



Colton Parish Council

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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 22nd October 2012 in Bouth Village Hall at 7.30 p.m..

Members Present: Cllr Barr (Chair) Cllr Dean Cllr Hoyle Cllr Patterson Cllr Potts Cllr Watson Ms M Lane (Clerk)

Also present: Cllr Fletcher (SLDC) and 1 member of the public

117/12 Apologies

Cllr Robinson (other engagement) Cllr Champion (ill health) Cllr Wilson (holiday)

ACTION

118/12 Declaration of Acceptance of Office, Code of Conduct and Registration of Interests

The Chairman welcomed Katherine Patterson to her first meeting. She signed a 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor' form, witnessed by the Clerk, and completed and signed a Registration of Interests form.

The Clerk summarised further guidance from CALC on the new Code of Conduct: if members had a disclosable pecuniary interest in an item, they should declare that interest, not speak on the matter and leave the room. They may send a partner or friend to speak on their behalf.

119/12 Minutes of Last Meeting

It was resolved that the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th September 2012 as a true record.

120/12 Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests

No declarations of interest were made, nor dispensation requests, since the last meeting.

It was resolved to delegate authority to the Clerk to grant dispensations in cases where the majority of members would be affected by the requirement to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest.

Dispensation requests to enable members to set precepts for the 4 year Council term were signed by those present (Barr, Dean, Hoyle, Patterson, Potts and Watson) and granted by the Clerk.

121/12 Public Participation Representations were taken under item 12. Highways.

122/12 Update on Issues and Actions from Last Meeting

Community Plan: The Working Group had agreed a structure and were writing up the Plan. The LDNPA had emphasised that Community Plans are used to direct local policy.

123/12 Comments from District and County Councillors

Cllr Fletcher (SLDC) reported on: i) SLDC Bulk fuel purchase initiative: 1600 people had participated, but many could not as they were on fixed deals. SLDC would be repeating this exercise. ii) Parking fee trials in Ulverston and Grange would be ending on 31st October; any comments should be sent to Cllr Fletcher. Blawith PC had asked for a community meeting on parking charges; the forthcoming Neighbourhood Forum meeting was to include an open forum on the subject.

124/12 To Fill a Casual Vacancy on the Council in West Ward

A casual vacancy had arisen through the resignation of Cllr Cunliffe; no bye-election had been called, permitting the Council to co-opt. One applicant, John Milburn (of Stock Farm, Nibthwaite) had come forward. **It was resolved** to co-opt John Milburn onto the Council.

125/12 Training

It was agreed that the Clerk should attend a CALC Local Council Finance course at Crooklands on 15th November, at a cost of £29 plus travel expenses. The Clerk would investigate hosting a local CALC New Councillor course with other parishes, as had been done before to save on costs.

Clerk

126/12 Accounts

It was resolved to approve the bank reconciliation to end September 2012.

It was resolved in principle (pending decisions by government) the Finance Working Group's recommended budget and precept for FY 2013/14, there being no change to the precept.

It was resolved to approve the Assets Register drawn up by the Clerk following recommendations from the Auditor that all assets should be listed.

It was resolved to approve the Finance Working Group's review of the effectiveness of the internal audit conducted in April 2012.

The Clerk's salary and PAYE payments for 2nd quarter, FY11/12 were noted

- Cheque no. 000609: HMRC PAYE: £249.37
- Cheque no. 000610: A.Lane, Clerk's net salary: £997.46

It was resolved that the following payments be made:

- Cheque no. 000611: BDO Auditors. Audit for FY11/12: £162.00
- Cheque no. 000612: A. Lane (Clerk). Bouth Village Green Cash imprest 2 for FY 12/13: £100.00
- Cheque no. 000613: CALC, Local Finance Training course fee: £29.00
- Cheque no. 000614: Information Commissioner (DPA): £35.00

CALC guidance on receipt of gifts and hospitality was noted. In the light of this guidance, it was decided that it was inappropriate for the Council to provide gifts to retiring Councillors for long service.

127/12 Planning

The following planning application was discussed:

- 7/2012/5523: Roger Ridding, Rusland: Replacement House. **Resolution: No objection.**

The following responses to planning applications were noted:

- 7/2012/5452: Riddingside Farm. Roof over yard and midden. *No objection.*
- 7/2012/5484: Landing How, Lakeside. New jetty. *No objection.*
- 7/2012/5497: Bobbin Mill Cottage, Low Stott Park: New single storey extension. *No objection.*

The following planning permissions granted were noted:

- 7/2012/5707: Hilltop, Penny Bridge: External alterations to facilitate domestic use of barn.
- 7/2012/5209: Collin Pit Farm, Oxen Park: Storage for tractors and machinery
- 7/2012/5282: Thornlea, Colton: Erection of shed in rear garden
- 7/2012/5397: The Bungalow, Burn Knott, Bouth: Replacement house
- 7/2012/5155: Old Hall Farm: Change of use to open farm, with Section 106 agreement

The following planning permissions refused were noted:

- 7/2012/5405: Crosslands Barn, Rusland: Installation of external flue on gable end.

The following amendments to planning applications were noted:

- 7/2012/5288: Low Longmire Cottage, Oxen Park – re-design of front windows to match original.

128/12 Highways

Roads, drains and verges: Mr Parkin had written expressing his dismay at the state of the roads, the encroachment of verges and continuing problems with particular drains causing flooding and ice on the road in winter. The Lengthsman and the Clerk had met the Area Highways Team in August to discuss the list of serious drainage problems which required digging up the roadway. They were helpful, but very under-resourced. The Clerk sent updated lists of issues regularly to Highways, though she had not had a response in the last 6 months. No schedule of Highways team visits to the parish had been provided. The Local Area Partnership may provide funding to tackle verge problems. The Clerk would contact Highways again citing serious flooding locations.

Clerk

Winter Gritting: A paper had been received from County on winter gritting arrangements: i) Trials were in operation involving legal agreements with local volunteers gritting untreated roads, providing insurance, equipment and salt provision, but no funding. ii) An offer of lockable salt bins was declined by the Clerk who explained to County that immediate access to bins was essential, since 80% of Colton's roads were untreated. iii) Grit would be delivered only on an emergency basis, as previously; this was disappointing as by the time the salt arrived last winter, a thaw had already set in. Some grit had fortunately been stored by local farmers from last winter.

Lengthsman: Tony Atkinson had spent most of his time over the summer and autumn clearing drains around the Parish, solving many long-standing problems. He and the Clerk were now holding monthly meetings. A day of his time had been allocated to help rebuild and set back a wall at a narrow part of the road at Oxen Park which had collapsed causing access problems; an excellent job had been done. Cllr Watson had kindly donated the walling stone. The Council expressed its appreciation for Mr Atkinson's hard work for the community.

129/12 Housing

Colton Housing Needs Survey 2012 (Cumbria Rural Housing Trust): Cllr Potts summarised the results and compared it with the 2007 survey. Only 7 households were identified as being in need of affordable housing in the next 5 years, with 1 in immediate need. This compared with 17 households in need in 2007. As before, the need was for rented accommodation at a low level of rent (below £100 / week); 5 of the 7 wanted to own their own home but their income was too low. 80% of houses were now owned by the occupiers. The most populated age-group had gone up to the next decade class since the last survey (from 50-59 to 60-69). The number of grown up children living with their parents had declined. Comments were made about young people having left the area because of the lack of affordable homes. Judith Derbyshire of the CRHT was due to meet with the Housing WG shortly.

Colton Housing Database: The Housing WG had received from the SLDC their complete list of addresses in Colton used for the survey (no names included), and was categorising them into main residences, second homes, holiday lets etc. in order to gain a more faithful summary of the relative percentages of each type in the Parish. The Clerk would send out the list for completion by Cllrs.

Clerk

130/12 Notice-boards

County had offered one or possibly more new notice-boards and had agreed that they need not be dedicated solely to transport information, as long as there was allocated space for transport on all our boards. The notice put up on the Lakeside board to assess use had generated 15 signatures, so it was agreed that one of the new boards should replace this badly deteriorated board. The Clerk would assess where best to place the other new board(s).

131/12 Meetings

The following meeting reports were received:

i) High Furness LAP (11th Oct): Cllr Barr had attended. a) Projects were being considered for LAP funding; the Clerk would send out a call for ideas. b) It was acknowledged that there was much confusion about the different community transport schemes; clarification was needed for notice-boards c) BT had won the contract for high speed broadband which will be 'rolled out' to interested communities – it was important to keep the LAP Broadband WG active.

Clerk

ii) CALC Lake District Parishes Forum (8th Oct): Cllr Hoyle had attended. a) The 'Adventure Capital of the UK' concept was being updated to increase the range and quality of events; parishes were concerned about pressures on the landscape and lack of involvement of parishes in 'oversight' meetings for these events. b) An Ullswater pilot project was underway for 'Whole Valley Planning'. c) The LDNP Partnership Plan was being updated. d) The annual Lake District Community Fund – up to £5K for projects that benefit local communities – was available for bids.

iii) LDNPA/CALC Planning Seminar (18th Oct): Cllr Dean and the Clerk had attended. a) Guidance was provided on how to respond to planning applications: Support/Neutral/Object with reasoning and comments as required. b) Park members were unaware that Parishes were not sent the officer's recommendation on applications; this would be remedied. c) Retrospective planning applications: it was unfortunately not legal to apply penalties. Enforcement resources were limited so that Park were asking Parishes to be 'eyes and ears'. d) The Park could supply a list of those properties carrying local occupancy clauses; the Clerk would make a request e) The Park Authority was ahead of its target with the allocation of land for affordable housing.

Clerk

Attendance to the following meetings was approved:

- i) CALC South Lakeland Parishes Association, 29th Nov, Gilpin Bridge: The Clerk would attend
ii) LDNPA South Lakes Distinctive Tour, 28 Nov, Hawkshead & Sawrey: Cllr Patterson would attend.

132/12 Consultations

The following consultation responses were noted:

- i) HMRC Proposal to allow gritting of roads with red diesel: The Clerk responded positively.
ii) Dept of Transport: Rural Speed Limits: The Clerk responded with concerns that 40mph limit would be counter-productive and encourage higher speeds than at present; 30mph would be more suitable.

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

i) SLDC Council Tax Reduction Scheme. The recommendation of the Housing WG was approved: to support the removal of the 10% discount on 2nd homes and the 50% discount on properties empty for over 6 months, but not to support the removal of 100% discount for properties empty for less than 6 months, nor the proposal for +50% charge on properties empty for over 2 years.

Clerk

ii) Electricity NW consultation on who should pay for infrastructure: Cllr Hoyle would consider.

Cllr
Hoyle

133/12 Correspondence

Receipt of the following correspondence was noted:

CALC/NALC

- CALC Circular Sept 2012
- South Lakeland District Association – meeting papers for 13th Sept
- Council Tax reduction schemes and parish precepts – further consultation
- Vascular Services in South Lakeland – concern over closures
- High Furness LAP – request for agenda items and project spending ideas for 11th Oct. meeting
- Consultation – temporary RoW closures for motor rallies 1st Dec 2012 & 2nd March 2013.
- Cumbria Action for Sustainability Green Build Festival, 15th-30th Sept
- Notification of AGM, 10th November, Carlisle
- CALC news update 15th Sept
- Society of Local Council Clerks – Electronic banking for local Councils training course. 25th Sept, Penrith
- Code of Conduct guidance changes.
- High Furness LAP – papers for meeting on 11th November, Grizebeck
- CALC news update 21st Sept
- Code of Conduct: further guidance on, disclosable pecuniary interests, and participation in discussions and voting
- Invitation to CALC AGM, 10th November, Carlisle racecourse
- Code of Conduct: New wording to be incorporated into all Agendas on Declarations of Interests and requests for special dispensations.

- Notification of misc. events and funding opportunities
- CALC Circular for October
- South Lakeland District Assoc. papers for meeting 29th November, Gilpin Bridge
- Consultation for informal carers on Carer Support Services.
- South Lakeland District Association – summary of some South Lakeland projects of wider interest
- Precept setting – suggested delay until Sec. of State has made statement on whether local councils will be within the scope of criteria for limiting council tax increases
- CALC training and news update 11th Oct

CCC

- Princes Trust TEAM Programme for young people not in education, employment or training, Kendal Fire Station,
- Cllr Rod Wilson - Government consultation on setting local speed limits. Clerk responded.
- Via Cllr Rod Wilson – Highways Winter Gritting arrangements
- Via Cllr Rod Wilson – Briefing note for County response to Dept of Transport proposals on setting local speed limits
- Via Cllr Wilson – Roadside tree works in South Lakeland (none in Colton parish)
- Consultation to capture carers' views on support services in Cumbria
- High Furness LAP – actions and priority spending themes for 12/13

SLDC

- Standards Committee papers for 21st Sept and Council papers for 27th Sept, for info.
- Christmas Shopping Voucher scheme for attn Town Councils
- South Lakeland Local Development Framework – Land Allocations Development Plan Document – Public Examination – consultation. (for area outwith National Park)
- Notices for Police and Crime Commissioner Elections, 15th Nov 2012

LDNPA

- Illegal off-roading Working Group – minutes of meeting 11th Sept
- Planning Seminar arrangements for 18th October, Grasmere
- LDNP Partnership Forum meeting notification, Glenridding, 8th October
- LDNP Partnership Forum – Agenda for meeting 8th October
- LDNP Partnership Forum – notification of next meeting on 29th April 2013
- Land Allocations consultation – 'minerals safeguarding areas' notification of consultation from 13th Dec for 8 weeks.
- South Distinctive Area parish Tour – 28th November: Hilltop, Far Sawrey & Hawkshead

Government Depts and Agencies

- Natural England – invitation to attend visit to moss restoration projects including plans for Rusland Mosses, 13th October

Cumbria CVS and Action for Communities in Cumbria (ACT)

- E-bulletin 6th Sept
- Cumbria CVS training courses, Sept-Dec 2012
- E-Bulletin – 20th Sept
- Cumbria CVS AGM, 11th October, Carlisle racecourse
- Cumbria CVS Funding Fair, Barrow, 21st Nov, Forum28.
- ACT Gazette, Autumn 2012

Other

- Satterthwaite PC – notice of meeting 12th Sept
- Cumbria NHS Partnership – annual report
- Walney extension offshore wind farm project – environmental information and EIA
- Clerks and Councils Direct – Sept newsletter
- Windermere Reflections Project update – Sept 2012
- Coniston Parish Council – Agenda for 17th Sept
- Bouth Village Green Committee – bid to Neighbourhood Forum for replacement hedge and fence.
- Blawith PC – decision to arrange a meeting with the Kirby Moor Wind Farm (RWE npower renewables) about their future plans. Invitation to attend (Water Yeat). Clerk replied yes in principle.
- Tim Farron's office, via Cllr Barr: Visit from Transport Minister to discuss A590. Tuesday 2nd Oct.
- "Cumbria Parish Councils Directory": website providing information and web-presence for Cumbria Councils (cost c. £250 per year). Also CALC email explaining that this is unconnected with them and a commercial enterprise.
- South Cumbria Rail Service – proposed reduction in service
- Report of more flooding on road and pollution from slurry from pig field at Finsthwaite
- Coniston Parish Council – Agenda for 15th Oct and minutes of last meeting
- Electricity NW – consultation on cost of maintaining electricity network and who should pay.
- Mr D Parkin – letter of concern about state of Colton's roads
- United Utilities – update on works at The Glebe, Bowness

134/12 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed as a Parish Council meeting on Monday 3rd December in Rusland Reading Rooms, 7.30 p.m.