



## Colton Parish Council

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Clerk: Ms Mandy Lane  
 Lilac Cottage  
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The following are the minutes of the Colton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016 in Finsthwaite Village Hall at 7pm

**Members Present:** Cllr Barr (Chair) Cllr Dean Cllr Hoyle Cllr Lodge-Brown Cllr Milburn Cllr Watson  
 Ms M Lane (Clerk)

**Also present:** Ms Mairi Lock (LDNPA Planning Officer) PCSO Paul Harris

<b>018/16 Apologies</b> Cllr Patterson (working) Cllr Potts (holiday) Cllr Champion (ill health)	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>019/16 Minutes of Last Meeting</b> It was resolved that the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on <u>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016</u> as a true record.	
<b>020/16 Declarations of Interest</b> None	
<b>021/16 Requests for Dispensations</b> None	
<b>022/16 Public Participation</b> <p><u>PCSO Paul Harris</u> reported: i) an attempted theft of a LandRover from Rusland, and ii) that two 'illegal off-roading' enforcement days had been held and warning letters sent out to the owners of trail bikes and vehicles carrying them.</p> <p><u>Mairi Lock, LDNPA Planning Officer</u>, presented answers to the Council's prior questions about housing policy and storage buildings in open countryside. The Clerk would provide a separate report, but key points were noted as follows:</p> <p>1. <u>Housing:</u> i) <u>New housing developments:</u> As well as a Parish's Housing Needs Survey, other evidence of need, such as the SLDC Strategic Market Housing Assessment (SMHA), was also taken into account. Applications for larger 3-bedroom houses were granted on this basis. ii) <u>Local Occupancy:</u> When applying local needs restrictions to new development, the Locality system was now applied (in Colton's case, the South Distinctive Area); any relaxing of this restriction would be a 'departure from policy' and would need strong evidence in support.</p> <p>2. <u>Developments in isolated fields (sheds, shelters, stores, containers, etc.):</u> The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015, schedule 2, part 6 provided guidance on permitted development in relation to agriculture. Greater restrictions applied to holdings of &lt;5ha. Whether the development was associated with an established farmstead was also relevant, as was location and landscape impact. Horses and associated buildings kept for leisure purposes (as most were) did not comply with 'agricultural use'. Temporary structures could fall under 'permitted development', but by definition were temporary, moveable structures without fixings to the ground, or any engineering preparation of the ground on which they stood.</p>	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>023/16 Update on Issues and Actions from Last Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Notice-boards:</u> The Oxen Park notice-board was now in place and in use. Residents of Colton hamlet had been asked about their preferred location for a replacement notice-board.</li> <li>• <u>Assets of Community Value:</u> The next application would be made when time allowed.</li> <li>• <u>Bouth Playground Repairs:</u> Playdale had provided a reasonable quote (£236.82 plus VAT) for repairs to the chain links of the swings. The Clerk could proceed with this within the terms of the Council's Financial Regulations. Cllr Dean would arrange for repairs to go ahead.</li> <li>• <u>Community Minibus Service:</u> Cllr Barr was awaiting a response from the County Council.</li> </ul>	<b>Clerk</b>  <b>Clerk</b> <b>Cllr</b> <b>Dean</b> <b>Cllr Barr</b>
<b>024/16 Comments from District and County Councillors</b> <u>None present</u>	
<b>025/16 Planning</b> <u>The following Notice of Intention was noted:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 7/2016/5051: Abbot Park Farm, Bandrake Head: General-purpose storage building.</li> </ul>	

<p><u>The following planning permission granted was noted:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 7/2015/5664: Mill Gate, Greenodd: Variation of conditions on 7/2011/5140, detached garage and home office.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>026/16 Highways and Lengthsman</b></p> <p>i) <u>Road Surface and Drainage:</u> The Clerk had reported the poor condition of the road between Finsthwaite Vicarage and Stott Park. Highways had surveyed it for resurfacing, but it was unclear when this would be carried out.</p> <p>ii) <u>Traffic Management and Road Safety:</u> The requested road markings had still not been carried out (Bouth, Oxen Park, Rusland Cross). The Clerk would enquire.</p> <p>iii) <u>Green Roads:</u> Cllr Barr was still waiting for the promised meeting with Highways. The Clerk had taken photographs and measurements of the appalling condition of Pegg Lane, Oxen Park - the lane that had been due to be repaired but from which funds had been withdrawn.</p> <p>iv) <u>Lengthsman:</u> Among other works around the Parish, Mr Workman had been clearing drains in Finsthwaite, following a walk around the area with Cllr Champion.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Barr</p>
<p><b>027/16 Community Plan Action Plan</b></p> <p>Progress with the Action Plan was reported by portfolio-holders as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>The Local Economy (Cllr Potts):</u> This item was deferred as Cllr Potts was not present.</li> <li>2. <u>Landscape and Environment (Cllrs Champion, Milburn and Watson):</u> Cllr Milburn reported that he had met with Cllr Champion to discuss priorities. Representatives for reporting on: a) Rusland Horizons would be Cllr Barr, b) Illegal Off-Roading would be the Clerk, c) Poaching: Cllr Milburn, who had attended a Deer Initiative and NFU meeting. He reported that Salford University were to undertake a research study on Bethacar Moor concerning ticks and Lyme disease.</li> <li>3. <u>Communities and Well-Being (Cllr Hoyle):</u> Progress was being made on specific actions as follows: i) Action AC2 - supporting Village Hall Committees – Council representatives had been appointed and a small grant fund had been set up in this year's budget. ii) Action AC3: Assets of Community Value – the Rusland Reading Rooms had been listed and further assets would be submitted shortly. iii) Action AC6: Information and Communications Strategy: Cllr Hoyle was drawing up a draft proposal.</li> <li>4. <u>Housing and Other Development (Cllr Dean):</u> Cllr Dean tabled a proposal on Action AH2: Register of Housing Stock. The existing SLDC housing spreadsheet as further developed and categorised by the Clerk would form the basis of the register. The Parish would be split into 6 'localities', allocated to specific Councillors to keep the register up-to-date. The key purpose of the register was to provide summary statistics on main residences vs. second homes and holiday lets. No named individuals would be included in the register, only property names, thus conforming with the requirements of the Data Protection Act. Cllr Dean and the Clerk would meet shortly.</li> <li>5. <u>Roads, Traffic and Transport (Cllr Barr):</u> Actions AR1 and AR2 were ongoing, with the Clerk now taking part in a working group attempting to improve communications with County Highways. The Lengthsman scheme was operating well with many messages of appreciation from residents. Action AR3 (community self-help) had been encouraged through newsletter articles. Action AR4 (winter maintenance) had not been a pressing concern so far this mild winter; County Highways had been more efficient this winter in filling bins and provided grit heaps. Action AR5 (traffic speed): despite various attempts to lobby the authorities about traffic speed, no effective solutions had been found. Action AR6 (community transport schemes): Cllr Barr was awaiting a response from County.</li> <li>6. <u>Energy and Sustainability (Cllr Patterson)</u> Cllr Patterson was not present. It was agreed that Cllr Lodge-Brown would take over this portfolio.</li> </ol>	<p>Clerk/ Cllr Dean</p>
<p><b>028/16 Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS)</b></p> <p>The Clerk had made the required submission for Foundation Status under this new scheme, which was a replacement for the former 'Quality Parish' award. However, the response had been received that one or two criteria had not been fulfilled. The Clerk would put the required procedures in place and re-submit.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p><b>029/16 Walney Extension Wind Farm – Community Benefits</b></p> <p>Cllr Dean had attended a meeting about the Walney wind-farm benefit fund on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb, and tabled a summary report. There was to be a fund launch in April, with a closing date in July. At present, part of Colton, including Bouth and Spark Bridge, was within the boundary of the draft funding zone. Cllr Dean would keep the Council in touch with developments.</p>	<p>Cllr Dean</p>
<p><b>030/16 Finance and Accounts</b></p> <p><u>It was resolved</u> that the <b>bank reconciliation</b> to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016 be approved and signed.</p> <p><u>It was resolved</u> that the following payments be made:</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Cheque no. 000782: A.Workman, Lengthsman, January working: <b>£238.00</b></li> <li>– Cheque no. 000783: D. Oldham, travel expenses (60m @ 45p/m), notice-board procurement: <b>£27.00</b></li> </ul>	
<p><b>031/16 Meetings</b></p> <p>The following meeting reports were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>CALC South Lakeland District Association</u>, 4<sup>th</sup> Feb, Cllr Dean: A presentation was given by County on Public Health and Well-being. Progress was very much reliant on volunteering by local communities. There was no other item of particular interest for Colton.</li> <li>• <u>South Lakeland LAPs Highways Working Group</u>, 12<sup>th</sup> Feb, Clerk: This working group was set up following an unsatisfactory meeting between LAP representatives and County Highways officers where it was clear that communications with parishes had largely broken down. The Working Group had decided that attempts should be made to work with Highways to try to improve the HIMS system (Highways Hotline) for reporting problems and receiving feedback.</li> <li>• <u>Illegal Off-Road Working Group: police enforcement days</u>: The Clerk had taken part in two enforcement days where the police, the various agencies and the local community were out on the fells reporting on illegal activity. There had been some success in stopping motorbikes and issuing warning letters. A press release would be in the local papers shortly.</li> <li>• <u>YMCA, Lakeside, planning proposals update meeting</u>, 28<sup>th</sup> Jan, Cllrs Barr, Champion and Pottes: Little progress had been made, as raising sufficient funding was proving to be challenging.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>032/16 Correspondence</b></p> <p>A letter had been received from the Oxen Park Cinema Club asking whether the Council would write in support of lower film license costs for small community cinemas. <b>It was resolved</b> that the Clerk write in support.</p>	<b>Clerk</b>
<p><u>Receipt of the following correspondence was noted:</u></p> <p><b>CALC/NALC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invitation for nominees to attend Palace Garden Party 2016</li> <li>• Clerk's Forum – notes from last meeting and Agenda for Tues 9<sup>th</sup> Feb</li> <li>• Amanda McCleery – comments (positive!) on final version of the Community Plan.</li> <li>• Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations – letter about taking part in lighting of beacons</li> <li>• LGA Leadership programme for larger Town and Parish Councils</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Planning event, Alston, 11<sup>th</sup> Feb</li> <li>• South Lakeland District Association meeting, 4<sup>th</sup> Feb – reports from representatives</li> <li>• Local Government Award Scheme result – some criteria not met</li> <li>• Correspondence with Amanda McCleery about Colton's experience with devising new Standing Orders and Financial Regulations using the NALC models.</li> <li>• Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments – Second Communication</li> <li>• CALC February Circular</li> <li>• NALC Improvement Bulletin, Feb2016</li> <li>• CALC Survey on better statistics for English civil parishes</li> </ul> <p><b>ACT/Cumbria CVS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newsletters and training courses</li> <li>• Community Buildings event 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb, Grizebeck</li> </ul> <p><b>CCC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connecting Cumbria newsletter</li> </ul> <p><b>SLDC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invitation to make suggestions for areas of SLDC work for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee</li> <li>• Copy of presentations given at the SLDC Social media workshop, 3<sup>rd</sup> December</li> </ul> <p><b>High Furness LAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda for High Furness LAP meeting, 24<sup>th</sup> Feb, Hawkshead</li> <li>• Arrangements for sub-group meeting to discuss outcome of meeting with Highways in November and to try to make progress.</li> </ul> <p><b>LDNPA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lakes Flying Company Waterbird Project – proposed re-scheduling of Windermere landings to May 2016. Responded with no objections.</li> <li>• Correspondence with Nick Thorne concerning possible access provisions in Stony Hazel Woods, Rusland</li> <li>• Oxenholme to Grasmere Transport Corridor meeting date 28<sup>th</sup> Jan, Windermere</li> <li>• Signage to deter illegal off-roading – discussions with LDNPA and police.</li> <li>• Letter concerning Waterside Knott and decision to take it off the market</li> <li>• Note of meeting: Oxenholme to Grasmere Transport Corridor</li> </ul> <p><b>Government Departments and Agencies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural England: Consultation regarding proposed Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary Special Protection Area</li> </ul>	

**Other Correspondence**

- Mrs Millership, Stott Park: asking about Parish Council newsletter deliveries
- Walney extension wind-farm – community events. Cllr Hoyle's suggestion that Bouth may benefit from the community fund, as within the catchment area
- National Trust – Fell Foot News and drop-in session invitation (3<sup>rd</sup> Feb)
- United Utilities – winter-wise information and posters
- Mrs Millership – letter asking why no newsletters were delivered to her house. Clerk replied with current newsletter. To be discussed.
- Heritage Lottery Fund event – Barrow-in-Furness, 4<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Letter from Carol McNeill asking for support in campaigning for reduced film license fees for community cinemas
- Malcom Wilson Rally organisers – notification of MW Rally 12<sup>th</sup> March.
- Blawith Parish Council – Agenda for 8<sup>th</sup> Feb and minutes of last meeting
- Query about additional poles being erected in Spark Bridge for phone lines, alongside existing electricity poles.

**033/16 Date of Next Meetings**

It was resolved to approve dates for meetings in 2016/17 as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Venue</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> May 16 (Tues)	<b>Parish Open Meeting &amp; Annual Parish Council 2016</b>	Bouth Village Hall
6 <sup>th</sup> June 16	Parish Council	Colton Church Hall
18 <sup>th</sup> July 16	Parish Council	Rusland Reading Room
5 <sup>th</sup> Sept 16	Parish Council	Finsthwaite Village Hall
24 <sup>th</sup> Oct 16	Parish Council	Bouth Village Hall
5 <sup>th</sup> Dec 16	Parish Council	Rusland Reading Room
16 <sup>th</sup> Jan 17	Parish Council	Bouth Village Hall
20 <sup>th</sup> Feb 17	Parish Council	Finsthwaite Village Hall
27 <sup>th</sup> Mar 17	Parish Council	Rusland Reading Room

The next meeting was confirmed as a Parish Council meeting on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016 in Rusland Reading Rooms, 7pm