



## Colton Parish Council

Tel: 01229 861408  
e-mail: coltonpc@btinternet.com  
web: www.coltonparishcouncil.org.uk

Clerk: Ms Mandy Lane  
Lilac Cottage  
Oxen Park  
Ulverston LA12 8HG

The following are the minutes of the Colton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2011 in Rusland Reading Room at 7.30 p.m.

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

**Also present:** Cllr Wilson (CCC) Cllr Davies (SLDC) PC Laura Sowerby and 3 members of the public.

### **ACTION**

#### **078/11 Apologies**

Cllr Potts (other meeting) Cllr Champion (holiday)

#### **079/11 Minutes of Last Meeting**

It was resolved that the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2011 as a true record.

#### **080/11 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Watson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 085/11 Planning - specifically, application 7/2011/5280: Barn conversion at Oxen Park - and signed the register.

#### **081/11 Update on Ongoing Issues & Actions from Last Meeting** (not covered elsewhere on Agenda)

- Notice-Boards: i) Nibthwaite: Mr Helme had quoted £795 for a new notice-board; this was accepted. ii) Bouth: Mr Mein had made a new Parish Council notice-board for the cost of materials only, located on the wall of the White Hart; the Council recorded their appreciation and asked the Clerk to send a letter of thanks. iii) Lakeside: the hotel owner wished to wait until the Boaters hotel annex had been completed before responding to the Council's request for a notice-board. Clerk
- BMX Cycle area: No response had been received to the request in the newsletter for suitable land. The Forestry Commission had explained that any cycling area would need to be officially supported and might set precedents for permitting all cycling in a wider area. It was suggested that Colton Church car-park might be a suitable place, when not in use. Cllrs Dean and Fishwick would approach the Church and Mr Tony Atkinson who farmed there. Cllrs Dean & Fishwick
- Traffic speed at Tottlebank: There had been no feedback so far to the Council nor to Mrs Hodgson (Tottlebank Farm) from the police officers actioned at the last meeting. It was noted that the width restriction sign was located at a junction some 200m from the A590 - too late to stop large vehicles using the route. The Clerk would contact Highways to ask for it to be moved to the A590 junction. Clerk

#### **082/11 Public Participation**

Police: i) Crime report: PC Sowerby reported that there had been only 2 crimes in the area in May and June (theft and damage). ii) Illegal off-road activity: PC Sowerby confirmed that illegal off-road activity by motor vehicles was the policing priority for this area at the moment. There had been a number of calls reporting incidents; 3 people had been prosecuted recently in the South Lakes area. The Clerk asked whether there could be a police presence at Moor Lane, a bridleway near Satterthwaite, which was becoming a regular hot-spot for illegal off-road activity by trail bikes on Thursday evenings. PC Sowerby would ask. iii) "Voice Connect": This new community watch service enabled volunteers to sign up to receive up-to-date information from the police and other agencies by phone, email or text. The Clerk would circulate leaflets and put information in the summer newsletter iv) Posters for notice-boards: PC Sowerby was asked for replacement posters for notice-boards, as the present ones gave incorrect contact numbers. PC Sowerby

#### **083/11 Comments from District and County Councillors**

- Cllr Wilson (CCC): i) Bouth speed limit: He explained that he may be able to put some money towards implementing speed limits at Bouth next year. He would speak to the Traffic Engineer, Victoria Lepper. ii) Green Roads: A meeting was due in early August. The Clerk asked that the Nibthwaite to Parkamoor track (the most badly damaged UCR) be on the Agenda to put in place a plan for its repair, or alternatively a Traffic Regulation Order. Cllr Fishwick reported an increased usage of this track by off-road commercial companies. Cllr Wilson
- Cllr Davies (SLDC): i) Green Energy: He thanked the Parish Council for running the two green energy workshops last year. Cumbria Green Build was running two free events in September. ii) Planning: He had attended a training session on the government's new

approach to planning. There was an intention to make planning procedures easier, with less restrictions. 'Development control' would now be called 'Development matters'. He expressed strong concern at proposals to allow confidential discussions to take place between Councillors and developers; this appeared to contradict current local government legal procedures.

#### 084/11 Accounts

PAYE requirements: The HMRC had announced in March that all Parish Councils must adopt PAYE for paying their staff. The Clerk had registered the Council as an employer, installed the software, and made the necessary first payment by the deadline date, with help from Cllr Dean. **It was resolved** to approve this system of quarterly PAYE salary payments, with an annual review.

The following payments were approved:

- Cheque no. 000558: HMRC: PAYE Tax payable on Clerk's quarterly salary: **£231.20**
- Cheque no. 000559: A.Lane, Clerk's net salary for April-June 2011: **£925.42**
- Cheque no. 000560: Eleanor Chaney, Community Plan workshop at Rusland, 27/3/11: **£85.00**
- Cheque no. 000561: Society of Local Council Clerks, return of CiLCA portfolio: **£5.00**

#### 085/11 Planning

The following planning applications were discussed and resolutions made:

- 7/2011/5280: Barn at Oxen Park: Change of use of redundant barn and conversion to dwelling. Cllr Watson declared an interest as part owner, explained the application and left the room during discussion. The Clerk confirmed that the barn would be subject to a local occupancy clause. **Resolution: No objection** Clerk
- 7/2011/5170: The Manor public house, Oxen Park: Extension of public house into existing disused barn (to incorporate managers' accommodation). Neighbours had expressed concern about invasion of privacy with the proposed positioning of bedroom windows. **Resolution: No objection**, but the Clerk would express privacy concerns. Clerk
- 7/2011/5140: Mill Gate, Greenodd. Detached garage with home office above - amended plan. The Council considered the amended plans, but these did not address the Council's key concerns. **Resolution: objections to stand** as previously expressed: overdevelopment in relation to the size of the existing bungalow. The Clerk would ask Planning again for policy guidance on applications for double garages with accommodation over. Clerk  
Clerk

The following lodged appeals were noted:

- 7/2009/5774 - Mill Farm, Newby Bridge, affordable housing units
- 7/2010/5602 - The Old Post House, Stott Park, garage/workshop with dayroom above

The following responses to planning applications were noted:

- 7/2011/5289 - Waterside House, Newby Bridge: Porch/lobby extension to barn, with flue pipe. *No objection*

#### 086/11 Old Hall Wood, Bouth

The Forestry Commission had held an informal walk through Old Hall Wood, Bouth to assess local interest in becoming involved in decisions about its management and in volunteering for remedial work, coppicing and wildlife recording. There might be a scheme to provide reduced cost fire-wood. Around 15 people had attended and had expressed their support. It was proposed that a local committee or group of informal trustees be set up composed of interested residents, and that the Parish Council would facilitate this through a public meeting in Bouth during August. This was approved. The Clerk would liaise with the Forestry Commission to arrange a date. Clerk

#### 087/11 Highways

- Lengthsman: Cllr Cunliffe gave the Clerk a list of jobs completed by Mr Atkinson during June and July. Some longstanding drain blockages had now been cleared. The Clerk would put the list on the website. The Council expressed appreciation for the excellent work done so far. Cllr Wilson explained that Highways would not provide long-term loan of a scissor shovel; the Council would need to buy its own. The Clerk would investigate prices. The Clerk would also produce a notice about the Lengthsman for notice-boards. Clerk  
Clerk
- Grit Bins: Two new grit bins were still to be provided (through the Local Area Partnership), but had not yet appeared; they were destined for Bandrake Head and Bouth. New grit bins delivered last year were not all put in the right locations, despite the Clerk having provided grid references. Unfortunately, they had now been filled with salt and were too heavy to move. The Clerk circulated a list of existing bin locations and actions required; Councillors were asked to check the list and feedback comments to the Clerk. All Cllrs

#### 088/11 Meetings

The following meeting reports were received:

- LDNPA Parish Tour, South Distinctive Area, 5<sup>th</sup> July: Cllrs Dean and Hoyle had attended.

The tour began in Coniston and covered 4 issues: i) Electric bikes and car-sharing schemes: these were located at local businesses including the Lakeside Hotel. Hire was by the day, fairly expensive and geared towards tourists rather than residents. ii) Affordable Housing: 14 well-constructed houses had been built in Coniston. There was concern that not all were occupied by local people. The rents were fairly high, but tenants were relatively happy as many had moved from high rents in the private sector. iii) Water quality in Coniston and Crake catchment: there had been some improvement; leaflets on the use of phosphate-free products were circulated. iv) Abbots Reading Farm visit: to see an example of sustaining traditional farming with management of wildlife habitats supported by government grants.

- Illegal Off-road Activity Working Group, 12<sup>th</sup> July: The Clerk had attended. A press release had been issued to warn illegal off-roaders of a campaign to tackle the problem and to provide information on how to report incidents. New notices were being trialed on Blawith Common.
- High Dam Car parking charges, meeting with the LDNPA, 13<sup>th</sup> July: Cllr Potts had met with Mr Coxon, operations manager for the Park. Mr Coxon was to send the Clerk his proposals for charging. He promised that there would be a trial period, reduced cost local permits, and that he would work with residents both before and after introduction to minimise impact through signage etc.. Parking charges would operate from 08.00 to 20.00, possibly in summer only.
- Broadband meetings: Cllr Barr had attended. Colton Parish was part of a bid with the Grange and Cartmel LAP area for possible installation of fibre-optics as the first area in Cumbria to do so. There was a need to stimulate further demand to attract suppliers.
- High Furness Neighbourhood Forum, 20<sup>th</sup> July: Cllr Cunliffe had attended. There was an excellent, positive talk from the Cumbria Youth Offending team. Grizebeck Village Hall Committee had spoken about re-building their hall (cost: c. £300,000). Trading Standards leaflets were circulated.

The following request for a public meeting was considered:

- Rusland Mosses Management Plan: Mr Wingate-Saul, representing the Rusland Valley Community Trust (RVCT), with Mr Meanwell, representing the Rusland Valley Horticultural Society (RVHS) and Mr Dobson, representing the Bethacar Moor Commoners Association (BMCA), explained the background to the request for a public meeting: Natural England (NE) were proposing to raise the water level of the Rusland Mosses SSSI to preserve the raised bog habitat. This could have a significant impact on the surrounding agricultural meadows, including the Rusland Show field. It would also involve the removal of many of the scots pines surrounding the mosses. NE had commissioned a report on the proposal, and were meeting with landowners. Initially, they had promised a public meeting. However, they had since drawn back from this promise, now proposing only a drop-in session during September. **It was resolved** to hold a public meeting if NE refused to do so. NE would be invited to attend.

## 089/11 Consultations

Reports on the following consultations were received:

- Cumbria County Council Library service: The Clerk reported that Cllr Champion had collated views and submitted a response, expressing concern about the likely demise of the mobile library, the need to provide a service for isolated rural communities, and enthusiasm for the use of village halls as hubs, providing that these were properly resourced.

The following new consultations were noted and actions approved:

- LDNPA - Landscape Character Supplementary Planning Document, by 4<sup>th</sup> August. All to send comments to Cllr Barr who would compile a response. **Cllr Barr**
- SLDC - Parking Charges, by 28<sup>th</sup> Sept. All to view the documents online, for discussion at the next meeting. **All Cllrs**
- Public Forestry Panel consultation (Defra), by 31<sup>st</sup> July. The Clerk would respond based on the views previously submitted. **Clerk**

## 090/11 Correspondence

Receipt of the following correspondence was noted:

### CALC/NALC

- Papers for South Lakeland District Association meeting, 9<sup>th</sup> June
- Figures on household income by Parish - from Cumbria Observatory
- Nominations for second parish rep. from SL District Association to County's SL Local Committee
- Presentations from SL District Association meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> June on: SLDC Local Development Framework ii) Big Society and Localism Bill implications for SLDC, iii) SLDC Streetcare programme of work, iv) CCC Library Services review
- Minutes of SL District Association meeting, 9<sup>th</sup> June
- CALC - request for views on new police liaison arrangements

- Letter from SL District Assoc. to SLDC on rate relief for toilets.
- CALC - request for opinion on liaison with police following restructuring. Clerk expressed concern at lack of clarity on contact points and information flows.
- Invitation to nominate a Broadband Champion for CALC South Lakeland District Association
- CALC Circular for July/August
- Beacons for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations 2012

#### **CCC**

- Press release on Bouthrey Bridge repairs to start on June 27<sup>th</sup>.
- LAP - grit bins update
- High Furness Neighbourhood Forum, 20<sup>th</sup> July, Spark Bridge

#### **SLDC**

- Standards Committee papers for meeting 14<sup>th</sup> June, for info
- Letter regarding status of Bouth Village Green and offer of 999 year lease
- Parking services consultation - by 28<sup>th</sup> September

#### **LDNPA**

- Press release on illegal off-road crime. Agenda for meeting 12<sup>th</sup> July.
- Landscape Character - Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Draft for consultation

#### **Central Government Depts.**

- Communities and Local Government - Neighbourhood Planning Front Runners Scheme: invitation to apply.

#### **Cumbria CVS and ACT**

- CVS Newsletter June/July 11

#### **Other**

- Tim Farron MP - Broadband Campaign e-news
- Coniston PC - Agenda for 20<sup>th</sup> June
- Rusland Mosses - Natural England proposals - correspondence
- NW Evening Mail - request for news, agendas, minutes. Pointed them to our website
- Blawith PC - Agenda for 30<sup>th</sup> June
- Centre for Sustainable Energy - free training event on low carbon living, Kendal, 28<sup>th</sup> July
- Satterthwaite PC - Agenda for 11<sup>th</sup> July and minutes of last meeting
- Haverthwaite PC - Agenda for 11<sup>th</sup> July
- Clerks and Councils Direct - newsletter July 11
- Cumbria Care - Furness 'Reablement Event' 2<sup>nd</sup> August, Barrow
- Coniston PC - Agenda for 18<sup>th</sup> July
- Haverthwaite PC - Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> July

#### **091/11 Date of Next Meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting was confirmed for Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September in Finsthwaite Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.