



Colton Parish Council

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The following are the minutes of the Colton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14th January 2013 in Bouth Village Hall at 7.30 p.m..

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

Also present: Cllr Fletcher (SLDC) Cllr Wilson (CCC) PC Baldwin and 1 member of the public

001/13 Apologies

None

ACTION

002/13 Minutes of Last Meeting

It was resolved that the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 3rd December 2012 as a true record.

003/13 Declarations of Interest

None

004/13 Dispensation Requests

No requests had been received, other than the following requirement:

Cllr Robinson signed a dispensation form to allow setting of the precept for the duration of the Council term. All Councillors had now signed a precept dispensation request form.

005/13 Public Participation

PC Baldwin: The barriers at the Strands, Rusland Pool, had been driven into and broken up just before Christmas. The Clerk had reported the incident and the barriers were now being mended. There had been a lot of illegal off-roading activity on Bethacar Moor over the holiday period; useful reporting of number plates had meant that the police had been able to send out warning letters. Cllr Champion asked whether the police had a system for recording minor crises like electricity and phone failures in villages, as had happened recently in Finsthwaite. PC Baldwin said that there was a system in place. Cllr Barr asked whether there were specialist 'rural' PCSOs in Cumbria; PC Baldwin said that PCSO Diana Wilcock was an example; there were also opportunities for voluntary 'special constables' as had been featured on 'Countryfile'.

Mr Roderick Smith: i) He asked that SLDC clean up the rubbish on the road between Tollbar and Tottlebank crossroads; Cllr Fletcher would put in a request. ii) he thanked the Lengthsman for keeping drains clear in the Bouth area during the long period of heavy rainfall. iii) he asked for the wash-out problem above Colton Church to be put on the list for Highways' attention. iv) he commented that potholes were being badly filled and were just washing out again within a short period. The Clerk and Cllr Wilson would report these issues back to Highways.

Cllr
Fletcher
Clerk/
Cllr
Wilson

006/13 Update on Issues and Actions from Last Meeting not covered elsewhere on the Agenda

Notice-boards: The new board at Nibthwaite Grange was now in place, but appeared to be locked; the Clerk would contact Mr Riley who held the key. It was now over a year since County had promised a new notice-board, and there had been no response to the Clerk's latest enquiry; she would ask again.

Broadband 'Champion' for Colton: Mr Mike Postle had volunteered to take on this role from Cllr Barr, attend meetings and report back to the Council. This was approved.

Clerk
Clerk

007/13 Comments from District and County Councillors

Cllr Fletcher (SLDC): i) had asked SLDC about rubbish and recycling services for holiday cottages; he was pleased to report that they were likely to start a scheme to empty bins for payment ii) A second round of the SLDC initiative: 'Power Up Your Community' had begun to allow householders to sign up (by 25th Feb) for cheaper electricity supply through a tender exercise. The Clerk had asked for posters from SLDC. iii) SLDC were offering discretionary grants, with a deadline of 15th Feb. Once again, no information had been sent to the Clerk; she expressed concern at the lack of information being sent out to Parish Council Clerks from SLDC.

Cllr Wilson (CCC): i) The budget was still to be decided, but services were likely to be cut. Other issues were highways-related and were taken under that Agenda item.

008/13 Community Plan and Forward-Look

i) The Community Plan Working Group were currently writing up the new Plan and aimed to have a draft assembled by end of February for Councillors' comments. The 2011 census results were due out in May 2013, and it was agreed that it made sense to delay the final version until then so that up-to-

date demographic data could be included.

ii) Community Resilience: Cllr Champion explained that the idea for a community resilience plan for Finsthwaite had arisen following the recent rainfall and storm events that had cut-off the whole village (flooding, no telephones, broadband or electricity, together with existing poor mobile phone coverage). There was informal support of course, but this could miss some vulnerable people. Formal 'Emergency Planning' schemes tended to be for large communities involving significant resources, and were not suitable for small villages. A system of networked contacts, with links to police and emergency services was needed. Finsthwaite could be a pilot for such a scheme that would assess best practice and resource requirements. This was welcomed by Councillors.

iii) Future Projects: It was clear that parish councils were being expected to take on more local responsibility as services were being cut by the principle authorities. The Council would need to be more forward-looking and pro-active in future; the draft Community Plan would provide a starting point for discussion at a future meeting.

009/13 Accounts

Precept: Cllr Dean presented the recommendations from the Finance Working Group that the precept be increased by 10% for FY 2013/14. Government changes to Council Tax support arrangements and to capping of parish precepts in future, plus cuts in services by the principle authorities meant that parish councils would need access to additional funds to provide for the shortfall. The 10% increase would be ring-fenced for specific projects. **It was resolved to increase the precept by 10%.**

It was resolved that the £300 annual contingency fund for the Bouth Village Green could be used to cover any shortfall in the funding for the planned hedge and fence replacement work.

It was resolved that the following payments be made:

- Cheque no. 000621: David Oldham replacement lamps and travel expenses: **£13.36**
- Cheque no. 000622: Whitestone Properties – printing of 5 newsletter runs (2011-2012): **£126.00**
- Cheque no. 000623: Torver PC – CALC course for 2 Councillors: **£16.00**
- Cheque no. 000624: Finsthwaite Clock annual maintenance cost: **£174.00**

The Clerk's salary and PAYE payments for 3rd quarter, FY12/13 were noted as follows:

- Cheque no. 000619: HMRC PAYE: **£249.37**
- Cheque no. 000620: A.Lane, Clerk's net salary: **£997.46**

The following receipts were noted:

- Cumbria County Council – Neighbourhood Forum grant for Bouth Village Green: **£500.00**

010/13 Planning

The following responses to planning applications were noted:

- 7/2012/5687: Thwaite Moss Farm, Rusland. Replacement garage. *No objection.*

The following withdrawn planning application was noted:

- 7/2012/5607: Hill Top Barns, Haverthwaite: change of use of farm buildings to stables and ancillary use, with manege (retrospective).

011/13 Highways

i) Highways South Lakeland Local Committee list of road resurfacing works for 12/13 and 13/14: The Clerk had been sent this paper from County Highways and had circulated the list to Councillors for comment. The routes named were agreed as bring in urgent need of resurfacing. However, other routes such as Finsthwaite Lane and Ickenthaite were also in bad repair. The Clerk would report these again to Highways. There was no mention in the document of the other highways works that Colton had been reporting for a number of years now, such as the signpost at Rusland and give-way marking at junctions. Cllr Wilson suggested that a list of junctions in need marking should be reported to Highways. It was also noted that tarmac repairs often paid no attention to drainage, so that the repairs often re-directed water away from drains, causing unnecessary flooding. The Clerk would mention this, alongside the temporary nature of pothole repairs, in her submission to Highways.

Clerk

Clerk

ii) Lengthsman: Mr Atkinson continued to do a wonderful job for the Parish. There was nothing in particular to report.

iii) Green Roads: Costings for repair of the two green roads that met at Ickenthaite was being assessed and would be confirmed shortly. Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) would be applied for up to 18 months. Tim Farron MP had written to the Area Highways Engineer on behalf of a constituent who ran an off-road business asking when the routes will be closed and how soon they would be open again. This and the operation of the TROs would be discussed at a forthcoming meeting of the Green Roads Working Group. The Clerk asked that the Bethacar Commoners Association be fully consulted.

iv) Field of Pigs, Finsthwaite: The Clerk had received many complaints about the deep flooding and polluted water across the road (now in a new location by the pig field gate) and the pothole under it. It was noted that Highways had closed the road and subsequently opened it again with barriers around the pothole. The Clerk had organised a site meeting just before Christmas with representatives from the Environment Agency and Highways. The EA was less concerned at present as they felt the flood in the new position was not now flowing into water-courses. However, they would meet with the owner

and Highways with a suggestion about how the owner could contain the slurry and prevent the run-off affecting the road or the becks. Cllr Wilson had again tried to contact the new Defra vet, who had declined to meet him about the issue; Cllr Wilson would pursue this.

Cllr
Wilson

v) Flooding at Lakeside Hotel: The Clerk had asked Highways about the deep flood outside the Lakeside Hotel. Highways had responded with photos and explanation that it would need the cooperation of the landowner(s) to solve the problem. The Clerk would write to the Lakeside Hotel to propose a meeting

Clerk

vi) Grit Bins: The Clerk reported that there were still some grit bins that had not been filled at all over the winter; she would report these again to highways.

Clerk

Cllr Wilson raised the following additional items:

vi) Cycle safety on the A590: Cllr Wilson had written in response to a Highways Agency initiative concerning cycle safety, proposing safe routes for cycling alongside the A590, mainly concerning Haverthwaite. He suggested that Colton might like to write a letter of support highlighting the part of the road in its parish. The Clerk would draft a letter for consideration by Councillors.

Clerk

vii) Paths for Communities: He urged Colton PC to progress the bid for the Lakeside path, as the work had to be completed by 2014. Cllr Hoyle would see what progress could now be made with the landowners concerned.

Cllr
Hoyle

viii) Bouth Speed Limit: County Highways were sending out a questionnaire to Councillors to gather opinion on whether the 20s plenty signs were perceived to be effective. The Clerk felt it should be circulated to Bouth residents; this was agreed. An explanation of background was required; the Clerk would draft something for consideration.

Clerk

012/13 Meetings

There had been no meetings to attend.

013/13 Consultations

Councillors were reminded to respond to the following consultations:

- SLDC – Council Plan and Budget for 13/14, by 31st Jan
- CCC – Draft budget proposals for 13/14, by 31st Jan

The following new consultation was noted and procedure for responding agreed:

- LDNPA – Allocations of Land and Minerals Safeguarding areas, by 22nd Feb. Cllr Barr would consider and report back at the next meeting.

Cllr Barr

014/13 Correspondence

Receipt of the following correspondence was noted:

CALC/NALC

- CALC Circular for Jan 2013
- Response from SLDC on CALC's letter asking about devolution of services
- Council Tax changes and parish precepts - information
- Copy of presentation from Keith Masser, Highways given to CALC SLDA meeting in November
- High Furness Neighbourhood Forum – notes from meeting 13th Novmber
- South Lakeland Local Committee Devolved Capital Programme for 2013/14 for consultation
- Christmas card and council tax info for parish councils – no cap for FY 13/14
- South Lakeland District Association - minutes of meeting 29th Nov
- Connecting Cumbria (Broadband) update

CCC

- Local News and Views newsletter Nov 2012
- Bus Timetable Guide
- Budget Proposals consultation
- High Furness LAP – notice of next meeting, deadline for funding requests and minutes of last meeting
- Parish and LAP consultation on highway maintenance programme for coming year
- Highways – Green roads repair project update
- Papers for High Furness LAP meeting, 16th Jan, Coniston

SLDC

- Consultation on Council Plan and budget for 13/14
- Agenda for Council meeting 18th December
- Revised Declaration of Interest Form – (for future use)
- Parish Precepts and Council Tax changes – letter about liaison with SLDC and setting parish precepts
- Parish Precepts and Council Tax changes – letter again with illustrative example. Awaiting parish-specific information

LDNPA

- Lake District Parishes Winter 2012 update, including wind turbine applications list
- Publication of Allocations of Land Local Plan and Minerals Safeguarding Areas Local Plan, with invitation to comment on soundness and legal compliance. By 7th Feb.

Government Depts and Agencies

- Dept of Communities and Local Government. Council Tax Base Regulations – effect on Town and Parish councils
- Dept of Energy & Climate Change – Nuclear Supply Chain and Skills Action Plan publication
- Dept of Communities and Local Gov. Council Tax base consultation and changes – some questions and answers
- Dept of Energy & Climate Change – issuing of final design acceptances for the EDF/AREVA European Pressurised Water Reactor (EPR).
- Dept of Communities & Local Gov: Explanation of new council tax funding allocation

Cumbria CVS and Action for Communities in Cumbria (ACT)

- E-Bulletin 28th Nov
- Winter 2012 – ACT Gazette
- Request from SLDC via ACT to meet about rural services provision. Clerk responded positively in principle.
- E-Bulletin 12th Dec
- Awards for All England Regional pilot
- Third Sector Finance questionnaire
- Invitation for third sector organisations to meet the new Police and Crime Commissioner. Not open to Parish Councils. Asked CALC about it.
- New grant funding for Community Plans

Other

- Blawith PC Cllr Middleton – asking if we have similar concerns over cycle events, the poor behaviour of cyclists on the road, and insufficient marshalling.
- Windermere Reflections Project Bulletin
- Electricity NW – survey reminder
- Arthur Millie (? Campaign against nuclear waste dump in Cumbria?) – information and weblinks to Town and Parish Councils
- Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service (via Cllr Hoyle/community messaging system) – Free 'Heartstart' sessions for communities.
- Windermere Reflections E-bulletin
- Coniston Parish Council – Agenda for 17th December and minutes of last meeting
- Blawith PC – invitation to attend presentation on Kirkby Moor Wind Farm, 7th Jan
- Walney extension off-shore wind farm project – newsletter no. 4
- Colton Green Roads – copy of correspondence between Tim Farron MP, off-road commercial operator and Highways
- NW Air Ambulance – request for donations
- RoSPA playsafety – order form for future playground inspections

015/13 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed as a Parish Council meeting on Monday 18th February in Finsthwaite Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.. The draft schedule of meetings for 2013/14 was noted.

The Clerk proposed that the Annual Open Meeting and the Annual Parish Council meeting be held on the same evening in May, in line with many other Parish Councils' arrangements; this was agreed.