



Colton Parish Council

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The following are the minutes of the Annual Parish Open Meeting held on 30th March 2009 at Finsthwaite Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Members Present

Cllr C Barr (Chair) Cllr I Cunliffe Cllr J Watson Cllr Dean Cllr Fishwick
Ms M Lane (Clerk)

Also present: Cllr T Walsh (CCC) Cllr C Davies (SLDC) and 2 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr P Harrington (ill health) Cllr P Lovegrove (ill health) Cllr Robinson (ill health) Cllr Potts(holiday)

2. Minutes of 2008 Open Meeting

The minutes of the 2008 Annual Parish Open Meeting were signed by the chairman as a true record.

3. Chairman's Report for 2008 – 2009

The chairman read the Annual Report (a copy attached to the minutes). The financial summary was correct up to this date; a full statement of accounts would be printed in the Report to be published after the audit, as well as being included in the newsletter and on the website.

4. Open Forum

- Mr Ian Armour introduced himself and explained that he had come to represent his interests as applicant for planning permission at Buck Yeats Coach House, Lakeside. Cllr Barr confirmed that this was on the Agenda of the Parish Council meeting to follow the Open Parish Meeting and that Mr Armour could make a statement during the Public Participation Session and may be invited to speak during the Agenda item.
- Mr Roderick Smith thanked the Clerk and Council for their work during the year. He raised two issues:
 - i) Parish Council work-load, funding and precept: That the increasing work-load placed on parish councils should be resourced from higher tiers of government, not from the local parish precept, and that the lack of government capping on the parish precept could be a way of increasing local council taxes by the 'back door'. He had raised these issues last year and asked Cllr Walsh whether he had taken this up at County level. Cllr Walsh had done so, but it had not been followed up because of the difficulties of demonstrating how this arrangement would meet County targets and how to determine which specific activities should be paid for. Cllr Walsh appreciated how Quality Parish status increased the work-load and explained that County does provide some support through less formal channels, for example grants for the Lengthsman. Cllr Davies said that SLDC were starting to focus closely on their statutory duties in order to make economies. Cllr Barr appreciated that the precept had increased significantly this year, but there were important reasons for this explained in the Annual Report; he hoped that there would be no increase next year. He shared Mr Smith's concerns that government could be effectively forcing these precept increases through increasing the duties of parish councils.
 - ii) Holiday/Second Homes: That second-home owners should pay double council-tax and that the money raised should go to the local community. Cllr Davies explained that he had put a proposal to Nick Clegg MP on exactly this issue and that Tim Farron MP would be following this up. Cllr Walsh felt that double council tax for second homes was very unlikely to happen.

5. Dates for Next Year's Meetings

The dates for the coming year were distributed (a copy attached to these minutes).

COLTON PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING DATES 2009-2010

Date	Meeting	Venue
Mon 11 th May 09	Annual Parish Council 2009	Bouth Village Hall
Mon 22 nd June 09	Parish Council	Colton Church Hall
Mon 3 rd August 09	Parish Council	Rusland Reading Room
Mon 14 th Sept 09	Parish Council	Finsthwaite Village Hall
Mon 26 th Oct 09	Parish Council	Bouth Village Hall
Mon 7 th Dec 09	Parish Council	Rusland Reading Room
Mon 11 th Jan 10	Parish Council	Water Yeat Village Hall
Mon 22 nd Feb 10	Parish Council	Finsthwaite Village Hall
Mon 29 th March 10	Parish Open Meeting and Parish Council	Rusland Reading Room