



Colton Parish Council

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The following are the minutes of the Colton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th January 2011 in Blawith and Nibthwaite Village Hall at 7.30 p.m..

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

Also present: Cllr Wilson (CCC) PC John Baldwin Mr David Lowe (Forestry Commission) and 4 members of the public

001/11 Apologies

Cllr Davies (SLDC)

ACTION

002/11 Minutes of Last Meeting

It was resolved that the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th December 2010 as a true record.

003/11 Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Mr David Hoyle signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Clerk.

004/11 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Potts declared an interest in item 10. High Dam car-park.

005/11 Update on Issues and Actions from Last Meeting

- Lengthsman: Cllr Potts had spoken to Mr Slater (Lengthsman) who wished to resign from his contract at the end of this financial year due to ill health. The Clerk would write a letter of thanks and acknowledge the termination of contract. The Clerk would also convene a small working group (Cllrs Barr, Cunliffe and Potts) as soon as possible, to consider future need for a Lengthsman and make a recommendation to the Council. **Clerk**
- Community Plan: An extended deadline to end of June 2011 had been approved. Cllr Fishwick had recently sent letters to community organisations for their views on the future of the Parish. A photographic challenge: 'The Highs and Lows of Colton' had been launched with photos to be displayed at the Rusland Spring Show. The Clerk would send claims to ACT for the expenses incurred so far against the grant. **Clerk**

006/11 Public Participation

Mr David Lowe, Forestry Commission, explained that Jim Paice, Minister of State for Defra, would be announcing a review of the management of public forestry on 24th Jan. The review was expected to propose the sale of Forestry Commission woodlands. A consultation period was expected. At the same time, the Public Bodies Reform Bill was currently passing through parliament, which would make the changes necessary to allow the sale to take place. The Council expressed its concerns about Rigg Wood, in Colton Parish, recently sold by the FC; despite being dedicated access land for walkers, the new owner had installed locked gates. Mr Lowe explained that the CROW legislation was weak and that the owner was within his rights; the public could climb over the gates as long as no damage was caused.

PC John Baldwin reported that there had been no crime in Colton Parish since the last meeting. Poacher-watch operations in Rusland may have displaced the criminals to other areas. New policing arrangements would be in place on 7th February, and the new Inspector and Community Officer would be attending Parish Council meetings.

Mrs Andrea Meanwell spoke about plans for a fell-pony trekking centre at The Syke, Rusland (to be discussed under item 9). This small business would support employment of local people and link with local B&Bs. Routes would minimise road use and would be mainly those used by the former centre at Bowkerstead, which had experienced no traffic-related incidents.

007/11 Comments from District and County Councillors

Cllr Wilson commented under item 11. Highways.

008/11 Accounts

It was resolved that the following payments be made:

- Cheque number 000531 – A.Lane (Clerk) salary Oct-Dec 2010: **£1115.00**
- Cheque number 000532 – Blawith and Nibthwaite Village Hall: **£20.00**

The following receipt was noted:

–HMRC: return of VAT for 2009-10: **£93.95**

009/11 Planning

The following planning application was discussed and resolution made:

- 7/2010/5619 – The Syke, Rusland. Fell pony trekking centre. **It was resolved** to support this application (unanimous).

The following general permitted development notification was noted:

- Hill Park Farm, Colton - general purpose steel framed farm storage building.

The following responses to planning applications were noted:

- 7/2010/5607 - Boaters Restaurant, Lakeside - internal refurbishments and new porch. *No objection.*

The following grants of planning permission were noted:

- 7/2010/5431 - Birch How, Lakeside - remove car port roof and replace with pitched slate roof.

Snows Heights Outdoor Centre: Mr Mackeith had requested input on community links and woodland management. It was agreed that the Clerk would suggest an informal visit to the site for updated information and discussion on community links.

Clerk

010/11 High Dam Car Park

Cllr Champion reported the outcome of the public meeting held on 5th Jan at Finsthwaite on the National Park's proposals for a pay-and-display car park at High Dam, Finsthwaite. Mr David Coxon (LDNPA Operations Manager) spoke at the meeting. 22 people attended of which 21 objected to the proposals and one abstained. The main issue was the consequent parking on the highway and the possible obstruction to farm and emergency vehicles. It was resolved to follow local opinion and submit an objection from the Council. However, the Clerk was asked to make the following requests should the proposal go ahead: i) a request for a free or low-cost parking permit for residents of the Parish, ii) that reviews should take place at 6 and 12 months, iii) that there should be a resolution between the LDNPA and Cumbria Highways about how to manage parking on the road, and iv) that there should be increased presence at the site and enforcement of by-laws.

Clerk

011/11 Highways

Bouthrey Bridge: A reply had been received from the County's Chief Executive in response to the Colton PC's letter about the lack of progress. Repair of the bridge would begin on 1st June 2011. A temporary footbridge was to be installed in late January, with a lockable and removable bollard to allow a quad-bike and trailer for Mr Hodgson at Arklid Farm. The Clerk would notify Mr Hodgson.

Clerk

Grit delivery and grit bins: There was concern that the grit delivered to bins froze solid making it impossible to use. The requested second bulk delivery of grit to Nibthwaite and Bouth had not yet appeared. Some of the promised new grit bins had appeared, some not, and some in the wrong places. Although the Council had asked for green bins, they were all yellow. It was suggested that the bins could be numbered to assist referencing. The Clerk would contact Mr Beaty (Capita).

Clerk

Green Roads Working Group: Cllr Barr reported that a condition survey of two of Colton's green roads had been completed and repairs costed. A report would be submitted by Mr Masser (Area Highway Engineer) to the South Lakeland Local Committee to seek funds.

012/11 Forestry Commission: Potential Sale of Woodland

The Clerk had been in correspondence with Mr Thorne, LDNPA Rights of Way officer who confirmed that Rigg Wood was dedicated access land for walkers under the CROW Act. The national press had picked up on the Rigg Wood story as an example of what might happen should more FC land be sold.

The Council expressed its concern that the proposed large-scale sale of FC woodlands could cause the same access problems as at Rigg Wood, and that the legislation may be similarly weak for ecological and biodiversity protection. Local employment could also be severely affected. It was resolved that Cllrs Champion and Fishwick would look at the facts and liaise with Cllr Barr who would respond to any requests for information.

**Cllrs
Champion
Fishwick
and Barr**

013/11 Meetings

The following meeting reports were received:

- LDNPA Governance meeting for local councils, 14th Dec: Cllrs Champion and Barr had attended. A preference was expressed to keep the same number of members (22) but to increase parish membership at the expense of national and County membership.
- High Furness LAP, 9th Dec: Cllr Barr had attended. i) Concern had been expressed at the lack of a launch for the new 'Better Highways' project. The Highway Stewards had been withdrawn, but parishes had received no information about the new working arrangements. ii) It was suggested that the LDNPA be asked to explain the policy changes

brought about through the new Core Strategy. iii) It was hoped that the LAP would act as a pilot area for a Cumbria broadband initiative.

Attendance at the following meetings was approved:

- LDNPA meeting on illegal use of countryside by motor vehicles, Water Yeat, 18th Jan (Clerk)
- The High Furness Neighbourhood Forum meeting, 26th Jan (Cllr Cunliffe)

014/11 Consultations

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

- SLDC budget consultation and online budget simulator, by 31st Jan: All to respond.
- Office for Nuclear Development: i) Funded decommissioning programme guidance and ii) Waste transfer pricing methodology, by 8th March. It was decided not to respond.

The following consultation responses were noted:

- Defra and LDNPA consultation on National Park governance: Cllrs Champion and Barr would submit a response supporting the outcome of the meeting they attended. **Cllrs Barr & Champion**
- LDNPA Bowness Bay and The Glebe Development Plan: Cllr Potts responded supporting the middle option of including some extra land in the development, rather than including a lot more extra land without specific development plans in place.
- National Policy Statement on Energy, revised draft, by 24th Jan: The Clerk would respond in support of the recommendation to drop the Kirksanton and Braystones sites from consideration. **Clerk**

015/11 Correspondence

The following item was discussed:

- Tim Farron MP had written to parish councils asking for 'Broadband Pioneers'. It was agreed that Cllr Barr would be the nominated representative for Colton.

Receipt of the following correspondence was noted:

CALC/NALC

- CALC Circular Dec/Jan
- South Lakeland District Association: minutes of meeting and reports from 25th Nov
- Localism Bill - summary of main points (NALC)
- CALC - information on Carlisle broadband conference and issues concerning budgets and countryside access

CCC

- New travel scheme for young people - 'A2BNoW' - cheap fares on bus services
- High Furness Local Area Partnership - Agenda for 9th Dec
- High Furness LAP item - Hawkshead pedestrian survey report
- High Furness LAP minutes of meeting 9th Dec
- UCR 5213 - condition report and estimate of costs
- Local Area Partnership review - survey of members
- Local News and Views newsletter Winter 2010
- High Furness Neighbourhood Forum - re-scheduled meeting 26th Jan, Hawkshead Market Hall.
- Response to letter on Bouthrey Bridge

SLDC

- Budget consultation: online budget simulator - by 31st Jan
- Council meeting notification, 21st Dec, Kendal - for information
- New Register of Electors - Jan 2011

LDNPA

- LDNPA paper for meeting on National park governance
- Tony Hill - liaison on High Dam car-park pay and display plans
- Summary of meeting on National Park governance arrangements (14th Dec)
- Invitation to meeting on illegal use of countryside by motor vehicles, 18th Jan, Water Yeat

Central Government

- Office for Nuclear Development - Consultations on i) Revised decommissioning programme guidance, ii) Waste Transfer Pricing methodology - by 8th March
- Community Right to Build and Localism Bill

Cumbria CVS and ACT

- ACT Gazette Newsletter - Winter 2010
- Cumbria CVS News - Dec10/Jan 11
- 'The Rural Challenge in Cumbria' - publication by Cumbria Rural Forum and ACT. (shows Colton Parish and surrounding parishes in fuel poverty - see www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk)

Other

- National Housing Federation. Report: North-West Home Truths

- Mr Roderick Smith, Bouth. Notification that Hay Bridge, near Bouth, has bought 6 grit bins for the road from Bouth. Requesting that they get added the list for filling.
- Satterthwaite Parish Council - Agenda for 13th Dec and minutes of last meeting
- Coniston Parish Council - Agenda for 13th Dec
- Friends of the Lake District e-message
- Charlie MacKeith - Snows Heights - request for input on community links to the outdoor centre and on woodland management.
- Cumbria Community Foundation - Winter Warmth fund
- Morecambe Bay partnership - Heritage Lottery Fund bid - 'Headlands to Headspace' - outline of bid
- Coniston and Crake catchment partnership - draft leaflet on reducing phosphates
- Blawith PC - minutes of extraordinary meeting on the future of St John the Baptist church, Blawith
- PC John Baldwin - policing changes (reported at 6th Dec PC meeting)
- Police - community liaison forum meetings, Barrow 13th Jan, Kendal 4th Jan
- Forestry Commission - Rigg Wood - post-sale fences and locked gates
- Coniston PC - Minutes of meeting on 13th Dec
- Carlisle Parish Councils - broadband conference, 15th Jan
- Age Concern - Village Agent programme for support for elderly people. (*Unclear which area Colton falls into - making enquiries*)
- North-west Air Ambulance - Xmas card
- Windermere Reflections - HLF bid information
- National Housing Federation - invitation to conference, Manchester, 21st Jan
- Blawith PC - Xmas email-card
- Tim Farron MP - invitation to become local 'Broadband Pioneer' for campaign for fast broadband in south lakeland. Meeting in late Jan.
- Copy of letter from Mr Archibald to the National Park expressing his concerns about the planning application 7/2010/5619 The Syke, Rusland - fell pony trekking centre.

016/11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed as a Parish Council meeting on Monday 21st February in Finsthwaite Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.