



## Colton Parish Council

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The following are the minutes of the Colton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2012 in Rusland Reading Rooms at 7.30 p.m..

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

**Also present:** Cllr Wilson (CCC) Cllr Fletcher (SLDC) and 2 members of the public

### 086/12 Apologies

Cllr Dean (holiday)

**ACTION**

### 087/12 Minutes of Last Meeting

It was resolved that the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012 as a true record.

### 088/12 Declarations of Interest

None

### 089/12 Update on Issues and Actions from Last Meeting

- Paths for Communities - Lakeside footpath: Cllr Champion reported on a meeting with Mr David Robinson of the LDNPA who was enthusiastic as the project met with their sustainable transport aims. If Colton Parish can negotiate the route with landowners, then the Park would take on the legal and administrative aspects of formalising it.
- Community Plan: The Clerk had completed the analysis of questionnaire results; the working group would meet during August to decide on the structure and format of the Plan.
- Colton Housing Survey: Cumbria Rural Housing Trust had sent some interim results, pending a complete report. Of 458 forms sent out, 116 were returned of which 9 expressed a housing need; these were currently being assessed in more detail.

**Cllrs Hoyle & Champion**

**Clerk**

### 090/12 Public Participation

i) Mr Gwyn Williams, a Parish Council appointed Trustee of the Jubilee Institute Lakeside Trust, gave a presentation on the work of the Trust, which managed the assets gained from the sale of the Lakeside Institute in 1984. The trustees were authorised to apply the income "for the general benefit of the communities of Lakeside and Finsthwaite". In recent years, funds had been awarded to the Westmorland General and Furness General Hospitals, Leven Valley School, the Finsthwaite and Lakeside Village Hall and Finsthwaite Church. The Trust might be interested in contributing to suitable parish Council initiatives.

ii) Mr Harley, owner of Springfield Depot, Colton explained that he was applying for an operators licence to deliver vehicles back to their owners following repairs. This would not mean any increase in traffic from the depot.

### 091/12 Comments from District and County Councillors

Cllr Wilson (CCC): reported on items not covered elsewhere on the Agenda: i) National Grid west coast connections route. He had sent in a response objecting to the option of an overground route across the south of the County. ii) A590 project: He had met with the Minister in London alongside MPs. The Minister had agreed to visit the site in September and provide funds to allow the project to continue. iii) Cumbria Broadband: Fujitsu had withdrawn from the process which left BT as the only applicant. iv) Lack of notification on recent road closures in Rusland: this was an oversight and Colton PC would be notified in future.

Cllr Fletcher (SLDC): i) Clean Streets consultation: There had been confusion about which land the consultation referred to. It was now clear that the proposal was to apply dog control orders to rural and urban land, wherever the public had access. Fines would be much increased, but there would be no increase in enforcement officers, although Parish Councils would be free to appoint them if they wished. ii) Fuel Poverty: SLDC had launched a collective energy-sharing scheme to which householders could sign up from 1<sup>st</sup> August. The Clerk was concerned that Parish Councils had not been notified directly about this scheme; Cllr Fletcher would express this concern to SLDC. iii) Car park charges: SLDC had experienced loss of revenue from car parks and a high volume of complaints through increasing charges; it was now implementing a scheme of ½-hour parking at lower rates in some car parks.

**Cllr Fletcher**

## 092/12 Revised Code of Conduct and Register of Interests

**It was resolved** to approve and adopt the revised Code of Conduct originating from the Localism Act 2011, and applying from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012. Councillors had completed and signed the new Register of Interests forms; the Clerk would send these to SLDC to reach them within 28 days of 1<sup>st</sup> July, and also put them onto the website, as required by the Act.

On behalf of Councillors, the Chairman thanked the Clerk for acting swiftly to meet this very tight deadline.

## 093/12 Accounts

The following payments made were noted:

- Cheque number 000604: HMRC PAYE for Clerk's salary, 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2012/13: **£249.37**
- Cheque number 000605: Clerk's net salary, 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2012/13: **£997.46**

**It was resolved to approve** the bank reconciliation April-June 2012.

## 094/12 Planning

The following planning applications were considered and decisions made:

- 7/2011/5707: Hilltop, Penny Bridge. External alterations to allow domestic use of barn. demolish and rebuild hen-house and wall. **Resolution: No objection**, with the caveat that the barn should be used in association with the main house and not as a self-contained dwelling.

The following responses to planning applications were noted:

- 7/2012/5282: Thornlea, Colton: Erection of shed in rear garden. *No objection.*
- 7/2012/5209: Collin Pit Farm, Oxen Park: Replacement building for tractors & machinery. *No objection.*

The following planning permissions granted were noted:

- 7/2012/5233: Land at High Wood, Spark Bridge: New field access gate (resubmission)
- 7/2012/5221: Bobbin Mill Cottage, Low Stott Park: New conservatory and alterations
- 7/2012/5135: Abbot Park, Bandrake Head: New building for use as camping barn

The following permitted development was noted: Great Lindeth Wood, Bouth: new forestry building

Response to the Council's letter of 26<sup>th</sup> January regarding Mill Farm affordable housing: The Clerk had recently received a response confirming that Colton would be eligible in the same way as other surrounding parishes for first refusal on allocations of any affordable homes built, despite belonging to a different 'Locality' in the LDNPA Core Strategy. This was noted.

## 095/12 Highways

i) Green Roads: Progress was awaited with the go-ahead for repairs and Traffic Regulation Orders on the two Ickentwaite green roads. The County's 'Task and Finish' working group would try to meet in August. The Clerk had met with the Park, Highways, National Trust and Bethacar Commoners to review signs on the High Parkamoor road; the result was a large and clear 'no motor vehicles' sign at the top and a 'no through road' sign was being made for the bottom of the track. Erosion on this road and on the surrounding fellsides was worse than ever.

ii) Traffic Speed: a) Bouth: speed monitoring will be conducted to assess the impact of the new '20's plenty' signs. b) Tottlebank: County Highways have designed a width-restriction sign for the A590 and were awaiting a response from the Highways Agency. c) Oxen Park, which might be a candidate for a '20's plenty' sign following the Bouth assessment; residents would be consulted.

iii) Lengthsman: Mr Atkinson had been clearing drains around the Parish, strimming junctions and had repaired a wall at Rusland. Cllr Cunliffe provided a report for the Clerk. The Clerk would review the list of drainage issues that required road excavations and provide a new report to Highways. Clerk

iv) Grit Bins: The Clerk reported that a Parish Council-owned grit bin was missing, apparently stolen, from the Ickentwaite road. It had been empty, pending decisions about where to site it. Since there were now 2 bins belonging to Highways on the Ickentwaite loop, it would probably not be worth replacing it. The Clerk had checked the other two bins (at Hay Bridge and Finsthwaite) which were present and contained grit; she would arrange for them to be 'smart watered' and labelled. Clerk

v) Verge cutting regimes: Information from Highways on cutting regimes was now available the Parish Council website. Cllr Wilson was seeking information on the query from the Lengthsman about the lack of verge cutting on narrow roads. Cllr Wilson

vi) Field of Pigs, Finsthwaite: Cllr Wilson had asked Defra for a replacement contact since the retirement of Mr Moffit, the Defra Chief Vet and was awaiting a response. There were continuing concerns about animal welfare and about flooding of the road and pollution. The Clerk would report this to the Environment Agency. Clerk

## 096/12 Meetings

i) Broadband Meetings: Cllr Barr had attended four recent meetings. In summary, the High Furness LAP had completed their broadband survey and produced an interim report. There was to be a programme of 'awareness-raising' at local Shows and a major event at John Ruskin school in 2013. Fujitsu had withdrawn from the tender exercise for providing broadband services, leaving BT the only applicant. Cllr Barr had decided to resign from the HF LAP Broadband working group, and from the County Hub Coordinator / Broadband Champion role, due to lack of time now that he was a National Park member.

ii) High Furness Neighbourhood Forum, 12<sup>th</sup> June: Cllr Barr had attended. Issues covered included: Land Trusts at Torver, Coniston and Keswick; the South Cumbria Rivers Trust; Illegal off-road activity; and Go-Lakes which had received £6.9M from the Dept of Transport for developing sustainable transport schemes. The vote for police priority for the area was now speeding traffic through Broughton.

iii) High Furness LAP, 12<sup>th</sup> July: Cllr Barr had attended. He had put forward Colton PC's ideas for project funding; no decisions had yet been made.

iv) Illegal off-road activity Working Group, 19<sup>th</sup> June: The Clerk had attended. The Police had assumed activity was reduced as few reports had been made. The group felt this was not the case, but was probably due to 'reporting fatigue'. Funding for further data loggers to monitor illegal traffic might be possible from the National Park.

## 097/12 Consultations

i) SLDC Clean Streets, by 24<sup>th</sup> Sept: Whilst the proposals for urban areas, playing fields and parks were considered sensible, proposals to apply fines for dog fouling on rural land, for example on the fells, were felt inappropriate and could well result in a more unpleasant and environmentally unsound outcome in the form of plastic bags of excrement. The Clerk would draft a response and circulate.

Clerk

## 098/12 Correspondence

Notification of the LDNPA Community Projects fund was noted in particular; the Clerk would send around the link to the website.

Clerk

Receipt of the following correspondence was noted:

### CALC/NALC

- CALC Circular for June
- Result of Election for South Lakeland Parish member to LDNPA
- Standards, village greens and other matters of interest
- New Code of Conduct – urgent action
- Declaration of Acceptance of Office – new forms
- South Lakeland District Assoc. papers for meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June
- Guidance notes on new Code of Conduct
- CALC Circular for July and August
- SL District Association meeting, 28<sup>th</sup> June – National Grid 5 presentation slides
- Cumbria in Bloom – brief questionnaire for non-participants asking why they don't take part.

### CCC

- South Lakeland verge cutting time-tables and map
- LAP – Agenda items request for 12<sup>th</sup> July meeting
- LAP – papers for 12<sup>th</sup> July meeting
- High Furness Neighbourhood Forum – summary of meeting 12<sup>th</sup> June
- Consultation on Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local plan (outwith National park) by 8<sup>th</sup> August.
- Cumbria Playing Fields Association funding pot (up to £250) for organising games linked to Olympics
- Update from Traffic Engineer on progress with signage and strategy for speeding traffic in Bouth, Tottlebank and Oxen Park

### SLDC

- South Lakeland Partnership Event – Kendal, 13<sup>th</sup> July
- June Electoral Register updates
- Olympic Torch relay – hosted by South Lakeland on 21/22<sup>nd</sup> June – Grasmere/Ambleside/Kendal/Milnthorpe
- July Electoral Register Updates
- Protecting open spaces – links to fields in trust info – disappointing response. Clerk sent reply asking why no fields nominated in South Lakeland and asking about Bouth VG. Suggested take up with our District Councillor.
- Non-voting co-opted Parish Council representatives on SLDC Standards Cttee – seeking applicants
- Agenda for Council meeting 19<sup>th</sup> June
- Clean Streets consultation – by 24<sup>th</sup> Sept
- Receipt of address list used by housing survey (458 addresses)
- SLDC collective energy switching scheme – via LAP (not sent to Parish Councils)
- Standards Committee notification, 23<sup>rd</sup> July

## **LDNPA**

- Windermere Lake User Forum- recruiting four new members (forwarded via Cllr Barr)
- New funding for Lakes' Community Projects
- East Distinctive Area Parish Tour – Weds 10<sup>th</sup> July
- Response to Colton PC's letter of 26<sup>th</sup> January ("thank you for your *recent* letter") regarding Mill Farm affordable housing and Colton PC's eligibility – confirmed eligible.

## **Government Depts and Agencies**

- Natural England – Paths for Communities programme launch
- Defra – Forestry Panel – final report

## **Cumbria CVS and Action for Communities in Cumbria (ACT)**

- Cumbria Action for Health – event at Newton Rigg, 10<sup>th</sup> July
- Newsletter – The Power of Lobbying
- Cumbria CVS e-Bulletin
- Cumbria CVS Newsletter – Summer 2012

## **Other**

- Society of Local Council Clerks – Cumbria Branch meeting, Penrith 26<sup>th</sup> June
- Parish Online newsletter (Parish mapping)
- Morecambe Heritage Lottery Project: Local Nature Partnership proposal
- Fields in Trust newsletter – see <http://www.fieldsintrust.org/>
- Tim Farron MP - A590 meeting (due 18<sup>th</sup> June) cancelled by Minister
- South Cumbria Rivers Trust – volunteer evening for work on School Beck, north of Coniston on 21<sup>st</sup> June
- Coniston PC – Agenda for 18<sup>th</sup> June
- Egton PC – correspondence on A590 roundabout proposal
- South Cumbria Rivers Trust – volunteering opportunities in June
- DaCE (??) support services – article about independent living (*full of unexplained acronyms!*)
- Coniston Parish Council – draft minutes of meeting 18<sup>th</sup> June
- Cumbria Rural Housing Trust – initial Colton Housing Survey results
- Satterthwaite PC – Notice of meeting, 12/7/12
- Haverthwaite PC – Agenda for meeting 9<sup>th</sup> July
- Fields In Trust newsletter
- Clerks and Councils Direct Newsletter – July 2012
- RWE npower renewables – letter asking if ColtonPC wishes to meet them on their submitted planning application for 2 met masts at Kirkby Moor wind farm replacing the deteriorating one in place.
- Blawith PC – asking if any interest in a shared meeting with RWE npower renewables in relation to Kirkby Moor wind farm future plans,
- Coniston PC – Agenda for meeting 16<sup>th</sup> July
- Blawith PC – Notice of meeting 19<sup>th</sup> July
- Windermere Reflections Project – E-Bulletin No 7
- Fields in trust newsletter
- West Cumbria MRWS Partnership consultation on disposal of radioactive waste – report online

## **099/12 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting was confirmed as a Parish Council meeting on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September in Finsthwaite Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.