



Colton Parish Council

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Clerk: Ms Mandy Lane
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Oxen Park
Ulverston LA12 8HG

The following are the minutes of the Colton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 3rd December 2012 in Rusland Reading Rooms at 7.30 p.m..

Members Present: Cllr Barr (Chair) Cllr Champion Cllr Dean Cllr Milburn Cllr Potts Cllr Watson
Ms M Lane (Clerk)

Also present: Cllr Fletcher (SLDC) Cllr Wilson (CCC)

135/12 Apologies

Cllr Robinson (holiday) Cllr Hoyle (holiday) Cllr Patterson (ill) PC John Baldwin (poacher-watch)

ACTION

136/12 Declaration of Acceptance of Office, Code of Conduct and Registration of Interests

The Chairman welcomed John Milburn to his first meeting. Mr Milburn signed a 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor' form, witnessed by the Clerk, and completed and signed a Registration of Interests form.

137/12 Minutes of Last Meeting

It was resolved that the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 22nd October 2012 as a true record.

138/12 Declarations of Interest

None

139/12 Dispensation Requests

Dispensation requests to enable members to set precepts for the 4 year Council term were signed by Cllrs Milburn and Champion, and granted by the Clerk. No other requests for dispensations had been received by the Clerk since the last meeting.

140/12 Public Participation

None

141/12 Update on Issues and Actions from Last Meeting not covered elsewhere on the Agenda

None

142/12 Comments from District and County Councillors

Cllr Wilson (CCC) reported on: i) Field of Pigs, Finsthwaite: He had contacted Cumbria Trading Standards again in relation to pig welfare. Cllr Champion had seen pigs on the road, and had received 3 complaints about the flooding across the road by the main gate, which was worse than ever. The Clerk had reported this to Highways and the Environment Agency 'incident line'. Cllr Wilson would arrange another meeting of agencies in the very near future. ii) Green Roads: A full specification had been completed for both UCR routes; Cllr Wilson would find out the latest on the implementation of Traffic Regulation Orders. iii) Broadband: the contract had been signed with BT. Cllr Wilson was now on the 'Cumbria Members Working Group'. The 'roll-out' programme seemed disappointing for this area. iv) Library Service: The mobile van is likely to be replaced by an outreach service from established Libraries to Village Halls. Cllr Champion and Cllr Wilson would arrange to meet with the Library service to discuss Finsthwaite Village Hall becoming a possible pilot for the Parish. v) National Grid: Two options and 3 routes have been identified for the proposed power lines; there would be a consultation in May-August 2013.

**Cllr
Wilson**

**Cllrs
Champion
/Wilson**

Cllr Fletcher (SLDC): i) The SLDC Land Allocation process had been adjourned until March. ii) There would be another fuel buy-in round in the new year; the Clerk asked Cllr Fletcher to check that information would be sent to Parish Clerks this time. iii) Cllr Potts asked why SLDC did not operate a rubbish and recycling service for holiday cottage businesses, which could be a good source of income; Cllr Fletcher would ask.

**Cllr
Fletcher**

**Cllr
Fletcher**

143/12 Crake Valley Website

The Clerk summarised the purpose and use of this community website. Its particular feature was that it enabled users to post information themselves and to add events to the calendar. The Council approved support for this facility of £15 per year to keep the service running.

144/12 Accounts

It was resolved that the following payments be made:

- Cheque no. 000615 – Oxen Park phone box – replacement light bulb: **£5.00**
- Cheque no. 000616 – A.Lane (Clerk) - stationery & Colton Hall hire: **£144.94**

- Cheque no. 000617 – Crake Valley Website - share of maintenance costs: **£15.00**
- Cheque no. 000618 – Mr T. Atkinson, Lengthsman (Sep-Nov) - **£1045.20** (inc.VAT). **It was resolved** to approve the Clerk's inclusion within this payment of a performance bonus of £40.

The following receipts were noted:

- Action with Communities in Cumbria, Community Plan grant: **£223.72**
- HMRC – VAT repayment for FY 11/12: **£373.98**
- Rawdon-Smith Trust. Grant for Bouth Village Green: **£1000.00**

145/12 Planning

Cllr Barr had received a list of Lake District parishes ordered by the number of planning applications received in a year; it was noted that Colton came 6th out of 81 parishes.

The following planning applications were discussed:

- 7/2012/5608: Hill Top Barns, Haverthwaite: Change of use from agricultural to stables and ancillary use, plus manege. Retrospective application. **Resolution:** No objection, provided not to be operated as a business.
- 7/2012/5598: Thwaite Moss House, Rusland: Construction of a log store for mixed domestic and business purposes. **Resolution:** Objection to inclusion of business use in this small hamlet within a quiet area of the Park. Should business use be omitted, then the Council would not object.

The following responses to planning applications were noted:

- 7/2012/5556. Lands End Farm, Crosslands. Change of use of cottage for independent dwelling, subject to local occupancy condition. *No objection provided enduring condition applied.*
- 7/2012/5589: Woodlands, Lakeside: Bedroom extension with terrace over and associated alterations. *No objection (though comments about design)*

The following planning permissions granted were noted:

- 7/2012/5419: Old Hall Farm, Bouth. Retrospective planning permission for horse schooling area.
- 7/2012/5414: Greenhead Farm, Colton: Replacement workshop and store
- 7/2012/5288: Low Longmire Cottage, Oxen Park: Raised roof for 2 bedrooms and en-suite.
- 7/2012/5440: The Steps, Oxen Park: New garage and car port

The following appeal decision allowed was noted:

- 7/2012/5638: Colton House, Colton: Change of use of disused care home to single dwelling.

146/12 Bouth Village Green and Playground

It was noted that RoSPA Playsafety Ltd. had acknowledged their mistake in the 2012 annual inspection. They had highlighted a wall in need of repair, along with an out-of-date photograph, leading to the whole playground being assessed as a 'Medium' risk. A corrected report had been sent in which the overall risk for the playground had now been identified as 'Low'.

The Bouth Village Green Committee had received a grant of £1000 from the Rawdon-Smith trust towards the replacement of the boundary hedge and fence at an estimated cost of £3000. Local fund-raising had also yielded nearly £1000 and was hoped that remaining money might be found from the High Furness Neighbourhood Forum. The Clerk had sought and received written permission from SLDC for this work.

147/12 Highways

i) Lengthsman: The Clerk reported that the Lengthsman had been working hard all round the Parish clearing drains of leaves and debris during the November rains. Several people had remarked on his excellent work. The drain at Colton road end was still overflowing badly despite many attempts to clear it; there were still blockages under the road, and the culvert under the road was not really large enough. The Clerk would add it to the list of works for Highways.

Clerk

ii) 'Better Highways' – programme of visits and lists of works: The Clerk had attended a CALC South Lakeland District Association meeting where Keith Masser (Area Highways Engineer) had made a presentation. He had acknowledged that the roads were deteriorating and explained that this was inevitable, given resource limitations, but that his team were doing their best to tackle the main problems. Teams would visit each parish twice per year, in sequence, but not to a specific time-table because of the need for flexibility. Parishes would be notified 2 weeks before a scheduled visit and would be asked to prepare a list of priority works using a template. Feedback would be provided following the visit. The Clerk was already submitting lists and getting helpful feedback from the Highways Network Officer, David Huck. She would translate the list onto the template ready for sending in before the next visit.

Clerk

iii) Winter Gritting: Keith Masser had explained at the CALC meeting that winter road maintenance (gritting) cost more than one third of the total highways budget. 40 primary schools were now on at least a Priority 3 gritting route. He invited 10 parishes to take part in voluntary gritting trials, entering into a legal agreement for gritting specific roads; there would be some set-up funding for equipment (up to £2K per parish) and grit would be provided, but there were no funds for running the scheme or employing anyone to carry out the gritting. The Council resolved not to take part in this scheme this winter: the gritting of all roads was not within any realistic budget that could be raised from the precept, and the size of Colton Parish (c. 20 sq miles) and the pattern and extent of un-gritted roads (c. 80% of roadway, c. 40 miles) made it almost impossible to identify priority areas. The Council

would assess how the trials operated in other parishes this winter.

148/12 High Furness Local Area Partnership

i) Broadband Champion for the Parish: Cllr Barr had stood down from this role due to time pressures following his election onto the National Park Authority. He asked Councillors to speak to anyone in the community who might be willing to take on this role.

All Cllrs

ii) Project ideas for LAP funding: It was resolved to ask for an additional half day for the Lengthsman.

Cllr Barr

149/12 Meetings

The following meeting reports were received:

i) High Furness Neighbourhood Forum (13th Nov): Cllr Champion had attended. The vote for the policing priority this time was for illegal off-roading. The main agenda item on parking yielded requests for commonality across agencies in tariffs and methods of collection, cheaper tariffs, permits for local people, and some recognition that local businesses were suffering.

ii) CALC South Lakeland District Association (29th Nov, Gilpin Bridge): The Clerk had attended. *Her reports were taken under item 13. Highways, and item 16 Consultations.*

iii) LDNPA South Distinctive Area Tour (28th Nov, Far Sawrey): Cllr Patterson had attended, and Cllr Barr also, though as a member of the Park Authority. A key topic was sustainable tourism and transport, particularly concerning the National Trust (Beatrix Potter) property at Hilltop, Near Sawrey, and parking issues at Hawkshead.

iv) CALC Local Council Finance course (15th Nov, Crooklands): The Clerk had attended. This had been a very useful overview of how the planning and budgeting process should work; it also highlighted a few details which the Clerk would incorporate into general practice.

Clerk

v) CALC New Councillor course (26th Nov, Torver): Cllrs Patterson and Milburn had attended and reported that it had been a very useful introduction. Our Colton Councillor's pack was remarked upon as being a good example of something every Councillor should receive.

150/12 Consultations

The Clerk had concerns about the way in which Parishes were treated in consultations, particularly recent ones from the SLDC. It appeared that the questionnaire responses (e.g. from on-line consultations) were treated exactly the same as a single response from a resident, and not as a response from a democratically elected body, despite the Parish Charter stating clearly that Parish Councils would be specifically consulted. The Clerk had been invited to raise the issue at the CALC meeting, which she did; although these concerns were shared by other parish councils, it had not been clear what action could be taken. It was agreed that the Clerk should send a letter to the Chief Executives of County and SLDC.

Clerk

151/12 Correspondence

Receipt of the following correspondence was noted:

CALC/NALC

- South Lakeland District Association – copies of Cumbria Social Enterprise Partnership presentation given at last meeting
- Table of litter bin ownership and management in south lakes.
- Information on new 'model' Standing Orders due shortly.
- Connecting Cumbria (Broadband) newsletter
- Managing Radioactive Waste – 'pause' - update
- CALC AGM, 26th October, Carlisle – Agenda and Annual Report
- Neighbourhood Care Programme – prior information about grants for Parish Councils. Scheme to start in Spring 2013
- Lake District Parishes Partnership – minutes of meeting held on 8th October
- Nomination form for NALC smaller councils committee
- CALC Circular for November
- Clerk's Forum – meetings planned – one in Newby Bridge 17th April 2013
- Proposals for revisions to Standing Orders, pending NALC new model SOs to be provided next Autumn
- Cumbria in Bloom – request for interest/support from local councils
- South Lakeland District Association: papers for meeting 29th November

CCC

- High Furness LAP – notes from meeting 11th October
- High Furness Neighbourhood Forum – Agenda for 13th Nov
- Footpath and bridleway closures – Grizedale Stages rally, 1st Dec and Malcolm Wilson rally, 2nd March
- Request for information about any empty grit bins

SLDC

- Correspondence about how Parish Councils are treated in SLDC consultations
- Correspondence with SLDC estate management agent on replacement of fence and hedge on Bouth Village Green,

under terms of lease.

- Parliamentary Constituency Boundary review 2013 – notices about how to view consultation on revised proposals, until 10th Dec.
- Council Tax reduction scheme – consultation results

LDNPA

- South Area Distinctive Tour – Agenda for 28th Nov
- Planning Seminar 18th Oct - Report
- List of houses in Colton having local occupancy clauses attached.

Government Depts and Agencies

- Dept of Transport – copy of letter on plans for A590 roundabout at Greenodd in 2013
- Dept of Energy - North-West Connections Project – Options for power lines connecting new Sellafield power station to National Grid
- HMRC – new PAYE and payroll requirements from April 2013

Cumbria CVS and Action for Communities in Cumbria (ACT)

- Cumbria CVS E-Bulletin 17th October
- Funding Fair, Barrow. 21st Nov
- Cumbria CVS E-Bulletin 31st October
- Cumbria CVS E-Bulletin 14th November
- Questionnaire on crisis loans and community care grants – now to be managed by Cumbria County Council

Other

- Walney Extension Off-shore Windfarm information and consultation
- Clerks and Councils Direct – Newsletter Nov 2012
- Coniston Parish Council – Agenda for 19th Nov and minutes of last meeting
- Blawith PC – Notice of meeting 26th November
- Satterthwaite PC – Notice of meeting 27th November
- Citizen's Advice Bureaux – first newsletter

152/12 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed as a Parish Council meeting on Monday 14th January 2013 in Bouth Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.