



## Colton Parish Council

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Clerk: Ms Mandy Lane  
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 Ulverston LA12 8HG

The following are the minutes of the Colton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 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 Watson Ms M Lane (Clerk)

**Also present:** Cllr Fletcher PCSO Janine Wade and 4 members of the public

<b>025/15 Apologies</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
None	
<b>026/15 Minutes of Last Meeting</b> It was resolved that the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on <u>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015</u> and <u>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015</u> as true records.	
<b>027/15 Declarations of Interest</b> None	
<b>028/15 Requests for Dispensations</b> None	
<b>029/15 Update on Issues and Actions from Last Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Notice-boards:</u> i) <u>Bouth:</u> Cllr Dean had been investigating the cost and durability of aluminium boards at a cost of approx. £700 + VAT. £900 had been set aside in the budget. Cllr Dean and the Clerk would make a decision shortly. ii) <u>Oxen Park:</u> Cllr Barr had drafted a note to residents asking for opinion on finding a suitable site for the notice-board; he would confirm this with Cllr Watson and send it out shortly.</li> <li>• <u>Community Plan:</u> The Clerk had highlighted sections in the Plan for illustrations and sent this to Tess Baxter. Cumbria ACT had requested that the grant be spent up by mid-March; Tess had confirmed that she would finish the main work on the Plan by then.</li> <li>• <u>The order for Footpath 511089 High Dam</u> to Bell Intake via Height Lane, Stott Park, was noted.</li> <li>• <u>The forthcoming Environment Agency site visit</u> with local residents to walk Ashes Beck, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 10am. was noted.</li> </ul>	<p>Cllr Dean/ Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Barr</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<b>030/15 Public Participation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Police (PCSO Janine Wade):</u> There had been only two calls for service in the local area: loss of sheep and a suspicious vehicle off-road. It had been a quiet Christmas and New Year. Shopkeepers should be aware of two Asian males 'change-raising': asking to be given change and confusing the shopkeeper into giving more than due. She advised shopkeepers not to give change from the till without a purchase.</li> <li>• <u>National Trust: Plans for Fell-Foot Park:</u> Fiona Hill and Kelly Sprouston-Heath from the National Trust's Fell-Foot Park at the south-eastern bank of Windermere gave a talk on planned developments. Historic boathouses would be restored, camping pods would replace the old chalets around the current entrance area, a new entrance and larger car-park would be created to the south with tree-planting for screening, a new café built near the old house lawn, and the old gas house would be converted into offices and shower-block for campers.</li> </ul>	
<b>031/15 Vacancy on the Council</b> There had been two expressions of interest, but neither had submitted their application by the 31 <sup>st</sup> January deadline and the Clerk had not heard anything further. The Clerk would advertise the vacancy in the forthcoming newsletter and Councillors would speak to local residents.	Clerk/ Cllrs
<b>032/15 Comments from District and County Councillors</b> <u>Cllr Fletcher (CCC):</u> There had been a press release following the budget consultation. The proposed cut of £15M from the Highways budget had been rejected by members; this was good news for rural areas in safeguarding services. Cllr Fletcher explained that he had prioritised highway safety around schools for his budget of £6000 this year; Kirkby-in-Furness had a particularly dangerous road to resolve. Within Colton Parish, he was funding a replacement village sign for Oxen Park and placing signs at Rusland Cross to slow traffic for farm stock. Councillors	

<p>asked what they should do if Colton had a priority issue. Cllr Fletcher invited the Council to make him aware, and he would consider it.</p> <p><u>Cllr Fletcher (SLDC):</u> There were concerns over the exclusion of the Community Infrastructure Levy within the National Park, whereas other areas of South Lakeland were able to access these funds; this felt inequitable.</p>	
<p><b>033/15 Planning</b></p> <p><u>The following planning application was discussed and a response agreed</u> Cllr Barr declined to take part, being a member of the LDNPA Development Control Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 7/7/2014/5727. Hilltop, Penny Bridge. Change of use of woodland to BMX facility and club hut – temporary for 3 years. <b>Resolution: Support</b> (unanimous)</li> </ul> <p><u>The following SLDC planning application was discussed and a response agreed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SL/2014/1220: Kirkby Moor Wind Farm: Decommissioning of 12 existing wind turbines and ancillary infrastructure; erection of a wind farm comprising 6 turbines (Maximum blade tip height of up to 115m), a meteorological mast, new and upgraded access tracks, a substation and other ancillary development.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolution: No objection</b> (6 votes to 2)</p> <p><u>The following responses submitted by the Clerk to planning applications were noted:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 7/2014/5844: YMCA, Lakeside: Fascia sign at jetty. <i>No objection.</i></li> <li>- 7/2014/5835: YMCA, Lakeside: New permissive cycle path. <i>No objection.</i></li> </ul> <p><u>The following planning permissions granted were noted:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 7/2014/5779: Greenhead Farm, Colton: Conversion of agricultural building to new dwelling.</li> <li>- 7/2014/5665: Land adjacent to Springfield, Colton. Erection of new storage building.</li> <li>- 7/2014/5046: Low Hay Bridge: A peat bund around perimeter of hay bridge moss.</li> </ul> <p><u>The following planning permission refusal was noted:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-7/2014/5730: The Old Post House, Stott Park: Demolishing of existing garage and building a new garage and workshop with ancillary accommodation.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>034/15 Highways and Lengthsman</b></p> <p><u>Road surface and Drainage Problems:</u> The Clerk reported that she had had a very positive meeting with the Area Network Officer and the Area Highways Steward on 6<sup>th</sup> February, agreeing the best method of communication and feedback. They had together worked through the list of Colton road surface issues and visited a number of drainage 'trouble spots' to decide what action to take; some were already being worked on.</p> <p><u>Traffic management issues</u> remained to be addressed: road markings, signposts, traffic speed. The Highways officers would send these to the Acting Traffic Management Officer. Cllr Fletcher also offered to alert him to the list.</p> <p><u>Litter:</u> The Clerk had met with SLDC Road Cleansing Team to discuss litter acculumation on the C5023 Toll-bar-Tottlebank-Spark Bridge road. The team were monitoring weekly and had found that after clearing, it took only 4 weeks for it to return to the same poor state. Resources did not allow litter clearing this frequently, but they would attend every 2-3 months. They would consider options for deterrents, which could involve following up perpetrators via number-plates.</p>	<p><b>Cllr Fletcher</b></p>
<p><b>035/15 Electronic Circulation of Meeting Papers</b></p> <p>The Secretary of State had introduced a change to statute to enable agenda papers to be sent to councillors electronically instead of on paper, where they have given their consent.</p> <p><b>It was resolved not to implement this</b>, principally because the Clerk needed to send out notices for local notice-boards on paper within the legal time-frame and it cost no more to send the papers with them. Also, most Councillors would want hard copy papers with them at meetings, and the cost of printing them was best managed through the Clerk.</p>	
<p><b>036/15 Finsthwaite and Lakeside Community Emergency Plan</b></p> <p><b>It was resolved to approve</b> the Finsthwaite and Lakeside Emergency Plan.</p>	
<p><b>037/15 Finance and Accounts</b></p> <p><b>It was resolved to approve</b> the bank reconciliation to January 31<sup>st</sup> 2015.</p> <p><u>Forecast out-turn against budget:</u> The Clerk gave a summary for the Council: There was a forecast under-spend of £1800 (assuming that the £900 allocated for the Bouth notice-board would be spent before the year end). The this was due mainly to unspent allocations for: Lengthsman working (£500), website re-development (£300), Bouth Village Green (£400), defibrillator fund-raising (£185), and grit bin (£100). The purchase of a grit bin had been delayed because it was unclear whether Highways would agree to fill it; the Clerk would ask again.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>

**It was resolved** that the following payments be made:

–Cheque no. 000723: A.Workman, Lengthsman working for Jan 15: **£234.00**

–Cheque no. 000724: A.Workman, Lengthsman. Extension drain rods and attachments: **£29.10**

### 038/15 Meetings

The following meeting reports were received:

i) Illegal off-road Working Group (27<sup>th</sup> January): The Clerk had attended. Nothing had come of the meeting with the police last June, where operations were planned for Parkamoor route. Cuts to police budgets meant that it was hard to prioritise illegal off-roading, but they would attend if notified of specific activity. The Clerk had circulated to the Group examples of icon-based rights-of-way signs provided through the Trail Riders' Fellowship (TRF) in partnership with Hampshire County Council. These had proved successful in that area, clarifying legal routes. These would complement the new icon-based signs being produced by the National Park. Sara Spicer (LDNPA Ranger) would discuss the use of the example signs with the Countryside Access Officer.

Cllr Barr had been alerted to a consultation by the Green Lanes Environmental Action Movement (GLEAM); he would investigate.

ii) High Furness Local Area Partnership (3<sup>rd</sup> Feb): Cllr Dean and the Clerk had attended. Representatives of funding organisations (LDNPA, SLDC, CVS) summarised grant opportunities, eligibility and how to apply. The LDNPA explained the recent organisational changes to 'Distinctive Areas' and Park Ranger responsibilities. Views on interaction with County Highways were invited: some parishes had been in contact with their Area Ranger, as County promised, but some had not been contacted at all. Overall there was general dissatisfaction about the lack of communication and the lack of feedback. Lowick Parish Councillors gave an overview of the application for replacing the wind-turbines on Kirkby Moor with fewer, but much larger, turbines.

iii) Go-Lakes Hawkshead Visitor Travel Plan meeting, 27<sup>th</sup> Jan: Cllr Barr had attended. The purpose was to consult local people about sustainable transport options. The timing of the meeting at 1pm on a Wednesday was unfortunate, as many local people were at work; consequently only 3 local people were present.

Cllr Barr

### 039/15 Correspondence

Receipt of the following correspondence was noted:

#### CALC/NALC

- Cumbria Action for Sustainability conference, Jan 31<sup>st</sup>, Penrith.
- E-Petition to continue funding for rural community support organisations (e.g. ACT)
- NALC newsletters
- Statutory change to the law to allow circulation of meeting papers to Councillors electronically, with their consent. From 31<sup>st</sup> January.
- Agenda for branch meeting of Society of Local Council Clerks, Penrith, 27<sup>th</sup> Jan
- Information on communications strategies from Upper Kent LAP meeting
- South Lakeland District Association – Agenda for 5<sup>th</sup> March, Gilpin Bridge
- 2015 Audit process. CALC believes that the usual procedures will apply this year.
- CALC Circular February 2015
- Local Council Precepts – information on Local Council finance settlement. Also no plans to cap parish council precepts.
- Affordable Rural Housing guide. Downloadable from CALC website

#### CCC

- Various interactions concerning road closures and highways works

#### SLDC

- Annual Review of South Lakeland District Council's constitution. 'Have Your Say'
- Street Cleaning Survey. Clerk responded
- Waterhead (Ambleside) Improvement Plan consultation
- Community e-news for January
- Request for suggestions for potential SLDC Overview and Scrutiny work 2015-16. Deadline for responses: 13<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Indoor Sports facilities survey.
- Mini-cavass to improve electoral registration
- Private water supplies – 5 year risk assessments. Notice to householders

#### High Furness LAP

- LAP Meeting minutes for 23<sup>rd</sup> October, date of next meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb, Hawkshead and topics for Agenda: Highways, Healthcare and Funding.
- Broadband – Response to phase 2 consultation (by Mike Postle, B'nd Champion)
- Agenda for LAP meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> February
- Information on SLDC grant funding available

#### LDNPA

- Correspondence re lack of information on local events since June 2014
- Park management changes presentation (via Cllr Barr as member)
- Go-Lakes – Hawkshead Visitor Travel Plan meeting 27<sup>th</sup> Jan
- Correspondence about condition of Rusland Moss footpaths with Sara Spicer (Clerk walked and sent photos). Will hopefully be put on work programme for coming year.
- Order made for Footpath 511089 High Dam to Bell Intake via Height Lane, Colton Parish. In force on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. Objections may be made to High Court 6 weeks following.
- Via CALC – Fix the Fells programme of work for 2015
- Letter responding to PC's concerns about sale of Waterside Knott.
- Consultation on potential creation of footpaths in Waterside Knott.

**Government Depts and Agencies**

- Dept of Communities and Local Government: Plain English Guide to Planning
- National Grid NW Coast Connections – survey about communications

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

- Newsletters and training.
- Alert about claiming remaining Community Plan grant by end March

**Other Correspondence**

- Healthwatch Cumbria - survey
- United Utilities – Final plan for supply of water to West Cumbria - from Thirlmere
- Coniston and Torver Community Land Trust – 4<sup>th</sup> report on loss of village homes.
- Blawith PC – Agendas for 19<sup>th</sup> Jan and 9<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Malcolm Wilson Rally – letter from organisers. 7<sup>th</sup> March, Grizedale.
- Nurture Lakeland – small grant applications deadline 9<sup>th</sup> Feb

**040/15 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting was confirmed as a Parish Council meeting on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March in Rusland Reading Rooms, 7.30 p.m.