



## Colton Parish Council

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Clerk: Ms Mandy Lane  
Lilac Cottage  
Oxen Park  
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The following are the minutes of the Colton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2013 in Finsthwaite Village Hall at 7.30 p.m..

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

**Also present:** Cllr Fletcher (SLDC/CCC) and CPSO Diana Wilcock

### 097/13 Apologies

Cllr Champion (holiday)

**ACTION**

### 098/13 Minutes of Last Meeting

It was resolved that the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2013 as a true record.

### 099/13 Declarations of Interest

None

### 100/13 Dispensation Requests

None

### 101/13 Public Participation

Police: CPSO Diana Wilcock said that there had been no crime reports in the area since the last meeting. 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> September was to be 'Alcohol Licensing Week' and 29<sup>th</sup> September to 5<sup>th</sup> October was to be 'Alcohol Harm Week', with the police touring schools and youth clubs and also making test purchases at shops to check for under-age sales.

### 102/13 Update on Issues and Actions from Last Meeting not covered elsewhere on the Agenda

i) Community Plan: Cllrs Potts and Dean had responded with comments to the first draft of the Community Plan. Julia Wilson from Action with Communities in Cumbria had also sent comments. The Clerk would arrange a meeting of the Community Plan Working Group soon to incorporate comments and finalise policies to be formally approved by the Council.

Clerk

ii) Rural Surgeries: Cllr Patterson had attended the meeting at Hawkshead on the future of the surgery should the planned cuts to government grants go ahead. Cllr Potts summarised the position with respect to the Haverthwaite surgery, which would be less impacted by the cuts as it served a larger community. It was resolved that the Council should write a letter of support; Councillors might wish to write personal letters. Cllr Patterson would send details of the campaign to the Clerk, including who to write to.

Cllr  
Patterson  
Clerk

### 103/13 Comments from District and County Councillors

Cllr Fletcher (Cumbria County Council): Highways was undergoing another re-organisation. South Lakeland was being combined with Barrow. The 'Better Highways' initiative appeared to be 'on hold' with only planned work and emergency repairs being carried out. The Hotline appeared to be the only way to get anything done, although in some cases, reference numbers were not being given. All parishes in his area were concerned about the poor state of the roads and asking when the Highway teams would be visiting. He would find out more at the Local Committee meeting due to take place later in September.

Cllr  
Fletcher

The Clerk asked Cllr Fletcher to find out who was responsible for the maintenance of gates across Highways.

Cllr  
Fletcher

Cllr Fletcher (South Lakeland District Council): The Empty Homes initiative was continuing with encouragement for owners to let their properties; the change in the council tax arrangements was being effective in reducing empty homes.

### 104/13 Planning

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

Clive Wickham (LDNPA) had sent a list of actions arising from the October 2012 meeting on planning procedures and communication with parishes. The Clerk reported that most of these were now in operation, including a weekly list of planning decisions.

It was decided that the Council would be more pro-active in its decisions on planning matters, in accordance with the developing Community Plan, and positively support applications that agreed with its policies rather than submitting only a 'no objection'.

The following planning applications were discussed and responses agreed.

- 7/2013/5390: The Barn, Thwaite Head, Rusland: Conversion of barn for local occupancy dwelling. **Resolution: Support**
- 7/2013/5478: Lands End Farm, Rusland. Conversion of barn into local occupancy dwelling. **Resolution: Support**

The following responses to planning applications were noted:

- 7/2013/5395: Sinder Hill, Finsthwaite: New planning permission to replace 7/2010/5395: second bathroom and fire-escape. *No objection.*
- 7/2013/5401: Land to SW of YMCA Centre, Parrock Wood: Forest access track. *No objection*
- 7/2013/5420: Water Park, Nibthwaite: Minor material amendment to 7/2011/5500: Fixed rather than floating jetties. *No objection.*
- 7/2013/5453: 16, Landing How, Lakeside: Extension to accommodate utility room. *No objection.*

The following planning permissions granted were noted:

- 7/2013/5194: Kelvin Cottage, Bouth. Replacement dwelling.
- 7/2013/5332: High Ickenthwaite Farm, Rusland: Single storey lean-to porch
- 7/2013/5333: High Ickenthwaite Farm, Rusland: Conversion of barn to holiday let
- 7/2013/5337: Low Longmire Farm, Oxen Park: Erection of agricultural building.

The following planning permission withdrawn was noted:

- 7/2013/5204: Hay Bridge Nature Reserve, Rusland: Restoration of valley mire.

It was noted that the Clerk had received a copy of the Section 106 agreement relating to 7/2013/5155 Old Hall Farm, Bouth (change of use to open farm), with the related letter on permitted signage (signs to be in vicinity of the farm entrance only). The compliance officer was investigating signs to the farm which had been placed at surrounding junctions and on the A590.

The Clerk had received information from Lowick Parish Council and from a Colton resident about a possible application for one wind-turbine on Lowick Common, just outside the National Park. South Lakeland District Council confirmed that they would consult ColtonPC should an application be made.

### 105/13 Rights of Way

Colton Parish Council had been consulted by the LDNPA Rights of Way Officer about an application for a permanent diversion of the footpath at Crook Farm, Bouth. **Resolution: no objection.** The Clerk would highlight the need to maintain the road and turning circle beyond the cattle grid for the 'dead-end' road, which remained part of the highway network.

Clerk

### 106/13 Notice-boards

The Clerk reported that the old Finsthwaite Notice-board had been refurbished by Mrs S McKinnon on behalf of the Council, and it had now been installed at Lakeside. Mr Helme was currently making a new notice-board for Rusland.

### 107/13 Highways and Lengthsman

i) Highways: A long list of issues, including the growing list of road surface defects and drainage problems were discussed. No Highways teams had visited for over a year. Cllr Fletcher would find out more at the South Lakeland Local Committee meeting in late September and report back to Parishes.

Cllr  
Fletcher

Flooding: There had been severe flooding in at least 3 separate locations in the Finsthwaite, Stott Park and Lakeside area in early August, with some houses flooded and unreachable, and a car written-off. The Clerk had received advice from David Huck of Highways to contact the Cumbria Local Flood Risk Management Team; she had forwarded this information to Cllr Potts who would follow it up.

Cllr Potts

Speeding Traffic: There were ongoing problems with speeding traffic – in particular at Tottlebank Farm, Oxen Park and Rusland Cross. A case should be made for signs at Tottlebank and Rusland Cross to Cllr Fletcher. Villagers in Oxen Park should be consulted on possible signs and advisory speed limits.

Clerk

ii) Lengthsman: Mr Workman had worked on strimming vegetation and clearing drains in particular at Tottlebank, Spark Bridge, Rusland and Finsthwaite during July and August and had submitted his first worksheet. He was in regular communication with the Clerk by email.

### 108/13 Bouth Playground

The Clerk had received the annual inspection report, which looked correct this year (there had been errors in last year's report). There were only two 'Medium Risk' items: overgrown vegetation around the playground sign and some concrete crumbling from the kick-wall. Both of these were being attended to by the Village Green Committee.

### 109/13 Accounts

To approve the following payments:

- Cheque no. 000649: The Cumbria Clock Company (Finsthwaite Clock Maintenance): **£174.00**

- Cheque no. 000650: Playsafety Ltd., Annual inspection of Bouth playground: **£78.00**
  - Cheque no. 000651: Mrs S McKinnon, refurbishment of notice-board for Lakeside: **£50.00**
  - Cheque no. 000652: A.Lane (Clerk): Web hosting subscription (1 year): **£61.03**
  - Cheque no. 000653: A.Lane (Clerk): Office expenses (Feb-Aug 2013): **£74.73**
- To note the following payments:
- Cheque no. 000654: Mr A Workman (Lengthsman) – invoice for work July/August: **£399.00**

### 110/13 Meetings

Attendance at the following meetings were approved:

- i) LDNPA South Distinctive Area meeting, 19<sup>th</sup> September, Torver. Cllr Champion and Clerk to attend. Cllr Barr was chairing the meeting in his capacity as LDNPA member.
- ii) Multi-Agency Response to Flooding - training day, 7<sup>th</sup> November, Barrow: it was decided not to attend as the meeting appeared to be aimed at larger community organisations who would be coordinating emergency services.

### 111/13 Consultations

- i) LDNPA: Windermere Bye-law Exemption Procedures (by 30<sup>th</sup> Sept): Cllr Champion had responded for the Council. She had approved in principle, but expressed some concern about the short time-scale (3 weeks) for consultation, confusing wording over who would undertake the assessment, and whether environmental factors such as flooding or drought situations would be taken into account.
- ii) SLDC Community Governance Review, 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage (by 22<sup>nd</sup> October): The Clerk would send a confirmation that the 'no change' for Colton Parish was endorsed by its Parish Council.

Clerk

### 112/13 Correspondence

Receipt of the following correspondence was noted:

#### CALC/NALC

- Securing the Future of Flood Insurance – Defra consultation
- Connecting Cumbria Project update
- New Clerk pay scales for 13/14
- A590 roundabout works information
- Affordable Warmth offers
- Election of members to Executive Committee – nominations invited (by 11<sup>th</sup> Oct)
- Cumbria Trading Standards – Electric Blanket Safety Testing Events
- Links to recent info on CALC website about employment contracts and salary scales
- Post Office Community Enterprise Fund information
- CCTV Systems – new code of practice
- Revision of SLDC Parish Charter – to Clerks for comment. (Clerk reviewed and commented – appears to provide for better consultation procedures.)
- Press release about successful affordable housing scheme in Keswick

#### CCC

- Invitation to nominate areas of policy or service delivery for Scrutiny Review. Clerk nominated Highways
- Nominated Neighbour scheme
- Community Payback Schemes
- High Furness LAP meeting notes from 11<sup>th</sup> July
- Offer to install defibrillators if local communities raise £1000 per defib.
- High Furness LAP profile on web
- Correspondence about defibrillator initiative for Oxen Park
- Correspondence about pig field, Finsthwaite
- Independent Living Events in September
- Multi-agency response to flooding – training days (7<sup>th</sup> November, Barrow)

#### SLDC

- Outcome of the Review of Standards Arrangements
- Invitation to submit issues of allowances and expenses to the Parish Remuneration Panel by 6<sup>th</sup> Sept
- Revised Guidance on Code of Conduct – amendment to explain that parish Councils are responsible for determining requests for dispensations from Parish Councillors.
- Consultation on the Schedule of Further Proposed Main Modifications to the Local Plan - Land Allocations (outwith National Park)
- SLDC Website survey
- Draft recommendations for the Community Governance Review (Colton: no change)
- For information – Agenda for Council meeting 25<sup>th</sup> July
- Community Governance Review Update, Power up your Community and Policy Briefing
- Weekly lists of Licensing applications
- Empty Homes Grants notice from SLDC Empty Homes Officer. See

#### **LDNPA**

- Consultation on Windermere Bye-law Exemptions
- South Distinctive Area – Evening Meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> Sept, Torver
- Correspondence with David Coxon (LDNPA) on parking and anti-social behaviour at High Dam
- LDNPA Annual Report
- Letter to Secretary of State for Health from LDNPA wrt support for rural GP surgeries

#### **Government Depts and Agencies**

- Dept of Energy and Climate Change- benefit Scheme for communities hosting new nuclear power stations
- Forestry Commission – Grizedale events
- Environment Agency – Annual Report and Flood Risk information
- EA-Windermere Reflections e-bulletin

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

- Survey on use of ACT and its services. Clerk responded positively
- CVS e-bulletins: Membership and training information

#### **Other Correspondence**

- Elspeth Cooper – suggested speaker for PC meeting – Practice Manager at Haverthwaite Surgery on the possible withdrawal of government grants
- Hawkshead PC – Minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> July
- Mr Stephen Sykes, re Hilltop Barns – various issues
- Cumbria Police – Independent Custody Visiting Scheme – volunteers wanted
- Enquiry from resident about repair of gate across green road. Referred to highways
- Information and posters about help for people with hearing loss
- Letter from resident of Oxen Park about the state of Pegg Lane, followed by correspondence between the Clerk and Highways about costing the work
- Royal British Legion – invitation to attend annual service of remembrance, Rusland Church, 3<sup>rd</sup> November
- Coniston Parish Council – Agenda for 19<sup>th</sup> August
- Enquiry from Lindal & Marton Parish Council about Lengthsman scheme
- Nurture Lakeland Business Event for Windermere area, 11<sup>th</sup> Sept Fallbarrow Park, Windermere - posters
- Eden Housing Association: Extension of Section 106 area for letting of 3 bed property at Satterthwaite, and advert
- Lowick Parish Council and a resident of Bridgefield: concerns about possible proposed wind turbine on Lowick Common.

#### **113/13 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting was confirmed as a Parish Council meeting on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October in Bouth Village Hall, 7.30 p.m..