



## Colton Parish Council

Tel: 01229 861408  
e-mail: coltonpc@btinternet.com  
web: www.coltonparishcouncil.org.uk

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 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013 in Rusland Reading Rooms at 7.30 p.m..

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

**Also present:** PCSOs Janine Wade and Laura Jackson, and 4 members of the public

### **128/13 Apologies**

Cllr Watson (health)

**ACTION**

### **129/13 Minutes of Last Meeting**

It was resolved that the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2013 as a true record.

### **130/13 Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Patterson and Robinson signed the Register of Interests in respect of item 10. Planning.

### **131/13 Requests for Dispensations**

None

### **132/13 Public Participation**

Mr Mike Postle (Colton's 'Broadband Champion') gave an update on the 'Connecting Cumbria' rural broadband project. He confirmed that 70% of properties in the Parish were likely to receive superfast broadband (SFB) sometime in 2015; it was still unclear what speeds the remaining properties would receive. It would be up to the community in Colton Parish to connect the remaining properties to these cabinets under the 'community build' options ('self-dig' way-leaves and ducting, or individual options including third party solutions). Clearly, the more cabinets 'fibre-connected' under the Connecting Cumbria programme, the less the Parish would have to do itself. So this underlined the importance of getting the most out of the programme by continuing to campaign and urging residents to register their interest on the BT website. It was approved that Mr Postle should act on the Parish Council's behalf in respect of the Broadband project. The Chairman thanked him for his hard work.

Police: PCSO Janine Wade said there had been 5 crimes in the general area in the last couple of months, including stolen cars and thefts of Land-rover parts from farms. She warned everyone to be extra careful at this time of year.

### **133/13 Update on Issues and Actions from Last Meeting**

Community Plan: Policies and Actions had now been devised and the Clerk would send out a second draft of the plan shortly. Cllr Champion emphasised the need for Councillors to read and comment on the Plan as it formed the key policy document for the Council, and would be used by the principal authorities to inform their decisions at a local level.

**Clerk**

### **134/13 Comments from District and County Councillors**

Cllr Fletcher was not present again, had not sent any apologies, nor had he sent any report for the Council. Because he was Councillor for both authorities, this effectively left Colton without any representation. It was resolved that the Clerk should write to the authorities asking what level of attendance and input the Council should expect from its County and District Councillor.

**Clerk**

### **135/13 New Register of Interests Forms**

SLDC had sent in another new Register of Interest form template, to be completed when any Councillor needed to register any change.

### **136/13 New Model Standing Orders**

The National Association of Local Councils had devised a new model set of Standing Orders, following the new Code of Conduct 2012. It was resolved that the Clerk and Cllr Champion would devise new Standing Orders for Colton, based on this model.

**Clerk/  
Cllr  
Champion**

### **137/13 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:

- 7/2013/5628: Crosslands Farm, Rusland: Single storey side extension to form en-suite. Cllr Robinson left the room during discussion and resolution. **Resolution: Support.**
- 7/2013/5621: YMCA Centre, Lakeside: Replacement of YMCA National Centre. **Resolution: No objection**, but strong concerns about traffic through Lakeside and Stott Park, particularly concerning size and number of coaches.
- 7/2013/5594: High Ickenthaite Farm, Rusland: Micro-hydropower scheme. Cllr Patterson left the room during discussion and resolution. **Resolution: Support**, but some concern was expressed about the possible impact on a neighbouring water supply.

The following planning permissions granted were noted:

- 7/2013/5115: Hill-top Barns: Change of use of farm buildings to stables and ancillary use. A condition had been applied that the premises should be used for private recreational purposes only and that no business should be run from the site.
- 7/2013/5522: Crosslands Barn, Rusland: Installation of an external flue on gable end.
- 7/2013/5533: Lake End Back, Nibthwaite: One room extension at first floor level.

Cllr Barr reminded Councillors of the expectation of high standards of behaviour for a 'Quality Council' like Colton. He asked all Councillors to follow the proper procedures in relation to planning applications and to ask the Clerk or visit the LDNPA Duty Planner if in doubt about any planning issues. There was a Standards Working Group for Colton: current members were Cllrs Dean, Barr and the Clerk.

### 138/13 Highways and Lengthsman

i) County's South Lakeland Local Committee report: Cllr Fletcher had not provided any information.

ii) Flooding: Both Cllr Potts and the Clerk had sent emails to the Local Flood Risk Management Team, as advised, but neither had had any reply. The Clerk would attempt to contact them by phone.

Clerk

iii) Winter Gritting: Most bins had been filled and heaps replenished. However, the bins at Bouth needed topping-up, especially the bin by the Village Hall, there were no grit heaps at Thwaite Moss and there was a need for a new grit heap at Stott Park. The Clerk would report to Highways.

Clerk

iv) Lengthsman: the Clerk reported that Archie Workman continued to do a great job. He had recently cleared drains at Colton, and his next task was to clear all the drains from Penny Bridge up to Colton.

v) Overhanging trees at Lowick Bridge: The Clerk had been in touch with Highways (David Huck) who would provide details of the landowner, from Land Registry information. The Clerk would then contact the landowner to get the trees cut back.

Clerk

The Clerk reported that the Highways teams had repaired the broken culverts at Colton, following her request that this be done urgently before the icy weather set in. The local team was helpful, dedicated and communicative and was clearly doing its best in the face of dwindling resources.

### 139/13 Oxen Park Defibrillator

The Clerk had hoped to provide information on the cost of electricity supply to the phone box for the planned defibrillator, but was still waiting for information from BT. It was resolved that this item would be deferred to the next meeting.

Clerk

### 140/13 Accounts

It was resolved that the following payments be made:

- Cheque no. 000663: Royal British Legion: wreath for remembrance service: **£17.00**
- Cheque no. 000664: A. Lane (Clerk): office supplies: **£147.55**
- Cheque no. 000665: CALC Clerk's Forum meeting, 14<sup>th</sup> November: **£5.00**
- Cheque no. 000666: A. Workman: drain rod attachments for Parish Council: **£33.69**

The following payments were noted

- Cheque no. 000662: A. Workman, Lengthsman, October working: **£260.00**

### 141/13 Meetings

i) CALC Clerk's Forum, 14<sup>th</sup> November: The Clerk had found this meeting helpful for checking administrative procedures, and swapping ideas and information. The forums were to be held quarterly; she would find it helpful to attend twice yearly. This was approved.

ii) CALC Lake District Parishes Forum, 28<sup>th</sup> October: Cllr Patterson reported that the LDNPA and SLDC were consulting on a 'Change of Use Class Order' which would allow more flexibility for changing the use of existing buildings. Information about organised events would now be routinely sent to Parishes (the Clerk reported that this was already happening). There was to be a revised

application for World Heritage Site status for the National Park.

iii) CALC South Lakeland District Association, 28<sup>th</sup> November. Cllr Dean reported that Nick Raymond (South Lakeland Highways and Transport Manager) gave a presentation about the reorganisation of County Highways with the following main points: Barrow and South Lakeland had been combined into one area; there were 42 staff vacancies which he hoped would be filled by the end of the financial year; the 2-man road teams would be re-introduced; there were no verge-cutters now and none budgetted for as they were very expensive; the lists of road defects compiled by Parishes had been abandoned and he acknowledged that only Hotline requests were being dealt with; he was intending to return to pro-active maintenance rather than simply responding to problems; there was to be a 'meet and greet' day for local councils to meet the teams on Friday 13th December.

### 142/13 Consultations

- i) Department of Energy and Climate Change: Review of the Siting Process for a Geological Disposal Facility. It was resolved to object to the proposals, particularly the devolution of decision-making to District level. The Clerk would submit a response. **Clerk**
- ii) SLDC Polling District and Polling Places review: The proposal to close Finsthwaite Village Hall as a Polling Centre was not approved. It would discourage many people from voting if they had to travel as far as Bouth. The Clerk and Cllr Champion would respond. **Clerk/Cllr Champion**
- The budget consultations from County and SLDC should be responded to by Councillors individually. There was no provision for a Parish Council response in these consultations. **All Cllrs**

### 143/13 Correspondence

- i) Recent notification of a County Highways 'Meet and Greet' event on 13<sup>th</sup> December had been received. The Clerk and Chairman would attend.
- ii) The Clerk had asked other Clerks at the CALC Forum what method they used for recording correspondence: it varied enormously, but not many recorded the detail that Colton did. It was agreed that the Clerk should maintain a record, but that she could summarise the more routine correspondence from organisations such as CVS. She would trial this for the next meeting.

Receipt of the following correspondence was noted:

#### CALC/NALC

- CALC's draft response to the 'Managing Radioactive Waste Safely' second consultation, and briefing for local councils
- Cumbria in Bloom – AGM 18<sup>th</sup> November, Newton Rigg
- South Lakeland District Association – Agenda for meeting 28<sup>th</sup> November
- CALC AGM Agenda and papers: 9<sup>th</sup> November, Rheged, Penrith
- Council Council Budget consultation, via CALC, by 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2014
- New Model Standing Orders.
- CALC Annual Report and AGM papers for 9<sup>th</sup> November
- CALC Circular November 2013
- Invitation to stand for NALC's Smaller Councils' Committee
- DECC national workshops on MRWS consultation – Penrith 12<sup>th</sup> November
- Police and Crime Commissioner drop-in event, Kendal, 6<sup>th</sup> November
- Via CALC – responses from County, LDNPA, FOLD and Cumbria Trust to the MRWS consultation
- Cumbria CC Budget consultation – bus services under threat
- Cumbria Local Access Forum – Annual Report and related information.
- Clerk's Forum possible topics for next meeting – March 2014
- Neighbourhood Care Independence – CCC supported scheme
- NALC – Letter concerning the council tax benefit support grant and precept-setting
- Sustainable Communities Act – invitation to submit proposals
- Papers for South Lakeland District Association meeting, 28<sup>th</sup> November

#### CCC

- High Furness LAP – request for parish reps for Grants Panel
- High Furness LAP – Minutes of meeting 10<sup>th</sup> Oct
- Road closure notice for Colton
- Trading Standards – consultation on budget allocation and cutting services
- County Council Budget consultation – by 20<sup>th</sup> January. Drop-in sessions in December.
- Winter driving guide
- Connecting Cumbria newsletter

#### SLDC

- Polling District and Polling Places review – consultation, by 17<sup>th</sup> January, Proposal to close East ward polling place at Finsthwaite Village Hall.
- Letter about council tax base and precept calculation for 2014/15
- SLDC Land Allocations report

- How to effectively engage in the planning Service - workshops
- SLDC Budget consultation – by 20<sup>th</sup> December
- Call for representatives on the Standards Committee
- New registration of interests forms
- SLDC guide to Council services
- Opting out of the edited electoral register – notices for boards

#### **LDNPA**

- LDNPA Parish Forum – Agenda for meeting 28<sup>th</sup> October, Staveley
- South Distinctive Area Meeting, notes from 19<sup>th</sup> Sept
- Illegal off-road working group – minutes of meeting 17<sup>th</sup> Sept 31. Next meeting 9<sup>th</sup> Dec
- LDNPA Parish Update – Autumn 2013
- 2013 Register of Events (David Robinson, via Cllr Barr)
- Rights of Way closure notice for Grizedale Forest for Grizedale Stages Rally (30<sup>th</sup> Nov) and Malcolm Wilson Rally (8<sup>th</sup> March)

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

- Dept of Energy and Climate Change – Initial agreement for new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point, Somerset
- Office for National Statistics – Census information update
- Environment Agency – Windermere Reflections articles for newsletter

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

- CVS E-Bulletins 15<sup>th</sup> October, 19<sup>th</sup> Nov
- CVS News – Cumbria Funding Fair 23<sup>rd</sup> October, Kendal
- CVS Training courses
- CVS AGM, 7<sup>th</sup> November, Workington
- CVS Annual Review

#### **Other Correspondence**

- Coniston Parish Council – Agenda for 21<sup>st</sup> October
- Satterthwaite Parish Council – Agenda for 22<sup>nd</sup> October
- Windermere Reflections Bulletin – Sept/Oct 2013
- Resident of Spark Bridge – concern over speeding traffic. Clerk referred this to the police
- Hawkshead Link – Broadband registration information
- Cumbria Rural Housing Trust – offer to give a presentation on Community Land Trusts. Clerk responded saying recent survey indicated low levels of housing need at present
- Clerks and Councils Direct, November 2013
- Mr Roderick Smith – for info – pothole reports to Highways hotline for Bouth.
- United Utilities – frozen pipes notice and information
- National Allotments Society – questionnaire. Clerk responded
- Tim Farron MP – response to Colton PC's letter on the threat to local GP surgeries
- Concern by resident about the deteriorating state of the Nibthwaite to Ickenthaite green road
- Event notification – Jennings River Ride rescheduled for May 2014
- Broadband meeting notes via Cllr Barr
- Clerks and Councils Direct newsletter

#### **144/13 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting was confirmed as a Parish Council meeting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014 in Bouth Village Hall, at 7.30 p.m.