



Colton Parish Council

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The following are the minutes of the Colton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 25th March 2013 in Rusland Reading Rooms at 7.30 p.m..

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

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

031/13 Apologies

Cllr Robinson (ill health) Cllr Patterson (holiday) PC Baldwin

ACTION

032/13 Minutes of Last Meeting

It was resolved that the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18th February 2013 as a true record.

033/13 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Barr declared an interest in respect of item 15.: Correspondence.

034/13 Dispensation Requests

None

035/13 Public Participation

PC Baldwin had sent a report to the Clerk. The community policing priority was changed from illegal off-road issues to road traffic matters such as drink-driving, speeding, seat-belts and mobile phone use whilst driving. He assured the Council that illegal off-roading would still receive police attention. Crime was generally low, although there had been 2 reports of heating oil theft in the Parish in the last few weeks. An attempted robbery at Greenodd service station was an isolated incident and the two offenders have been caught and remanded.

036/13 Update on Issues and Actions from Last Meeting not covered elsewhere on the Agenda

i) Community Plan: The Committee had met to discuss policies and actions. Policies would be formal Parish Council policies and would be approved at a Council meeting. A draft plan would be circulated during April.

ii) Paths for Communities: Cllrs Hoyle, Champion and Wilson with David Pickup (LDNPA ranger) were attempting to meet with Landing Howe residents. Cllr Wilson would also contact the Rights of Way officer for the LDNPA.

iii) Notice-boards: The new notice-board would be taken to Finsthwaite shortly; Mr Layfield had agreed, with help from another resident, to take down the old board and put up the new one. The old board would go to Lakeside (Clerk to arrange), where the existing board was in a poor state with the doors hanging off; a resident had kindly wrapped it to prevent further damage.

**Cllrs
Hoyle &
Wilson**

Clerk

037/13 Comments from District and County Councillors

Cllr Fletcher (SLDC): i) The SLDC was offering a 'New Homes Bonus Fund' and a 'Locally Important Project' fund. Proposals needed to be linked to Community Plan and LAP priorities. The Clerk had circulated details. The deadline was 14th June. ii) Car-parking: SLDC was launching a 3 and 7-day parking ticket for £15 and £30 respectively; there was also thought to be an annual ticket. The unpopular overnight charge had been removed, but replaced with a charge for parking between 6-8pm in central Lake District car-parks. iii) Broadband: There had been little progress. It would be mid-June before the 'roll-out' maps of superfast broadband would be available. The aim was that everyone would receive baseline speeds of at least 2mb/s, with about 93% receiving superfast broadband.

Cllr Wilson (CCC): The County Highways Department was required to make substantial cuts in front-line staffing, but it was confident that the same level of service could be delivered. The highest level of complaints to County concerned Highways.

Cllr Barr noted that Colton was being re-designated from Cartmel ward to High Furness ward, (although the Parish Council had not been informed about this change). On behalf of the Council, he expressed disappointment at losing Cllr Wilson and expressed sincere thanks to him for all the hard work that he had done for the Council during his term.

038/13 Accounts

The Audit time-table was noted: the Internal Audit would take place on 17th April and the External Audit date was 12th July. Accounts would be presented at the May Annual Council meeting.

It was resolved to make the usual annual donation to NW Ambulance of £50.00

The following payment was approved:

- Cheque no. 000632: A.Lane (Clerk), stationery expenses: **£133.08**

It was resolved to approve the Risk Assessment for 2013/14.

039/13 Finsthwaite Clock Maintenance Grant - Triennial Review

The Council had asked for further information about the need for annual maintenance, before approving the grant for a further 3 years. Cllr Potts explained that the clock was a valuable community asset with an electronic wind mechanism that required maintenance. It was considered necessary as an insurance policy to maintain it annually, with a reputable firm (the Cumbria Clock Company). **It was resolved** to continue to donate £150 (plus inflation allowance) annually for another 3-year term.

040/13 Path at Height Lane, Stott Park

Cllr Potts summarised the background to the application for a public footpath at Height Lane, Stott Park. The Parish Council had resolved to make this application on behalf of the community at its meeting in May 2012. The path was an historic route to Stott Park Heights, in regular use by the local community. Last year, landowners had begun to declare it a private route and a 'permissive path' notice had been placed. The National Park had advised that it was important to make a challenge at this stage. Relevant documents had been sent to the Rights of Way officer who would proceed with the process of application.

041/13 Planning

Cllr Barr declined to take part in discussions, being a member of the LDNPA Development Control Committee.

The following planning applications were discussed and responses agreed as follows:

- 7/2013/5115: 'Hilltop Barns', Haverthwaite. (*retrospective*) Change of use of farm buildings to stables and ancillary use; creation of winter paddock, surface water drainage system and new septic tank. **Resolution: No objection**, but some strong concerns about the effect of the new drainage system on local water supply and that the 'ancillary use' should be tied strongly to horses and stabling for non-business use.
- 7/2013/5114: Greenhead Farm, Colton: New agricultural building. . It was noted that the application related to a single field bought when the farmland was sold and split up, and that it was in fact no longer part of Greenhead Farm. **Resolution: Object** on policy grounds (policies A1 and CS25). The application was unrelated to any existing farmstead and was distant from any farm buildings. The site was also highly visible in an open landscape and would cause demonstrable harm to the landscape and local amenity.
- 7/2013/5075: Crooks Farm, Bouth: conversion of attached and detached barns for annexed accommodation. **Resolution: No objection**, provided that the accommodation was for 'family and friends' use and not for holiday letting purposes.

042/13 Highways

i) Field of Pigs, Finsthwaite: The Clerk had written to the County Chief Executive, as requested, and had received a helpful reply. Highways had reached an agreement with the owner of the field that he carry out the suggested remedial work to alleviate the flooding within a month. County would refer the issue to its legal department if this was not carried out to their satisfaction.

ii) Green Roads: Repairs to the two 'pilot project' green roads would begin in spring. Consultations with local farmers, landowners and commoners would take place first. The U5064 (Nibthwaite to Ickenthaite) was the priority for surface repair, with drainage works to be carried out on both routes, subject to funding limits. Kankku, an off-roading tourist business, had been in correspondence with Tim Farron MP and Highways expressing their priorities and had indicated a willingness to provide some financial support. Cllr Barr thanked Cllr Wilson and Keith Masser (Area Highways Engineer) for their support in pushing forward this project and finding funding.

iii) Highways maintenance and road-markings: Cllr Barr had visited all 60 of the parish's junctions to assess the state of road-markings, taken photographs and produced a report which he had sent to the Traffic Engineer. Some 45% of junctions had poor or absent road markings. As a result of his visits, he would also be able to report on signpost condition and changes since his earlier survey in 2006.

iv) Lengthsman: The Clerk had met with the Lengthsman, Mr Atkinson, whose was still suffering badly with a bad back and awaiting the results of a scan. He was happy that a temporary Lengthsman be sought until he could return to work. The Council extended its sympathies to Mr Atkinson.

v) Flooding at the Lakeside Hotel: Highways and the Hotel were cooperating on works in the field opposite the Hotel to alleviate the flooding.

Clerk

043/13 Meetings

The following meeting reports were received:

- i) Cumbria Community Tourism Conference, 22nd March. Cllr Patterson had been unable to attend because of the snow and closed schools.
- ii) Snogs Heights Open Day, 17th February. Cllr Dean had attended, although the organisers had not contacted the Parish Council about the day. Some 100 people were present. Plans of the proposed development were shown, with a projected cost of £500,000. Around £90,000 had been raised so far.
- iii) CALC South Lakeland District Association, 7th March. Cllr Dean had attended. SLDC Electoral Services gave a presentation on the Local Governance Review. Otherwise, there was nothing directly relevant to Colton Parish to report.
- iv) High Furness Neighbourhood Forum, 14th March. Cllr Barr had attended. Presentations were given by Cumbria Fire and Rescue, the Westmoreland Red Squirrel Society's Grizedale Project, and the Snogs Heights representatives. The Snogs Heights speaker stated that the project would try to provide employment for local people and also would allow local schools to use the site. Grant applications were made from the Rusland Reading Room Committee, for funds to replace the roof, and the Oxen Park Cinema Club for fitting out the proposed cinema.
- v) Finsthwaite Library Outreach Service: Cllrs Champion and Wilson met with Cumbria Libraries staff at Finsthwaite Village Hall during a monthly 'book-swap' session. The proposed option to use the Hall as a drop-off location for books was not viable because they couldn't be secured. Other options are being considered, including internet ordering or delivery of selected books for specific projects; Cllr Champion would liaise with the local librarian.

Cllr
Champion

Forthcoming meetings: Cllr Hoyle and the Clerk would attend the CALC Lake District Parishes meeting in Torver on 29th April.

044/13 Consultations

The following consultations were noted:

i) SLDC Community Governance Review, by 7th May: It was unanimously agreed that no change was necessary. The Clerk would respond.

Clerk

ii) Neighbourhood Policing in South Lakeland, by 30th April: All agreed that communication with the local policing team had improved over the last year, and there was appreciation of their efforts, particularly concerning recent successes with illegal off-roading. There was concern about the wide area that community police officers now had to cover. The Clerk would respond.

Clerk

iii) SLDC 'Clean Streets' proposals. The Clerk had learned from a resident that SLDC had now drafted four Dog Control Orders, and that these had been out for consultation during February, with the closing date already passed. Colton Parish had not been consulted at this 2nd stage, nor had surrounding parishes. It was felt that the orders had evolved from an urban perspective. Some were inappropriate to rural areas and largely unworkable, for example, working sheepdogs on leads within 30 and 20 mph speed limits. The Clerk was seeking advice through CALC about the lack of consultation.

Clerk

045/13 Correspondence

Complaint: The Clerk had received a complaint from a resident of Bowness about Cllr Barr in relation to his role as member of the Lake District National Park Authority Development Control Committee. The complaint concerned a claimed lack of openness about his views. The same complaint was made about other members of the Committee, and the LDNPA had advised members not to enter into any correspondence with the complainant. Cllr Barr left the room during discussion and decision and Cllr Potts took the Chair. The Council felt that the complaint should be referred to the LDNPA, as it did not concern the Parish Council's Code of Conduct, but suggested that the Clerk should first seek advice from CALC. The Council agreed that Cllr Barr had always acted in an exemplary fashion in his role as Parish Council Chairman and as National Park Member.

Clerk

Receipt of the following correspondence was noted:

CALC/NALC

- NALC Conference: Putting Communities First. Sheffield, July. £198
- Cumbria in Bloom competition 2013
- Connecting Cumbria – Broadband project information and newsletter
- NW Connections Project – presentation and notes from meetings in February
- Training sessions on business planning (Carlisle) and retirement of NALC Chief Executive
- Papers for South Lakeland District Association meeting 7th March
- CALC Circular March 2013
- Response from CCC Chief Executive to Colton PC's letter of concern about the Field of Pigs, Finsthwaite.
- NALC Quality Status Questionnaire
- Police Satisfaction Survey
- Lottery Funding opportunity

CCC

- Notification and notice of path closures for Malcolm Wilson Rally, 2nd March
- On request from Clerk – time-table for service 538 (Thursday service to Finsthwaite and Bouth)

- High Furness Neighbourhood Forum meeting, 14th March, Grizebeck, Agenda.
- High Furness LAP – Proposed Agenda items for meeting 11th April
- NoW-Card bus –pass renewal alert - notices
- County Council Election Notices (for 2nd May)

SLDC

- Free event for businesses in South Lakeland – 'Meet the Planners Business Lunch event, 13th March, at new Auction Mart, Crooklands.
- Notification of Council meeting, 28th Feb, Kendal
- Parish Remuneration Panel Recommendations for 13/14 (travel rate remains at 45p per mile)
- Correspondence on request for litter clearance
- New Homes Bonus Funding and Local Projects Funding, by 14th June

LDNPA

- Go-Lakes travel newsletter, Feb 13
- Go-Lakes drop-in session, Ambleside 28th Feb
- Illegal off-road Working Group, Minutes of meeting on 29th Jan

Government Depts and Agencies

- HMRC – warnings about Real Time PAYE system from 6th April
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Cumbria CVS and Action for Communities in Cumbria (ACT)

- Cumbria CVS ebulletins 13th Feb, 27th Feb and 13th March
- Cumbria Community Tourism conference, 22nd March, Kendal
- Cumbria CVS – 'Your Views' publication

Other Correspondence

- Windermere reflections Bulletin No. 13
- Walney Extension Wind-farm. Onshore Project Design Event, 25th Feb
- Parish online newsletter
- Cumbria Rural Housing Trust – Neighbourhood Planning Event (free), 16th March, Ambleside
- Eden Housing Association. Notification that no local applicants for 3-bed property at Satterthwaite School. Will be advertised to whole of South Lakeland.
- Satterthwaite PC – Agenda for 26th Feb and minutes of last meeting
- HMRC Employers Info – more warnings about online PAYE system from April.
- Complaint from resident of Bowness about members' decision (including Cllr Barr) at a National Park Development Control meeting
- Blawith PC – Agenda for 11th March and minutes of last meeting
- Torver PC – Agenda for 13th March and minutes of last meeting
- Walney Offshore wind-farm design update
- Morecambe Bay Partnership AGM and conference 26th March
- United Utilities – update on The Glebe
- Clerks and Councils Direct Newsletter March 2013
- Friends of the Lake District – Whole Valley Planning tool-kit
- Kirby Moor Wind-farm proposal meeting, Lowick, 13th March
- Windermere Reflections Project – E-bulletin 15th March
- Copy of letters to LDNPA and SLDC expressing concern about development at Hill Top 'Barns', Haverthwaite (bordering Colton Parish)
- Letter from Sir Martin Holgate, Chairman of the John Strutt Foundation, concerning agreement with Natural England for restoration work at Hay Bridge Moss, Rusland
- Torver PC – Minutes of last meeting

046/13 Date of Next Meeting

The next meetings were confirmed as the Parish Open Meeting, followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 7th May in Bouth Village Hall, 7.30 p.m..