



Colton Parish Council

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The following are the minutes of the Colton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12th January 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 Watson Ms M Lane (Clerk)

Also present: Sara Spicer (LDNPA Ranger) and 1 member of the public

	ACTION
001/15 Apologies Cllr Patterson (working)	
002/15 Minutes of Last Meeting It was resolved that the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on <u>Monday 1st December 2014</u> as a true record.	
003/15 Declarations of Interest None	
004/15 Requests for Dispensations None	
005/15 Public Participation <p><u>Police written report:</u> A number of suspected poaching incidents had been reported and a deer carcass found. Heating oil had been stolen overnight from a property in Thwaite Head, Rusland. An individual had been arrested for suspected arson at Greenhead Farm, Colton.</p> <p><u>Sara Spicer (LDNPA)</u> introduced herself as the new Area Ranger for the South Distinctive Area of the National Park.</p> <p>i) Rangers were working in the LDNPA-owned properties in the Parish, including Ellerside, Yewbarrow woods and High Dam. Local communities were invited to volunteer to walk boundaries (checking fencing etc.) and help with clearing felled timber (birch and larch), which could be taken as fire-wood. The Clerk would publicise this in the Parish Council newsletter.</p> <p>ii) Many problems with illegal off-roading had been reported, including at the Strands, Rusland. A commercial enterprise was illegally taking bikes through the barriers when the Traffic Regulation Order was in force. The Environment Agency were considering writing an article for the Trail Riders Fellowship (TRF) website. The Clerk had been in touch with the TRF about better signage, due to be discussed at the forthcoming Illegal Off-roading Working Group meeting.</p> <p>iii) There would be a South Distinctive Area evening meeting on 28th April to which Councillors were invited; ideas for Agenda items would be welcomed.</p> <p>iv) As part of the Rusland Horizons Heritage Lottery Fund project, Sara was devising 6-8 routes under the 'Greenwood Trail' section of the project, linking up woodlands, archaeological sites and visitor attractions. She would welcome ideas and feedback through a local focus group.</p> <p>v) There would be two events held during February in Grizedale. The Clerk asked Sara to find out why information on events had stopped being sent to her. It was important to publicise these, especially night-time events, to prevent the police being unnecessarily called out.</p> <p>vi) The state of the footpaths through Hulleter and Rusland Mosses had been reported. The Clerk would walk the paths and report back to Sara Spicer and Andrew Wilkinson (Ranger).</p> <p>vii) The Clerk would put the map of LDNPA Distinctive Areas and Ranger contact details on the Parish Council website</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clerk</p> <p style="text-align: center;">S.Spicer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Clerk</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Clerk</p>
006/15 LDNPA Proposed sale of woodland: Waterside Knott, Newby Bridge <p>It was resolved to express concerns to the National Park Authority as follows: i) that the LDNPA was considering the sale of such an important woodland asset, ii) if the woodland had to be sold, that the LDNPA ensure sale to a responsible buyer who will manage and maintain the woodland in line with the landscape, wildlife and cultural aims and duties of the Authority, the Rusland Horizons project, and the Colton Community-led Plan, in perpetuity if possible, iii) that the permissive path be dedicated as a formal right of way, before sale, and iv) that the tower be protected. The Clerk would submit a response.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clerk</p>
007/15 Vacancy on the Council in Central Ward	

<p>The Clerk reported that there had been two expressions of interest. She had asked for an application paragraph from each by 31st January. The Council should hopefully be in a position to co-opt at its February 16th meeting.</p>	
<p>008/15 Update on Issues and Actions from Last Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Notice-boards</u>: i) Oxen Park: Cllrs Barr and Watson had met to discuss a new location for the notice-board; they had decided to ask for the opinions of the residents of Oxen Park. ii) Bouth: The Clerk and Cllr Dean had sourced an aluminium notice-board which might be suitable, at a cost of c. £700. They would make a recommendation to the Council. iii) Colton: the notice-board was now in a very poor state and required replacement and possible re-siting to a less exposed spot. • <u>Community Plan</u>: Cllr Barr had sent a set of images of Colton Parish to Tess Baxter who was designing the web-enabled Plan. The Clerk would work through the Plan to suggest where illustrations were required. The CP Working Group would meet to discuss the Action Plan drafted by Cllr Champion. 	<p>Cllrs Barr & Watson</p> <p>Clerk/Cllr Dean</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>009/15 Comments from District and County Councillors</p> <p><u>Cllr Fletcher (CCC)</u>: i) <u>Highways</u>: he reminded the Council to use the Highways Hotline to report road defects. Bouth Village Green yellow-lining would be re-done when there were enough road marking jobs for the area. The gully-sucking team would only be visiting once per year due to lack of resources. ii) <u>County Budget consultation</u>: key issues raised so far were Council Tax and Highways. Unitary authority options were under discussion. iii) <u>Broadband</u>: the roll-out in this area had been delayed; decisions were still to be made about the extent of provision of super-fast broadband to rural areas.</p> <p><u>Cllr Fletcher (SLDC)</u>: i) Recycling of plastics was being trialled in Kendal. ii) Road-sweeping may be coordinated with gully-sucking so that debris could be removed before the drains were cleared.</p>	
<p>010/15 Planning</p> <p>Cllr Barr declined to take part in discussions, being a member of the LDNPA Development Control Committee.</p> <p><u>The following planning applications were discussed and responses agreed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 7/2014/5779: Greenhead Farm, Colton. Conversion of agricultural building to new dwelling. Resolution: No objection, provided that i) a local occupancy clause be applied, and ii) given the building's prominent position, materials be used to make the external appearance as 'recessive' in the landscape as possible. 	
<p>011/15 Highways and Lengthsman</p> <p>i) <u>Road Closures</u>: There had been no information provided to the Clerk about road closures in the past few months, and hence no warning about either the Finsthwaite to Haverthwaite closure, or the Tottlebank cross-roads closure. The latter had been fraught with mis-information: the sign implied closure for just one day, rather than 3 weeks, and the contractors managing the works had informed the Clerk that traffic lights would be used to enable traffic to pass, rather than implementing a complete closure. It was resolved that the Chairman should write a letter of complaint to County</p> <p>ii) <u>Recent visit by gully-sucking team</u>: The Clerk was dismayed about the lack of information about the visit from the gully-sucking team – specifically where they were going and when. This was important to avoid duplicating effort: there was no point in sending out the Lengthsman to a drain when the gully-sucker would be attending the next day.</p> <p>iii) <u>Communications</u>: The Clerk had sent a list of issues to the High Furness Local Area Partnership officer and Chair in response to a request about Parish liaison with Highways. Communications were still very poor. In particular, the appointed Area Steward had never been in touch with her. Cllr Fletcher would follow this up with the Chair of the Highways sub-committee.</p> <p>iv) <u>List of Highways issues</u>: The Clerk had circulated the current list of Highways issues; this was also available from the website. Cllr Fletcher asked her to send him the list.</p> <p>Mr Smith reported that he had reported to Highways the empty salt bins in Bouth and that these had been filled.</p>	<p>Cllr Barr</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>012/15 Accounts</p> <p><u>The precept claim for FY 2015/16 (£12,399 including a grant of £319.46) was approved and signed.</u></p> <p><u>It was resolved that the following payments be made:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cheque no. 000719: A.Lane, stationery (ink cartridges, paper, pens): £120.90 – Cheque no. 000720: HMRC, PAYE, Q3, 2014-15: £265.20 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cheque no. 000721: A.Lane, Clerk, Salary Q3, 2014-15: £1060.55 – Cheque no. 000722: A.Workman, December 2014 working: £130.00 <p><u>The following receipt was noted:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Claife Parish Council: Share of travel expenses to Community Resilience Conference, Penrith: £19.35 	
<p>013/15 Meetings</p> <p>It was resolved to ask the Environment Agency to arrange a site visit to Ashes Beck to discuss works required to alleviate flooding, rather than holding a 'flood awareness' event.</p>	Clerk
<p>014/15 Consultations</p> <p><u>The following new consultations were noted and procedure for responding agreed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) <u>Cumbria County Council budget consultation:</u> Councillors were asked to respond individually before 20th January. ii) <u>Lake District National Park Partnership Plan:</u> Cllr Barr asked Councillors to send him their comments by the end of 13th so that he could compile a response by the deadline of 18th January. iii) <u>Government consultation on Parish Polls:</u> The Clerk summarised the proposed changes to arrangements for conducting Parish Polls, as explained by CALC. The Council agreed that they seemed broadly sensible. The Clerk would respond in support by the deadline of 31st January. 	All Cllrs All Cllrs/ Cllr Barr Clerk
<p>015/15 Correspondence</p> <p><u>Receipt of the following correspondence was noted:</u></p> <p>CALC/NALC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to Eric Pickles concerning possible Unitary Local Government for Cumbria • CALC Circular Dec 14 and Jan 15 • NALC weekly Newsletters • Government Consultation on Parish Polls, by 31st January • Cumbria Community Foundation Newsletter Dec 2014 • New Quality Council scheme and application for free 'Foundation' status for previous Quality Councils. (<i>Clerk has applied.</i>) • New Continuous Professional Development 'points' scheme for Clerks • Invitation to nominate attendee to Royal Garden Party • Communities and Local Government Select Committee report on the National Planning Policy Framework • Connecting Cumbria Phase 2 consultation • Precept capping, Section 137 limit and Transparency Code <p>CCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting to discuss Draft Local Flood Risk Strategy, Kendal, 11th Dec • Connecting Cumbria – Broadband Project public consultation. • Notice of transitional period for applications for Commons Registration Amendments – December 2014 to December 2017. Clerk has registered the Council's email address for notification of applications. <p>SLDC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of Council meeting, 11th December • Go-Lakes grants – applications by 10th December • Locally Important Projects – grant funding applications invited – by 20th Feb • Notices: Register of Electors • Community Infrastructure Levy – draft charging schedule (outwith National Park) • Land off Cross-a-Moor Development Brief SPD • Parish Council Precept form • Register of Electors 2014/15 <p>High Furness LAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to LAP websites for notes from recent LAP events (Highways and Health) • Re-opening of Green Deal Home Improvement Fund • Notification of police on-line web chat scheduled Weds 17th December 6-8pm • Correspondence about Highways and lack of communication <p>LDNPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDNP Partnership – December meeting digest • Acknowledgement of application to LDNPA Communities Fund for Rusland Horizons Project • LDNP Partnership – E-Newsletter December 2014 <p>Government Depts and Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency – follow-up information from Debbie Binch on flash flooding and discussions about possible community resilience drop-in event, Rusland <p>Cumbria CVS and Action for Communities in Cumbria (ACT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletters, Funding and Training information 	

Other Correspondence

- South Lakes Deer Group – Increase in poaching - how to report suspicious activity.
- United Utilities – posters about freezing pipes etc.
- Correspondence with the Trail Riders' Federation about better signage. The Clerk explained that the TRF had worked with Hampshire County Council in producing clear and easy-to-interpret rights-of-way signs using icons, which had been a success. She was to take examples to the 'Illegal Off-roading group' for their consideration.
- Bethacar Moor Commoners: confirmation of juniper disease on Bethacar Moor, near Water Park, Nibthwaite
- Rural Services Network – results of Rural Sounding-Board survey (Cllr Hoyle responds for Colton)
- Satterthwaite PC – papers for meeting 6th January

016/15 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed as a Parish Council meeting on Monday 16th February 2015 in Finsthwaite Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.