



Colton Parish Council

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Clerk: Ms Mandy Lane
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The following are the minutes of the Colton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 23rd March 2015 in Rusland Reading Rooms 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: PCSOs Diana Wilcock and Paul Harris

041/15 Apologies	ACTION
None	
042/15 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 16th February 2015</u> as a true record.	
043/15 Declarations of Interest None	
044/15 Requests for Dispensations None	
045/15 Public Participation <u>PCSO Diana Wilcock</u> : there were no reported incidents in our area in the last month. She explained that this was her last day as a PCSO. The Chairman thanked her for her attendance at Council meetings and her support for the local community. PCSO Paul Harris would take over as our nominated officer. Referring to the Council's request to monitor traffic speed at Spark Bridge, he was liaising with the Clerk and his colleagues about an appropriate location for this activity. <u>Illegal off-roading</u> : Illegal activity was reported at: a) The Strands, Rusland: bikes by-passing the TRO barriers and going through the river - the National Park and the Environment Agency had been alerted, b) trail bikers on Stock Farm fields at Nibthwaite, c) on the Thwaite Moss to Force Mills green road, currently closed due to fallen trees and wall repairs. Also a van was seen parked at Longmire which had previously been seen at the White Hart, Bouth, thought to have been used by trail bikers engaged in illegal activity.	
046/15 Update on Issues and Actions from Last Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Notice-boards</u>: i) Bouth: the notice-board had been ordered and was expected to arrive in early April, ii) Oxen Park: Cllr Barr had circulated a note to residents asking for ideas about a new location, iii) Colton: the door had blown off again; the Clerk and Mrs King had screwed it back on, but the notice-board was in a poor state of repair; it was next on the list for replacement. • <u>Community Plan</u>: The Clerk and Cllr Barr had sent pictures to Ms Baxter who was working on the Plan lay-out and publication. The Working Group was part way through drawing up the Action Plan. The Clerk would send a draft of both with the relevant forms to ACT in order to claim the remainder of the grant. • <u>Vacancy in Central Ward</u>: There had been no further expressions of interest. Councillors were asked to speak to local residents to encourage applications. • <u>Green Roads</u>: Cllr Barr had looked at the Green Lanes Environmental Action Movement (GLEAM) organisation following information from a resident. The organisation's aims included wishing to stop motorised traffic using unsurfaced roads. This was not felt to be in line with the Council and the Park's philosophy to focus on illegal activity. 	All Cllrs
047/15 Comments from District and County Councillors None was present.	
048/15 Planning There were no planning applications to discuss. <u>The following response to a planning application was noted:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7/2015/5071: Swan Hotel, Newby Bridge: Variation of conditions 2 (changes to approved plans) and 12 (materials for windows) on application 7/2014/5449. <i>No objection.</i> <u>The following planning applications granted were noted:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7/2014/5835: YMCA, Lakeside: New permissive cycle path. - 7/2014/5844: YMCA, Lakeside: Fascia sign at jetty 	

<p>049/15 Lake District National Park Authority: Property Sales and Acquisitions</p> <p><u>Sales:</u> i) <u>Waterside Knott, Newby Bridge:</u> No interest had been expressed in the sale of this woodland. The LDNPA would continue to look for an appropriate buyer. Permissive paths had been upgraded to formal footpaths. ii) <u>Blea Brows, Coniston:</u> Blawith Parish Council and the Coniston and Crake Catchment Partnership had expressed concern about this sale which included a sensitive area of reed-bed on the shore of Coniston Water. However, it was reportedly being bought by the Rawdon-Smith Trust who would be an appropriate owner.</p> <p><u>Acquisitions:</u> <u>Land at Newby Bridge:</u> Land between the road and the railway from the bridge to Lakeside has been bought by a consortium that included the National Park. The aim was to establish more public access.</p>	
<p>050/15 Highways and Lengthsman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Highways issues:</u> The Clerk gave an update as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) <u>Grizedale signs for Rusland:</u> The Clerk had put the Forestry Commission in touch with the County Traffic Management Officer, as it seemed each was waiting for a response from the other. County were not willing to fund tourist brown signs. ii) <u>Thwaite Moss signpost:</u> County had just said that funding for this would need to be set against other priorities. It was noted that another 'finger' had dropped off the post and the post itself was rotten. The Clerk would press again for its replacement. iii) <u>Rusland Beeches road at Ealingharth - encroaching trees:</u> Cllr Hoyle reported that these had now been cut back. iv) <u>Sheepwash, near Hullater:</u> Highways had renewed the headwalls on the two drains at this bad flooding spot, and cleared the gully exit into the beck. Recent rains had shown the situation to be much improved. • <u>Grit bins:</u> Many had been filled this winter, although some rather late. Heaps had not been renewed, except where specifically requested. The Clerk was still to check that County would fill bins bought by the Parish Council. • <u>Lengthsman:</u> Archie Workman was continuing to work hard on the drains in the Parish, clearing some that had not been running for many years. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>051/15 Bouth Village Green (BVG) and Playground</p> <p>The delayed playground inspection had been completed and a report received. The only 'Medium' risk was loose stones in the kick-wall. The Clerk had referred the report to the BVG Committee Chair and had been assured that repairs were in hand, as well as other low risk issues raised.</p> <p>It had been confirmed that the Green would be used for a private function (wedding) on 29th May. This had been approved by SLDC and the Parish Council, provided that certain conditions related to use and insurance were met. The BVG Voluntary Committee had confirmed that these would be addressed and discussed at its April AGM; Cllr Dean would report back to the Council. Cllr Barr suggested that a risk assessment be made; the Clerk would follow this up.</p>	<p>Cllr Dean/ Clerk</p>
<p>052/15 Low Nibthwaite Post Box</p> <p>The original post box at Low Nibthwaite had been returned by Royal Mail for re-setting in the wall. Royal Mail were not prepared to pay for this, as their policy was to replace these boxes with new ones on posts. Cllr Milburn had offered to replace it and re-build the wall at a cost of up to £50. It was resolved that the Council would cover this cost.</p>	
<p>053/15 NALC Local Council Award Scheme</p> <p>Colton Parish Council had been awarded 'Foundation Status' in the new NALC Local Council Award Scheme, based on its previous status as a Quality Council. The Clerk would check compliance requirements before the May Annual Meeting. It was resolved to assess the advantages of progression to higher award status next year.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>054/15 Old Hall Wood – Community Woodland</p> <p>The Rusland Horizons programme had asked to use Old Hall Wood Community Woodland as a location for running apprenticeship schemes and heritage skills training. The Forestry Commission as owners had confirmed their approval in principle. The RH programme would work within the existing management plan for the wood. It was resolved to support this in principle, subject to agreement from the Old Hall Wood Liaison Group; Cllr Dean would arrange to meet with fellow members of the Group.</p>	<p>Cllr Dean</p>
<p>055/15 Footpaths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>'Parish Pathwatch':</u> Cllr Barr outlined a proposal emerging from the Community Plan to encourage residents to 'look after' local footpaths by reporting issues such as overgrowth or blockages to the National Park, and possibly cutting back vegetation if able. This was 	

<p>approved in principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Rusland and Hullater Moss footpaths</u>: The Clerk had met with the LDNPA Ranger, Andrew Wilkinson, to assess the condition of the Rusland and Hullater Moss footpaths: some were almost impassable and needed board-walking. Some of the existing board-walk had disappeared, the stiles and gates had deteriorated, and signs were missing. The Park were keen to do improve the paths, but funding was short: they would assess the cost of renewal in relation to the LDNPA budget and suggest possible funding sources for the remaining costs. 	
<p>056/15 Finance and Accounts</p> <p><u>The Audit timetable for the coming financial year was noted: Audit date: 29th June</u></p> <p><u>The following receipt was noted:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – LDNPA Grant for Rusland Horizons film: £2000.00 <p><u>The following payments were noted:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cheque no. 000725: A.Workman, Lengthsman, February working: £221.00 – Cheque no. 000726: Signscape Ltd., Notice-board for Bouth: £770.28 <p><u>It was resolved that the following payments be made:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cheque no. 000727: A. Lane, Clerk. Refreshments for Lengthsman and volunteers at Council event 10th Feb, and defibrillation training courses : £22.27 – Cheque no. 000728: A.Lane, Clerk. Home office annual allowance: £150.00 – Cheque no. 000729: RoSPA Playsafety: Playground inspection, February 2015: £209.28 – Cheque no. 000730: Whitewood and Fleming, Rusland Horizons film (LDNPA grant): £2000.00 – Cheque no. 000731: Cllr Champion, travel expenses 14/15: £41.40 – Cheque no. 000732: Cllr Dean, travel expenses 14/15: £102.96 – Cheque no. 000733: Cllr Barr, travel expenses 14/15: £13.05 – Cheque no. 000734: Cllr Milburn, travel expenses 14/15: £9.00 – Cheque no. 000735: Cllr Hoyle, travel expenses 14/15: £3.60 – Cheque no. 000736: A.Lane, Clerk, travel expenses 14/15: £140.63 	
<p>057/15 Meetings</p> <p><u>The following meeting reports were received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>CALC South Lakeland District Association, 54th March</u> (Cllr Dean had attended): The South Lakeland Credit Union had put the necessary financial arrangements in place and were awaiting formal approval. Other issues discussed included Highways, National Park land sales and Broadband; there was no new information to report. • <u>Environment Agency Walk along Ashes Beck, Rusland, 10th March: (Cllr Hoyle had attended):</u> Budget cuts meant that EA activities had to focus on flood risk to houses, particularly in larger settlements. Householders in sparse rural areas like Rusland were unlikely to receive much attention, so the EA were encouraging self-help as much as possible. Landowners could do channel maintenance work to keep channels free of obstructions, but some of this work, particularly if any heavy machinery was proposed, would need EA consent. Consultation with Natural England would also be needed regarding wildlife aspects of maintenance work. The in-river working window was between May – September, and nesting season of birds also needed to be taken into account when working on river banks. 	
<p>058/15 Consultations</p> <p><u>The following consultation responses were noted:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>SLDC Draft Parish Charter</u>: The Clerk reminded Councillors to read and respond to her before the deadline of 13th April. • <u>Windermere Boat-Racing Club, exemption request</u>: Cllr Champion and the Clerk had responded with a 'no objection' to the exemption to speed-limit request for four events over two years. The Club had addressed issues to do with noise and health-and-safety. 	All Cllrs
<p>059/15 Correspondence</p> <p><u>It was noted in particular</u> that the NW Ambulance Service had offered to speak to Parishes. The Clerk would suggest a joint event to the LAP Coordinator.</p> <p><u>Receipt of the following correspondence was noted:</u></p> <p>CALC/NALC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NALC response to consultation on local government's finance settlement • NALC weekly newsletters • Audit, Date Transparency and Website – forthcoming government regulations • Radioactive Waste Management: report from meeting concerning a National Geological Screening exercise. • Parish Council Meetings – Legal Topic Note amendment on circulation of agendas by email and requirement to publicise agenda and draft minutes on a website. • Correspondence concerning Quality Status and new Local Councils Award scheme. 	Clerk

- Invitation from NALC to nominate your Council for 'Council of the Week'
- South Lakeland District Association reports for meeting 5th March
- CALC Circular march 2015
- NALC Star Council awards 2015 – invitation to nominate
- Affordable Housing report to House of Lords. www.calc.org.uk/news/news1.asp
- Advance notice of election of parish members in East, North and West distinctive areas of the LDNP
- Included in 'CALC's 'Friday round-up': Policy for use of Speed Indicator Devices in Cumbria – request for Parish Council to donate their SIDs to their local Neighbourhood Policing Teams
- Pre-election guidance for town and parish councils. Mainly to be extra careful over balance in any communications or publicity during 'purdah' period for councillors.
- Notification of Foundation Status (Local Council Award Scheme) for Colton PC.
- Circulation of letter of appeal for support against wind turbine saturation, from Lowick and Blawith PC

CCC

- Confirmation of intention to replace the village sign for Oxen Park
- Stuart Braithwaite, Traffic Officer – response to traffic-related highways issues
- Consultation about the draft Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan (assuming outside National Park)

SLDC

- Council meeting Agenda 24th Feb
- Invitation to suggest topics for SLDC Overview and Scrutiny Committee, by 13th Feb
- South Lakes Community News E-newsletter. (Clerk had asked if link to website could be sent instead of email).
- Consultation on draft Parish Charter 2015/16. Deadline 13th April
- Adoption of Scroggs Wood, Kendal. Development SPD

High Furness LAP

- Minutes of meeting 3rd February.

LDNPA

- Dedication of footpaths within Waterside Knott – formal notice
- Coniston Water Association meeting – agenda items request
- Notification of Waterside Knott dedicated footpaths
- LDNP Partnership Plan – update for parishes
- LDNPA Property Sales update, including information that no tenders were received for Waterside Knott.

Cumbria CVS and Action for Communities in Cumbria (ACT)

- Newsletters and training.

Other Correspondence

- Invitation to 'Licensing Service' for new priest at Egton
- Sportive Lakes – notification of cycling event 24th May
- Friends of the Lake District - new grant scheme.
- Cumbria Healthwatch community engagement events
- Satterthwaite PC – Agenda for 24th Feb
- 'Bettercare Together' strategy and work programme
- Orienteering event, 6th April, Graythwaite Estate, Low Cunsey Farm.
- Hawkshead link news, via Cllr Patterson. Includes Rusland Ramble, 18th March
- Playsafety Ltd. Play Area Inspection report
- Blawith PC – Agenda for 9th Feb and draft minutes of last meeting
- Coniston and Crake Catchment Partnership: letter to the LDNPA about proposed sale of Blea Brows, Coniston Water and request to check if the LDNPA had consulted. Clerk replied (as others did) with no record of consultation
- Rusland Horizons: request to use Old Hall Wood community woodland for heritage skills and apprenticeships
- Email from local resident pointing out error in SLDC's press release on private water supply monitoring. Clerk investigated and correction placed in newsletters
- Crake Valley website: request to include campaign opposing the Kirkby Moor Wind Turbine application. Agreed as long as clear not representing the Parish Councils' views and other views could be expressed.
- Blawith PC – Letter of concern to Richard Leafe (LDNPA) on sale of Blea Brows and notification of intention to register it as a Community Asset.
- NW Ambulance Service – invitation to visit parish councils to explain how the service works
- Notification of Public meeting to discuss Kirkby Moor Wind Farm proposals, 16th March, Water Yeat, 7.30pm. and 17th March, Lowick Community Hall
- 'Streetlife' local social network in Kendal – promoting communication and information for local people. Invitation to set/up join to other communities in South Lakeland

060/15 Date of Next Meeting

The next meetings were confirmed as the Annual Parish Open meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 5th May in Bouth Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.

The dates and venues of Parish Council meetings for the coming financial year were noted (attached to these minutes).