



Colton Parish Council

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Oxen Park
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The following are the minutes of the Colton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 17th February 2014 in Finsthwaite 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 (CCC & SLDC) PCSO Diana Wilcock and 1 member of the public

017/14 Apologies

None

ACTION

018/14 Minutes of Last Meeting

It was resolved that the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th January as a true record.

019/14 Declarations of Interest

None

020/14 Requests for Dispensations

None

021/14 Public Participation

PCSO Diana Wilcock reported only one incident in the last month: theft of a chainsaw from Colton. However, there have been a lot of such thefts in the general area. She strongly advised writing down the serial number of tools and keeping outhouses locked. There had also been reports of illegal selling door-to-door; she asked that people ring the police (101) if they experienced this. Cllr Milburn reported and the Clerk confirmed that there had been many incidents of illegal off-roading and associated damage and bad behaviour. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item for the next Council meeting. Cllr Robinson reported that 3 deer heads had been found above Crosslands and that this had been reported to the wildlife crime officer.

022/14 Comments from District and County Councillors

Cllr Fletcher (CCC & SLDC): Cllr Fletcher apologised for his absence at the last few meetings of the Council. He was finding it difficult to attend all the Parishes as meetings tended to cluster around the same week. SLDC: Council Tax had been frozen again this year and there were hard budget decisions to make; the situation was likely to be even worse next year. CCC: Cllr Fletcher asked whether the Highways service had improved recently. The Council felt that whilst some potholes had been filled, there had been no improvement yet in formal arrangements: the Clerk still had not had notification of when the local team was planning to visit the Parish and she remained unclear who the main Highways contacts were for Colton. However, she reported that she tended to contact Mr David Huck for major issues; he was always very helpful and responded quickly with solutions where possible.

Cllr Fletcher had visited Finsthwaite concerning the flooding there; he would allocate £300 for some Lengthsman time. The Clerk would continue to maintain her long list of flooding issues in the hope that Highways would attend to them in due course.

A meeting was being organised on 27th February in Hawkshead about health issues; it was agreed that Cllr Robinson would attend. There was also a High Furness Grants Panel meeting on 25th Feb for which Cllr Dean was our representative and would attend.

Cllr
Robinson

Cllr Dean

023/14 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:

- 7/2014/5040: Lakeside Hotel, Newby Bridge. Erection of building for biomass boiler & woodchip store. **Resolution: No objection**, but some concerns about screening of the building from the road and height of chimney stack in relation to possible nuisance to neighbours.

The following response to a planning application was noted:

- 7/2014/5013: Charley Crag, Finsthwaite: Extension to garden room to form utility room. *No*

objection.

The following planning permissions granted were noted:

- 7/2013/5605: Nethercroft, Finsthwaite: Proposed extension and erection of detached garage.
- 7/2013/5621: YMCA Centre, Lakeside: Replacement of YMCA National Centre. Cllr Champion reported that she had attended the Development Control Committee meeting and spoken about the Council's concerns, mainly in relation to traffic issues. A condition had been applied to the permission that required the YMCA to work with the local community on alleviating traffic problems.

024/14 Highways and Lengthsman

- Flooding at the Field of Pigs, Finsthwaite: Highways had responded acknowledging the flooding and the deep potholes. They were allowing the owner additional time to dig a channel to divert the water; if there was no progress within a month they would refer the matter to their legal department. Cllr Fletcher would report the concern to County. Cllr Fletcher
- Speeding traffic on the C5023 Spark Bridge to Tottlebank road: Following concern from a resident in Spark Bridge, the Clerk had contacted the police who would carry out speed monitoring and also arrange a presence there with a radar gun.
- Road surface and drainage issues on C5023, Tottlebank: Part of this route had now been resurfaced. The sewage leak across the road had been reported and had now been fixed.
- Green Roads: Cllr Barr was still waiting for a meeting to be set up with Highways following the meeting in September when Highways staff failed to attend. Cllr Barr would write to the Area Engineer, Nick Raymond. Cllr Barr
- Lengthsman: The contract with Mr Workman for an additional 6 months to the end of July 2014 had been signed. He was currently working on drains in Finsthwaite and Tottlebank.
- Litter on the C5023 (Tollbar to Bouth Road Ends) and the U5222 (Swan Hotel to Newby Bridge Halt): The Clerk and Mr Roderick Smith had reported to SLDC the large amount of litter that had accumulated on the C5023 and blown into surrounding fields. Nothing had yet been done, despite repeated requests. Litter clearance was apparently scheduled for only twice a year. It was agreed that the problem of speed, traffic and litter on the C5023 would be an agenda item for the next meeting. The Clerk would report the litter on the U5222 to SLDC. Clerk
Clerk
- County Councillor's Allowance: The Council used to be consulted on priorities for spending this allowance. Cllr Fletcher explained that this was not actually a requirement. The allowance was now so small that it was impossible to consult each parish council for its priorities; he had to decide priorities himself over the whole High Furness area.
- Other Highways issues: Mr Roderick Smith asked that the Council request that tarmac be made good to the fenceline at Bouth Village green and that the double-yellow lines be repainted, preferably with thin lines. Clerk
- Community Budgets: The Clerk was asked to find out more about this initiative. Clerk

025/14 Community Defibrillator, Oxen Park

It was resolved to approve the purchase of a community defibrillator to be located in the Oxen Park phone kiosk, to be funded mostly by a community grant of £1700 from a local business. The cost of the device, its cabinet and delivery would be £2125 inc VAT, if payable. It was agreed to make a donation of £75 to cover the cost and to cover the VAT, if payable, until it could be reclaimed. The local community had pledged some money as support and were also to arrange a fund-raising event to cover the cost of installation and training. Clerk

It was resolved that the Council would consider applications from the community to cover the cost of annual consumables up to £75, if fund-raising efforts fell short.

026/14 General Power of Competence

Following confirmation that the necessary criteria of i) an appropriately qualified Clerk and ii) having at least 2/3 of Councillors elected had been met, **it was resolved to adopt the General Power of Competence** (Localism Act 2011).

It was resolved to draw up a list of nominations for the Community Assets Register to be submitted to SLDC. The Chairman and Clerk would draft a list. Clerk/ Cllr Barr

027/14 High Dam Car Park Charges and Consequences for Finsthwaite

The National Park's new charging regime at High Dam was still causing a significant problem with vehicles parking on the road i) causing obstructions and ii) severely eroding the banking of the roadside beck causing flooding issues. It was resolved that the Clerk should write to the National Park and to County asking them to address the problem. Clerk

028/14 Community Plan

Comments on the first draft of the Plan (put together by Cllrs Barr, Champion, Hoyle and the

Clerk), had been received from Cllr Dean. Other Councillors reported that they were happy with the draft Plan and had no comments. It was resolved to discuss the draft Plan at an additional meeting already scheduled for 3rd March to discuss a planning application.

029/14 Finance and Accounts

The following receipts were noted:

- Donation for Oxen Park defibrillator: **£1700.00**
- High Furness LAP: grant towards Lengthsman scheme: **£445.00**

It was resolved that the following payments be made:

- Cheque no. 000672: Archie Workman, Lengthsman, work in Jan 2014: **£130.00**
- Cheque no. 000673: Community Heartbeat: Defibrillator: **£2125.00** (inc. VAT)
- Cheque no. 000674: Travel claim FY13-14, Cllr Champion: **£16.43**
- Cheque no. 000675: Travel claim FY13-14, Cllr Dean: **£65.25**
- Cheque no. 000676: Travel claim FY13-14, Cllr Barr: **£63.00**
- Cheque no. 000677: Travel claim FY13-14, Cllr Hoyle: **£8.10**
- Cheque no. 000678: Travel claim FY13-14, Clerk: **£47.93**
- Cheque no. 000679: Bouth Village Hall Hire 12-13 (re-issued cheque): **£45.00**

The bank reconciliation for April 2013 to Jan 2014 was received and approved.

A report on forecast out-turn against budget for FY 13/14 was received.

030/14 Meetings

The following meeting reports were received:

- High Furness LAP, 15th January (Cllrs Dean and Champion): Action for Communities in Cumbria (ACT) gave a presentation on emergency planning. Unfortunately this was targeted at larger communities and was not very relevant for Colton's small hamlets. Claife presented its Community Plan; Cllr Dean suggested that Councillors take a look at the website.

Attendance to the following meetings was approved:

- Local Area Partnership Conference, 4th March, Grange-over-Sands. Cllr Dean would attend. **Cllr Dean**

031/14 Correspondence

A response from SLDC on the role of its Councillors was noted. The letter explained that there was no requirement of Councillors to attend Parish Council meetings and suggested that Councils could communicate with the Community Engagement Officer, Emma Nichols.

It was resolved that the Clerk would write to Robinson's Brewery asking for information on their plans for the future of The Manor House pub, Oxen Park. **Clerk**

Receipt of the following correspondence was noted:

CALC/NALC

- Further news about parish precepts and possibility of government caps. Awaiting decision on 5th Feb.
- Free Planning Workshop, Penrith, 15th May
- South Lakeland District Association meeting, 6th March – Agenda and papers.
- CALC Circular for February
- Council Tax voting procedures for local authorities (not parish councils) - press release
- Local Government Transparency Code – for councils with budgets > £200,000
- Government decision on precepts – no capping for local councils this year.

CCC

- Bus Panel Report – Rusland Pool Hotel possible bus stop
- Budget consultation – link to analysis of responses
- Urgent Road Closure notice – Tottlebank to Tollbar C5023

SLDC

Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAFS) information on website:

www.cafs.org.uk/projects/cumbria-green-build-on-tour/

- Funding for Locally Important Projects – second round bids invited from 7th Feb to 7th May

High Furness LAP

- Invitation to South Lakeland LAP Conference, 4th March, Grange
- Minutes and papers from meeting 15th Jan

LDNPA

- Correspondence about better signage wrt illegal off-roading

Government Depts and Agencies

- Environment Agency – Windermere Reflections – possible newsletter article
- Forestry Commission – Volunteers planting weekend at Bessie Bank. 1st/2nd March

Cumbria CVS and Action for Communities in Cumbria (ACT)

- Newsletters and training information

Other Correspondence

- Coniston PC – Agenda for 13th Jan and minutes of last meeting
- ROSPA Playsafety – Annual inspection prices

- Correspondence about traffic speed issues through Spark Bridge
- Mungrisdale Parish Council – enquiry about Lengthsman
- United Utilities – response to query about road closure at Lane Ends, Haverthwaite: closed from 24th Feb
- Correspondence with Woodland Trust and Bill Hogath Apprenticeship Trust about illegal motorbikes and damage in woods near Bouth.
- Healthwatch Cumbria: Invitation to consultation events about future health provision.
- Malcolm Wilson Rally, 8th March 2014
- Clerks and Councils Direct, Jan 2014
- Correspondence with Police about speeding traffic, Spark Bridge

032/14 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that an 'additional' Parish Council meeting would be held on Monday 3rd March in Rusland Reading Rooms to discuss planning application 7/2014/5046: Low Hay Bridge and to discuss the draft Community Plan.

It was confirmed that the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as Monday 24th March in Rusland Reading Rooms , 7.30 p.m.

Dates for meetings in the forthcoming financial year (2014-15) were confirmed as:

| Date | Meeting | Venue |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 6 th May 14 (Tues) | Parish Open Meeting & Annual Parish Council 2014 | Bouth Village Hall |
| 9 th June 14 | Parish Council | Colton Church Hall |
| 21 st July 14 | Parish Council | Rusland Reading Room |
| 8 th Sept 14 | Parish Council | Finsthwaite Village Hall |
| 20 th Oct 14 | Parish Council | Bouth Village Hall |
| 1 st Dec 14 | Parish Council | Rusland Reading Room |
| 12 th Jan 15 | Parish Council | Bouth Village Hall |
| 16 th Feb 15 | Parish Council | Finsthwaite Village Hall |
| 23 rd Mar 15 | Parish Council | Rusland Reading Room |