The Council recorded their thanks to David Oldham of Oxen Park for painting the phone box.

123/10 Public Participation

Mr John Osborn expressed thanks to the Council for their help with repairs of Bouth Playground.

124/10 Comments from District and County Councillors

Cllr Wilson (CCC): i) Highways - changes to working practice: He recommended that the Council attend the presentation by Highways at the CALC meeting on 25th November. ii) Colton Green Roads Working Group: Two surveys of the designated green roads had been approved: one had been completed, the other would be done shortly. iii) Pointing of bridge at Newby Bridge: He had been assured that lime mortar had been used and would weather-in within 2 years or so.

Cllr Davies (SLDC): i) Cllr Davies expressed his concern over the cuts which would affect everyone and could affect e.g. Local Area Partnership funding. ii) Tim Farron MP had sent a letter about the planning implications for residential solar energy installations, which Cllr Davies had forwarded to the National Park.

125/10 Accounts

It was resolved that the following payments be made:

- Cheque 000515 - Clerk - website domain name renewal **£14.98**
- Cheque 000516 - Clerk - salary Jul-Sep 2010 **£1115.00**
- Cheque 000517 - Clerk - stationery expenses, Aug-Oct 2010: **£63.41**
- Cheque 000518 - Playsafety Ltd. - Annual inspection, Bouth playground, Aug 2010: **£74.03**
- Cheque 000519 - Clerk - food and electricity expenses Community Plan event, 1st Oct: **£33.04**
- Cheque 000520 - Cllr Fishwick - food expenses for Community Plan event, 1st Oct: **£17.76**
- Cheque 000521 - Cllr Potts - food expenses for Community Plan event, 1st Oct: **£13.20**
- Cheque 000522 - Clerk, refreshments for Green Roads WG and Parish Tour : **£11.32**

Budget and Precept for 2011/2012: Cllr Dean presented the recommendations of the Finance Working Group which proposed no precept increase this year. Cllr Taylor expressed concern about the projected overspend in relation to precept income and felt that savings should be made in the proposed budget. Cllr Dean explained that there was an underspend to be carried over from the current year for overdue projects that would be completed next year. The modest increase in the Clerk's salary was approved; this represented a nationally-agreed increment due to acquiring the CiLCA qualification necessary for quality status. **It was resolved** (7 for and 1 against) to

approve the budget and precept for 2011/2012, subject to the outcome of CCC and SLDC spending plans.

126/10 Planning

The following linked planning applications were discussed:

- **7/2010/5455: Low Longmire Farm, Oxen Park:** Convert barn to dwelling
- **7/2010/5456: Low Longmire Farm, Oxen Park:** Listed building consent to convert barn to dwelling, demolish kennels and lean-to, re-instate slate penthouse to main barn

Cllr Watson had declared an interest in the above applications as tenant of part of the farm. He was invited to make a statement and then asked to leave the room during this item.

It was noted that the farm had been recently sold by the National Trust and had been Grade II listed in August as a 'relatively rare survival of a South Lakeland farm complex which has seen little loss or change over the last century'. **It was resolved to object** (unanimous vote) on policy grounds: i) the resulting increase in the number of residential properties in the open countryside with potential for sale on the open market ii) concern about the poor quality of the application including mis-information on recent farming use and inconsistency about listed structures, iii) lack of sufficient information about how the holiday letting business would be in support of an existing farm business, as required by the farm diversification policy CS23.

The following responses to planning applications were noted:

- 7/2010/5431: Birch How, Woodland Close, Lakeside: new pitched roof to car port. *No objection.*

The following grants of planning permission were noted:

- 7/2010/5166: Ridding Bay, Lakeside: repairs to and raising height of boundary wall - granted subject to satisfactory drainage plans to prevent pooling on highway.
- 7/2010/5382: Thwaite Head Farm, Rusland: attached garage.

The following withdrawn application was noted:

- 7/2010/5324: Rusland Pool Hotel: change of use of land for tourist/recreational purposes.

The following response to a compliance query was noted:

- 'Millstream Cottage' at The Knoll, Lakeside: lawful historic residential use confirmed.

The formal adoption of the LDNPA Core Strategy was noted.

127/10 Highways

Bouthrey Bridge: Cllr Wilson had asked the Scrutiny Committee to write to both Parish Councils to explain why the bridge had still not been repaired. Highways had decided to secure the bridge to make it impassable for pedestrians for safety reasons. A temporary footbridge might be possible, but it was unlikely to support farm stock. He proposed that the Parish Council write to the Chief Executive to ask for compensation for Mr Hodgson.

Clerk

Winter salt/grit delivery: All requested new grit bins were likely to be funded. The Clerk had been in touch with Capita who had promised that existing grit bins would be filled by the end of October.

Field of pigs near Ealinghearth: This continued to cause concern: i) Flooding: Highways had informed Cllr Wilson that the culvert was blocked, but had not been cleared because of over pollution concerns ii) Pollution: Highways had contacted the Environment Agency. iii) Pigs escaping into the surrounding woodland; one had attacked and injured a dog. The police had also been called in relation to cut fences. iv) Pig welfare: The stocking rates in the fields were considerably higher than recommended. The Clerk would liaise with Cllr Wilson on further action.

Clerk

128/10 Quality Status

Colton Parish's quality status renewal was due in February 2011, with the following 3 months allowed for re-submission. A completely new portfolio was required, estimated to take 2 weeks' work. Cllrs Potts, Dean and Barr had met to discuss the issue. Despite little evidence of benefits to date, it was felt that ideally Colton should re-submit. CALC had recommended waiting for the outcome of the government's Big Society discussions and NALC's resulting view on the future of quality status. It was agreed that the Council write to NALC about the substantial effort involved in resubmitting, whilst also making positive suggestions.

Clerk

129/10 Bouth Village Green

Bouth Village Green Registration: The Commons Registration Office had responded to say that the Green could not be registered 'as of right' since it was leased from the District Council. The Office had actually asked for copies of the lease, but had failed to point out this sticking point with the result that the community had waited 2 ½ years. CALC had suggested speaking to the District Council legal department. Mr Osborn would consult the Bouth Village Green Committee and then contact the Clerk and Cllr Davies to decide the way forward.

Mr
Osborn

Playground Surface: Cllr Dean had arranged for part of the chain walk to be moved to allow the safety surface to be positioned away from tree roots, enabling the birch tree to be retained. Work would start week-commencing 1st Nov. Cllr Barr and the Clerk thanked Cllr Dean for his hard work

in resolving the issues and arranging for the works to take place.

Annual RoSPA Inspection: There were no unexpected issues raised. The Clerk would ask for an electronic copy of the report to send to Mr Osborn.

Clerk

130/10 Meetings

- Rural Broadband conference, 18th Sept - Cllr Barr had attended: The conference had been convened by Rory Stewart MP. Useful links were made, including with BT Business Director concerned about our poor Broadband service. He suggested that Colton be included in the County Partnership initiative, but a survey would be required to assess demand.
- LDNPA Parish Tour, 28th Sept - Cllr Barr: Colton had hosted this meeting for LDNPA members. Cllr Barr had presented a profile of the Parish and highlighted key issues. This was followed by a walk through Stony Hazel Woods and a visit to Abbot Park Farm for an example of successful farm diversification in keeping with the area. The Tour had been well received with a letter of appreciation sent by the National Park.
- Rusland Valley and Fells Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid meeting, 29th Sept, Cllr Barr reported: A steering committee had now been established, with Cllr Barr as Chairman and Giles Wingate-Saul as Vice-chairman. The bid would be in two stages: an initial bid for £100K to prepare a second bid for £1.8M. The initial bid was in preparation, with a focus on benefits to the community and support for traditional skills.
- Community Plan Event, 1st Oct, Finsthwaite Village Hall. Cllr Fishwick reported on a successful meeting attended by around 30 people who contributed their views and ideas in response to the presentation on interim questionnaire results.
- CALC Lake District Parishes meeting, 4th Oct - Cllr Barr had attended: A presentation from Cumbria Tourism provoked lively discussion. Colton had raised the issue of private and off-site camping; all agreed it was a significant and growing problem, worse in the central Lakes, but no solutions were offered. There was concern at the workload for parishes in keeping track of and responding to so many consultations; a searchable database was being developed.
- Green Energy meeting on Solar and Heat-pump technology, 16th Oct - Cllr Taylor reported: A successful meeting was held with presentations from businesses and users. He thanked Dr Roger Calvert for his help in organising it. The report and presentations would be available on the website in due course. Cllr Taylor felt that Colton had gone as far as it could in raising the profile of green energy and that the working group should be disbanded; the next step was cooperation between communities, aided by local authorities, for example through the Local Area Partnership or District Council.
- Local Area Partnership meeting, 30th Sept, Cllr Barr had attended: It had been agreed to use funding available to the LAP to purchase 2 grit bins per parish. There was little interest in cooperative purchase of notice boards, but there was support for conducting a Broadband survey.

Clerk

131/10 Consultations

The following consultation responses were noted:

- Commission for Rural Communities: Impact of the recession on rural housing: Cllr Potts would submit a response; he felt that it was hard to identify much impact of the recession, except for some slow-down in house sales. All agreed.
- Cumbria County Council, spending review and priorities: Cllr Potts felt that this general-purpose on-line questionnaire was far too simplified to be useful. The Clerk felt that Parish Councils should have received a directed consultation.
- NALC request for comments on the Big Society initiative. The Clerk sent NALC a copy of her comments to Tim Farron MP on the degree of volunteering on which the community already depends, and a copy of the Council's submission on the Community Right to Build.

The following new consultations were noted and procedure for responding agreed:

- Electoral Review of Cumbria, by 22nd Nov: Cllr Wilson had attended a meeting and it was clear that there were imbalances. The number of Councillors reflected to some extent the large geographical area that each had to represent. The Clerk would submit a response.
- Revised draft National Policy Statements on Energy, by 24th Jan: Cllr Potts would respond.

Clerk

Cllr Potts

132/10 Correspondence

Receipt of the following correspondence was noted:

CALC/NALC

- Confirmation that local council election date will be 5th May 2011
- Project to catalogue paintings in public ownership
- NALC Events Bulletin
- Training and development update
- Agenda and papers for meeting of Lake District Parishes, Mon 4th Oct
- Request for opinion on Big Society for December issue of Local Councils Review.
- Boundary Commission Review of Cumbria, notification of meeting on 12th October

- South Lakeland District Association - papers for meeting on 25th Nov, with information about grants for community assets and services.
- Notification and booking form for CALC AGM, 6th Nov, Westlakes
- Information about Allotments event, Manchester, 9th Nov
- CALC Circular for October
- CALC training courses news
- Background information for Cumbria electoral boundary review
- Notification of A5084 road closure (main road closure) for 5 days starting 8th Nov.

CCC

- Newsletter for Parish Councillors - Local News and Views - 1st edition.
- South Lakeland Local Committee Area Plan
- LAPs - Decisions on Funding - guidance notes
- LAPs - ideas for projects, paper on public involvement, and best practice for liaison with Highway Stewards
- LAP meeting notification - 20th September
- High Furness Neighbourhood Forum date change to 6th October
- 'Better Highways' presentation - changes to Highways practice
- Draft Minutes of LAP meeting 7th Sept
- Public Spending Review - consultation on priorities
- High Furness Neighbourhood Forum - Agenda. Plus car-parking survey from SLDC.
- Commons Registration Office, Carlisle explaining that the Bouth Village Green application was unsuccessful
- High Furness Neighbourhood Forum - notes from meeting on 6th Oct

SLDC

- Agenda for extraordinary Council meeting, 28th Sept - for info
- Agenda for Council meeting, 14th October - for info
- Standards Committee papers for 19th Oct - for info
- Precept request form for 2011/2012
- Consultation on service provision - roadshow dates.
- Public Conveniences decisions - updates

LDNPA

- Correspondence on 'quieter area' designations to be updated through new Core Strategy.

Cumbria CVS and ACT

- Cumbria Third Sector Census results
- Calor FREE advice programme in Cumbria and the North West. Three year programme aimed at communities off mains gas where Fuel Poverty identified as an issue (South Lakeland amongst areas **not** included).
- ACT Gazette, Autumn 2010
- Cumbria CVS - newsletter Oct/Nov 2010

Other

- Letter from Mr Edward Mills on management plan for Sales Bank Wood, nr Bandrake Head
- Agenda and papers for Police Liaison Forum, 20th Sept, Ulverston
- Coniston Parish Council - Agenda for 20th Sept
- Friends of the Lake District - lecture on the future for upland communities, 24th Sept, Penrith
- Morecambe Bay partnership - updated plans
- Forestry Commission, Grizedale - correspondence about new car parking charges
- Commission for Rural Communities - consultation on impact of recession on housing
- Satterthwaite PC - grant for hydro scheme
- Cumbria Rural Housing Trust conference on Churches, Housing and Rural Communities, 6th Oct.
- Local Policing Summary leaflet
- Local Government Boundary Commission - Electoral Review of Cumbria. Consultation
- Friends of the Lake District - Our Green Space guidance documents and notification that this project will end.
- RoSPA - 2010 Inspection report for Bouth Playground
- Society of Local Council Clerks - benefits of membership
- Blawith and Subberthwaite PC - copy of letter to CALC re electoral boundary review
- Satterthwaite PC - Agenda for meeting 18th October and minutes of last meeting
- Coniston PC - Agenda for meeting 18th October
- Dept Energy and Climate Change - consultation on review of draft National Energy Policy Statements

133/10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed as a Parish Council meeting on Monday 6th December in Rusland Reading Room , 7.30 p.m.