



## 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 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014 in Bouth Village Hall at 7.30 p.m..

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

**Also present:** PC Diana Wilcock and 1 member of the public

### **001/14 Apologies**

Cllr Patterson (ill health)

**ACTION**

### **002/14 Minutes of Last Meeting**

It was resolved that the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013 as a true record.

### **003/14 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Potts declared an interest in item 8. Planning, and signed the Register.

### **004/14 Requests for Dispensations**

None

### **005/14 Public Participation**

Carole Shaw, Chair of the Windermere Lake Users' Forum, gave a presentation about the Forum's activities and representation. Formed six years ago following the decision to apply a speed limit bye-law on the lake, the Forum acted as a consultative body for Lake activities and also provided advice and guidance on both the Lake and its catchment. Representatives included power-boat users, sail-boat users, paddle-boat users, swimmers, anglers, Windermere Lake Cruises, commercial mariners, and outdoor sports providers. This presentation had been prompted by Colton Parish Council's queries about the Forum in its response to the LDNPA's consultation on the handling of speed limit exemptions on the Lake. Asked about pollution, Carole Shaw explained that it was a strong concern about this and a need for works to reduce the phosphate load on the lake; the South basin was much less polluted than the North basin.

### **006/14 Update on Issues and Actions from Last Meeting**

Community Plan: The second draft was almost ready to send out. The Clerk would send round an electronic copy in the next few days and a printed version of the Policies and Actions by post. All were asked to read and send in their comments before the February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Clerk  
All Cllrs**

### **007/14 Comments from District and County Councillors**

Cllr Fletcher was not present.

### **008/14 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:

- 7/2013/5718: Yew Tree Cottage, Colton: Two-storey side extension: **Resolved:** No objection
- 7/2013/5605: Nethercroft, Finsthwaite – Proposed extension and erection of detached garage. Cllr Potts left the room during discussion and decision. **Resolved:** No objection.

The following planning permission granted was noted:

- 7/2013/5520: Far End Bungalow, Lakeside: Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of new dwelling.

### **009/14 Highways and Lengthsman**

i) Highways Liaison and 'Meet and greet' event, 13<sup>th</sup> December: The Clerk and Cllr Barr had attended this event at the Barrow depot. Colton Parish, as part of Highways Area 24, was now being managed from Barrow rather than Kendal. Nick Raymond, Area Engineer, explained that reorganisation was still in progress, with many posts still awaiting recruitment. Once these posts were in place, then Highways would be able to be a lot more proactive than of late, with more Area team visits to parishes. Parish representatives emphasised their concern that lack of attention to drainage was a false economy as it led to costly erosion of the road surface.

The Clerk had enquired about the surface of the Tollbar to Tottlebank road; this was due to be surface-dressed in the summer.

ii) Lengthsman: The Clerk had been in touch with Tony Atkinson, Lengthsman. He did not yet feel recovered enough from his back operation to resume his work for the Parish. The Clerk had then approached the temporary Lengthsman, Archie Workman who was willing to continue for another 6-month contract. It was approved that the Clerk should issue a contract.

Clerk

iii) Flooding: Cllr Potts had contacted District and County Councillor David Fletcher about the bad flooding at Finsthwaite/Stott Park, and they had met for a site visit. There were 3 major concerns with respect to the drainage system in this area: i) the culvert under the church car park needed replacing, ii) the banking between the road and the beck opposite the Old Vicarage needed reinforcing, and iii) the channel feeding the final culvert under the road to the Bobbin Mill needed opening up. Cllr Fletcher suggested that the Council make a bid to his funding allocation. The Parish Council could consider offering some Lengthsman time and/or a small amount of funding in support of this remedial work. The Clerk reminded the Council that it had also considered other bids to Cllr Fletcher's funding allocation, mainly concerning speeding traffic.

Clerk

iv) Overhanging Trees, Lowick: The Clerk had written to the owner of the woodland, following information provided by Highways. He had replied helpfully in mid-December saying he would attend to the trees. Nothing had been done so far. The Clerk would wait another fortnight before getting back in touch with him.

Clerk

v) Field of Pigs, Finsthwaite: The flooding here was as bad as ever. Nothing of any use appeared to have been done. Flood warning signs had appeared on either side of the flood. The Clerk would contact Mr Beaty, Highways, for an update.

Clerk

#### **010/14 Clerk's CiLCA 'General Power of Competence Qualification**

The Clerk had gained the CiLCA 'General Power of Competence' qualification, necessary for the Council to exercise certain powers under the Localism Act, 2011. The Council would first need to confirm its eligibility and formally adopt the GPC Powers. The Clerk circulated a briefing paper in preparation for this; it would be on the Agenda for the February meeting. Councillors offered their congratulations and thanks to the Clerk.

Clerk

#### **011/14 Use of Bouth Village Green**

A request had been made by a resident of Bouth to use the Village Green for a private wedding party, with marquees. The Clerk had been in touch with the Lessors (SLDC) who had explained that although the Green was a public place, occasional exceptions for private parties might be made provided certain arrangements were properly in place. The Clerk was awaiting information about the insurance implications. The Council agreed in principle, subject to arranging appropriate insurance cover, meeting SLDC's requirements, checking highway safety issues and gaining approval from the village residents. It was agreed that the BVG Committee would be asked to address these issues before final approval could be given.

Clerk

#### **012/14 Finance and Budget**

It was resolved that the following payments be made:

–Cheque no. 000668: A.Lane, Clerk, CiLCA GPC submission fee: **£20.00**

The following payments were noted:

–Cheque no. 000669: Mr A. Workman, Lengthsman work for Dec13: **£52.00**

–Cheque no. 000670: A.Lane (Clerk), salary for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, FY13/14: **£1033.86**

–Cheque no. 000671: HMRC, tax due for Clerk's salary Q3 FY13/14: **£258.47**

The budget and precept for FY 14/15 was approved. The precept would be increased by 5% for an additional Lengthsman day per month, website redevelopment and notice-board replacement.

The SLDC Parish Remuneration Panel Recommendations for FY 14/15 were considered and it was resolved to adopt the travel and subsistence recommendations, but to continue to waive the Councillors' allowances.

#### **013/14 Meetings**

i) Illegal Off-road Working Group, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, Water Yeat (Clerk attended): Although it was appreciated that the police had had some successes with fixed penalty notices and sending out warning letters, there was a general feeling that illegal off-roading was getting worse and that the perpetrators were simply ignoring the law because of the low chance of being caught. Better signage, encouraging more people reporting bad behaviour, and the use of hidden cameras were being investigated. Carole Barr (Torver Parish Council) was to become Chair.

ii) Broadband meeting, 9<sup>th</sup> January, Newby Bridge (Cllr Barr attended): This had been a useful meeting with Mike Postle (Colton's Broadband Champion) plus representatives from Connecting Cumbria and BT. The 70% of properties to be connected in Colton Parish was a high figure in comparison with some neighbouring parishes. The remaining properties in Colton were promised speeds of somewhere between 2mb/s and 24mb/s. The Parish Council may be able to help enable more properties to be connected to super-fast broadband. A register of businesses may

help BT to attract more external funding to connect more areas. The Clerk would circulate the web address of Mike Postle's 'blog'.

Clerk

#### 014/14 Consultations

Councillors were reminded to respond to the following consultations still open:

- CCC Budget consultation – deadline 20<sup>th</sup> Jan
- CCC Trading Standards budget consultation – deadline 20<sup>th</sup> Jan

All Cllrs

#### 015/14 Correspondence

Receipt of the following correspondence was noted:

##### **CALC/NALC**

- NALC – Council Tax Support Grant briefing
- CALC Circular for Dec/Jan
- CALC – copy of letter sent to Prime Minister from a parish council in Oxfordshire on the National Planning Policy Framework
- South Lakeland District Association – minutes of meeting 28<sup>th</sup> November.
- CALC – guidance on responding to planning applications
- CALC – update from Local Government Minister on parish Councils and the Council Tax support grant.
- CALC – invitation to submit a nomination for attendance at the Royal Garden Party

##### **CCC**

- Neighbourhood Forum – new procedure for community grants.
- Better Highways 'meet and greet' event information, 13<sup>th</sup> Dec
- High Furness LAP – Notification of meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan at Hawkshead plus minutes of last meeting
- Better Highways – map of Network Team areas and presentation given at the 'meet and greet' event in December
- High Furness LAP – papers for meeting 15<sup>th</sup> Jan, Hawkshead

##### **SLDC**

- SLDC Parish Remuneration Panel Report
- Annual Review of SLDC Constitution. Consultation – deadline 14<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Notification of adoption of South Lakeland Local Plan – Land Allocations

##### **LDNPA**

- LDNP Partnership - meeting 'digest' from 2<sup>nd</sup> December
- Minutes of Illegal Off-roading Working Group, 9<sup>th</sup> December meeting
- LDNPA Parishes Update
- Notice of adoption of Allocations of Land and Minerals Safeguarding Areas sections of the Local Plan

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

- Environment Agency – Generic design assessment for new nuclear reactors

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

- Newsletters etc.
- ACT – Parish Profiles updates: [www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/ResourcesPublications.aspx](http://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/ResourcesPublications.aspx)

##### **Other Correspondence**

- Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. Meetings now available on <http://www.cumbriapartnership.nhs.uk/our-meetings.htm>
- Windermere Lake Users' Forum – offer to speak at Council meeting in January
- Forestry Commission – work beginning on green road at Force Mills, cutting back trees to allow larch removal.
- CLASP news Jan 2014 (CLASP is the Environment Agency and NWIEP funded climate change support programme for North West Local Authorities and public sector partners)

#### 016/14 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed as a Parish Council meeting on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February in Finsthwaite Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.