

The following are the minutes of the Colton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 21st February 2011 in Finsthwaite 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) Cllr Davies (SLDC) PC Parkin Sgt Flett and 2 members of the public

017/11 Apologies

None

ACTION

018/11 Minutes of Last Meeting

It was resolved that the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th January 2011 as a true record.

019/11 Declarations of Interest

None

020/11 Update on Issues and Actions from Last Meeting

High Dam Car Park: The Clerk had been notified by Mr Coxon, Operations Manager, that the Park members had decided to implement pay-and-display charges, despite the Parish Council's objections. Cllr Potts had been made aware that the minutes of the LDNPA meeting on 19th January had not reported the Council's objections. The Clerk would check the chronology of events. Cllr Potts would draft a letter of concern.

**Clerk
Cllr
Potts**

021/11 Public Participation

Police: Sgt Stuart Flett explained the new system of policing for the area. The Ulverston & Lakes policing area now excluded Dalton, but included the Cartmel peninsula. The High Furness sub-area now had ten officers and 2 Support Officers, including former contacts: PC Baldwin and PCSO Diana Wilcock. PC Baldwin would remain as wildlife protection officer. Sgt Flett would send through new information posters for notice boards. For non-urgent reporting, the central call centre number (0845 3300247) or email (ulverston&lakesnpt@cumbria.police.uk) should be used.

Mr R Smith i) commented on the excellent recent road sweeping at Bouth by SLDC, and asked that the same work be done between Bouth and Oxen Park and through Ickenthaite. The Clerk would send an email to SLDC, copied to Cllr Davies.

Clerk

ii) asked that the new Hay Bridge grit bins be filled. The Clerk would send a request to County.

Clerk

iii) asked that the drain at the entrance to Moss and Height Spring wood at Bouth be cleared

iv) noted that the website list of road defects had not recently been updated.

The Clerk explained that the Lengthsman had resigned through ill-health and the Highway Steward had been replaced by a new scheme, 'Better Highways', not yet fully operational.

022/11 Comments from District and County Councillors

Cllr Wilson (CCC) reported that the budget cuts were not quite as bad as feared, though some departments would suffer, In particular some rural bus services might be cut, ferry charges might increase and education may suffer cuts. Members had been briefed on the outcome of the consultation exercise which had highlighted some key issues, for example, strong opposition to on-street parking charges. Cllr Barr asked whether there was an intention to publish the results. Cllr Wilson would enquire.

**Cllr
Wilson**

Cllr Davies (SLDC): recommended attending the SLDC Housing Conference at which Tim Farron MP would be speaking. He was pleased that local opinion had changed the mind of the National Trust in relation to plans for Castle Cottage at Sawry to be a holiday let. He would like to see Parish Councils writing to their MPs to request more local say in such changes of use.

023/11 Training

The Clerk had arranged for a CALC course on 'Essentials for Local Councillors' to be run locally at Bouth on 28th February, for Colton and neighbouring Councils, saving costs on fees and travel. Cllrs Champion and Hoyle would attend. Cllr Barr thanked the Clerk for taking the initiative on arranging this course.

024/11 Accounts

It was resolved that the following payments be made:

- Cheque 000533 - A.Lane, Clerk, home office allowance for FY 10/11 - **£150.00**
- Cheque 000534 - A.Lane, Clerk, travel expenses for FY 10/11 - **£155.80**
- Cheque 000535 - A.Lane, Clerk, stationery expenses - **£34.92**
- Cheque 000536 - Cllr Dean, travel expenses FY 10/11 - **£58.80**
- Cheque 000537 - Cllr Barr, travel expenses FY 10/11 - **£136.40**
- Cheque 000538 - Cllr Champion, travel expenses FY 10/11 - **£9.60**
- Cheque 000539 - Cllr Cunliffe, travel expenses FY 10/11 - **£15.40**
- Cheque 000540 - Cllr Potts, travel expenses FY 10/11 - **£28.40**
- Cheque 000541 - Cllr Fishwick, Community Plan Coordination 8hrs @ £8/hr, Sep10-Jan11: **£64.00**
- Cheque 000542 - Whitstones Caravan Park, printing 3 newsletters & Community Plan questionnaires - **£96.00**
- Cheque 000543 - CALC - training course, 28th Feb - **£75.00** (£45 to come from other Councils)

Budget check: The Clerk had checked spending against the budget for the year end. There was likely to be a £1700 underspend, largely due to the lack of a Lengthsman this year.

Grant Requests: NW Air Ambulance and the Citizens' Advice Bureau had requested support. It was agreed to grant £50 to the NW Air Ambulance in April, as allocated in the budget.

025/11 Planning

Revised arrangements for LDNPA development management were noted as follows: Paul Haggin as Team Leader for South, Central and SE areas; Maori Locke as Planning Officer and Bill Murray as Compliance Officer for the sub-area that included Colton Parish.

The following planning applications were discussed and a response agreed:

- 7/2010/5602: The Old Post Office, Low Stott Park. Demolition of existing garage and reconstruction of garage/workshop with dayroom above. **Resolution: Object** on grounds of size (larger footprint and twice the height), over-development of already congested site, and privacy for neighbouring properties.
- 7/2009/5774: Land at Mill Farm, Newby Bridge (in Stavely-in-Cartmel parish) - 14 affordable housing units and associated works. **Resolution: Object** on grounds of policy (development in open countryside), ineligibility for Colton residents whose housing needs were used to support the application, unsuitable location, unsafe access onto A590, lack of footway access to service centres, scale, and the existence of empty affordable housing in Haverthwaite.

The following responses to planning applications were noted:

-7/2010/5646 - Fall Stile Cottage, Bouth. Front kitchen extension - *No objection.*

The following Public Footpath Creation Order was noted:

-Skowbarrow Lane and Yewbarrow Woods, Rusland

026/11 Highways

Lengthsman: A working group had met (Cllrs Barr, Dean, Cunliffe and the Clerk) to consider the future of the Lengthsman scheme. It recommended that the scheme continue at 2 days per month, as budgeted for. **It was resolved to accept** this recommendation. The Clerk would proceed with recruitment, seeking advice from CALC.

Clerk

Bouth Speed Limit: The Clerk would request a site meeting with the Regional Highways Engineer, Mr Masser.

Clerk

"Better Highways" scheme: Concern was expressed about the new scheme, including the sudden withdrawal of the Highway Steward, the lack of a proper launch, the months of delay before receiving any information and the apparent lack of any relationship between the new scheme and the Parish Council. The 'Locality Working' initiative seemed to have been dropped altogether. Cllr Wilson would take the Council's concerns to County. He explained that the new teams were still settling in and were also on 'reactive maintenance' following the bad winter. In addition, staff changes since Capita had lost the Highways contract were causing some delays.

Cllr
Wilson

Field of Pigs, Ealinghearth: The owner of the pig field had been given until 17th February by the Environment Agency to solve the contamination of becks by slurry. The flooding onto the highway seemed as bad as ever, including a bad pothole that had formed under the flooded area. It was not known whether the EA were to take action against the owner. The Clerk would find out.

Clerk

Grit Bins: New grit bins had been delivered, but not necessarily in the correct locations. The Clerk would contact Tony Beaty (Highways) about location, painting them green, a possible numbering system and a request from Hay Bridge to have their own bins filled.

Clerk

027/11 Green Roads

The Colton Green Roads Pilot Study Group had now surveyed two routes and acquired costings for repair. Cllr Wilson had approved £5K from his budget towards repairs and was hoping that County would provide further funding. The Parish Council was being asked for some support, perhaps through allocating some small amount of funding and/or volunteers. It was agreed to

Cllrs
Barr &
Wilson

defer the item until the next meeting when Cllrs Barr and Wilson would give a short presentation.

028/11 Oxen Park Reading Room (OPRR)

It was resolved to support the OPRR Committee's application to the Land Registry for title to the land on which the Reading Room was situated.

Clerk

029/11 Meetings

The following meeting reports were received:

- Lake District National Park meeting on illegal use of off-road vehicles (18th Jan): The Clerk had attended. The key agreements were that: i) local people, parish councils and the police needed to work together to solve the problem, ii) decisions should be made about the best way to gather evidence, perhaps using a web-based reporting system, iii) a smaller group of individuals and representatives should be formed; Colton PC would send a representative.
- Broadband Pioneers meeting (29th Jan), Cllr Barr had attended: The meeting concerned the initiative to bring £10M to Cumbria for high-speed Broadband. Cllr Wilson was promoting High Furness and Cartmel and Grange LAP areas as pilots for the project.
- High Furness LAP (1st Feb), Cllr Barr had attended: The meeting had covered the 'Better Highways' scheme, grid bin positions, changes to LDNPA staffing arrangements for planning, and better broadband (all covered elsewhere in these minutes).
- High Furness Neighbourhood Forum (26th Jan), Cllr Cunliffe had attended: The meeting included information on new policing arrangements, Forestry Commission sell-off plans, community wheelchair now available from Hawkshead Church, and a presentation on the work of the magistrate service.

Attendance to the following meetings was approved:

- South Lakeland District Council Affordable Housing conference, Kendal, 18th March. Cllr Dean would attend.

Cllr
Dean

030/11 Consultations

The following consultation had been withdrawn:

- Defra: the Future of the Public Forest Estate in England.

It was decided not to respond to the following consultations:

- South Lakeland Local Development Framework - Land Allocations (outwith the Park).
- Lake District National Park: Ambleside Campus Supplementary Planning Document.
- Office for Nuclear Development: plutonium management and 3rd party liability.

031/11 Correspondence

The Rusland Valley and Fells Heritage Lottery Fund project had written to ask for a letter of support. The Parish Council had already resolved to support this project in principle. It was agreed that the Clerk should respond expressing support.

Clerk

Receipt of the following correspondence was noted:

CALC/NALC

- NALC invitation for nominees for Royal Garden Parties 2011
- Cumbria County Council's Energy Supply contracts - invitation to local councils to be included. (*Colton PC does not own premises -forwarded to Village Hall Committees*)
- CALC Circular February 2011
- CALC South Lakeland District Association - papers for meeting on 3rd March 11
- Draft time-table for Parish and Town Council Elections in 2011
- Agenda for South Lakeland District Assoc. meeting, March 3rd & minutes of last meeting
- NALC Networking Lunches - inc. Clerks' meeting on Local Councils and National Parks. Derby, 3rd June. £90

CCC

- Better Highways leaflet
- 'Have Your Say' drop-in events in January
- High Furness Neighbourhood Forum - agenda for 26th Jan
- Apology from County at lack of information on how Better Highways project will interact with parishes.
- High Furness LAP - Agenda for meeting on 1st Feb
- "Better Highways" South Lakeland - Area Team Information, dated Dec 2010
- "Better Highways" South Lakeland - "What you need to Know for Roll-in", Nov 2010
- High Furness Neighbourhood Forum - notes from meeting 26th Jan

SLDC

- Consultation papers on budget spending reductions (via CALC), deadline 21st Jan. Sent email complaining not enough time to respond.
- Request for comment on waste collection services
- SLDC Five Year Strategy
- South Lakeland Local Development Framework Land Allocations - consultation on emerging options

(outside National Park)

- Electoral Register - Jan 2011
- SLDC Affordable Housing conference, Kendal, 18th March
- SLDC Standards Committee papers, 8th Feb
- SLDC Community Grant Aid - applications by 11th Feb

LDNPA

- Revised arrangements for the development management service - key contacts
- News update from Clive Wickham, Community Officer, LDNPA
- Agenda for meeting on illegal use of off-road vehicles, Water Yeat, 18th Jan
- Confirmation of Public Path creation order, Yewbarrow Woods and Skowbarrow Lane, Rusland
- Illegal off-road use of motor vehicles - notes from meeting at Water Yeat on 18/1/11
- Ambleside Campus Supplementary Planning Document - public consultation and drop-in sessions.
- Windermere bylaws: Under-Secretary of State's decision on amendments, including decision not to confirm amendments on navigation byelaws.
- Proposed closure of Public Rights of Way for Malcolm Wilson Rally, 5th March, Grizedale

Central Government

- Commission for Rural Communities - Impact of Recession on Rural Housing report
- Office for Nuclear Development - consultation events on decommissioning guidance and waste transfer methodology
- Boundary Commission - Letter explaining that electoral review of Cumbria on 'hold' pending decision on council size. Also copy of letter sent to County Chief Executive.
- Office for Nuclear Development - update: Creation of an Office for Nuclear Regulation plus various consultations
- Forestry Commission: Invitation to a meeting at Grizedale on the Forest Sale consultation, 8th March.

Cumbria CVS and ACT

- Cumbria CVS Newsletter Feb/March 2011

Other

- Blawith & Subberthwaite PC - Agenda for 6th Jan
- West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Partnership 13th Jan workshop
- Cumbria Police - communication tool 'Cumbria Alert' workshop 7th Feb Newbiggin
- Forestry Commission NW regional newsletter
- Coniston PC - Agenda for 17th Jan
- Satterthwaite PC - Agenda for 17th Jan
- Haverthwaite PC - Minutes of 10th Jan
- Cumbria Police Authority press release and online community meeting 20th Jan (*only 2 days' notice*).
- PC John Baldwin - changing roles and contacts for off-road incidents (PC Shane Wheeler to be new contact)
- Friends of the Lake District e-message Jan 2011
- Coniston PC - Minutes of meeting 17th Jan
- Our Green Space project - bulletin Jan 2011
- Friends of the Lake District e-newsletter
- Rusland Valley and Fells Heritage Lottery Project bid - request for indication of support
- Clerks and Councils Direct - Newsletter Jan 2011
- The Royal British Legion - Great Poppy weekend brochure (11/12 June)
- Environment Agency - information about their role in Nuclear reactor designs
- Unlock Democracy - update on the Sustainable Communities Act
- Town & Country Planning Association - Neighbourhood Planning Conference, 29th March, London
- Cumbria Choice - Choice-based lettings leaflet
- Correspondence on Bouth speed limits with Mr Donald Wroe and Cllr Rod Wilson
- North-west Air Ambulance - request for support
- Letter from concerned resident, Mr Brown of Craighurst, Low Stott Park, about planning application 7/2010/5602, Old Post House, garage with day-room over
- Letter from owner of Kiln Cottage, Bouth explaining plans for upgrade of garage
- Skipton East Lancs Rail Action Partnership - request for message of support for re-opening of Colne to Skipton rail link.
- National Housing Federation North - newsletter Feb 11
- Coniston Parish Council - Agenda for 21st Feb

032/11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed as the Parish Open Meeting following by a Parish Council meeting on Monday 28th March in Rusland Reading Rooms, 7.30 p.m.

It was agreed that the Council would find an alternative venue to Water Yeat Village Hall in December, as it was outside the Parish and meetings there had not been well attended by the public.