

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council**

**Held on Tuesday 14th January 2014 at 7.00pm in Kirkbride School.**

Present:

Councillors: Day (Chair), Kirk, Little, Taylor, Tweddle, Willis.

County Councillor: Fairbairn

Borough Councillor: Cowell

Public attendance: Mrs D. Backman

Clerk: M Abbs

The Chairman opened the meeting and commented upon the recent death of former Cllr John Stamper. A minutes silence was observed.

Apologies for absence, declarations of interest and dispensation requests from Cllrs.

Cllrs Hedworth and Noblett had sent apologies in advance to the clerk.

Mr Dilley a member of the public had also sent apologies

REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

The clerk to report any requests received since the previous meeting for dispensations to speak and\or vote on any matter where a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.

An on-going dispensation is in force in respect of the Precept.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations by elected and co-opted members of interests in respect of items on this agenda.

Cllr Day had previously declared an interest in item 7.2.1

Cllr Hedworth had previously declared an interest to the clerk in respect of item 7.2.3.

Members are reminded that, in accordance with the revised Code of Conduct, they are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or other registrable interests which have not already been declared in the Council’s Register of Interests.  (It is a criminal offence not to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest either in the Register or at the meeting.)

Members may, however, also decide, in the interests of clarity and transparency, to declare at this point in the meeting, any such disclosable pecuniary interests which they have already declared in the Register, as well as any other registrable or other interests.

If a Member requires advice on any item involving a possible declaration of interest which could affect his/her ability to speak and/or vote, he/she is advised to contact the clerk at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

2 Minutes (previously circulated).

2.1 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th November 2013 – **approved and signed.**

Note 1: reminder that the order of business may be changed at the chairman’s discretion to avoid undue delay for visitors

3 Report on action taken

3.1. by councillors

3.1.1 Play area –

Relevant matters were discussed under item 5.3

3.1.2 Footpaths –

Nothing reported.

3.1.3 Highways steward –

Possible white lining in the middle of the road to Wigton.

The clerk advised that having spoken to County Cllr Fairbairn the road concerned was of too low priority and probably too narrow to qualify for consideration for white lining. – **noted.**

Inconsiderate/illegal parking

Following discussion it was **agreed** that this was a Police matter to whom problems should be reported.

Cllr Willis advised that the large pothole at Townhead Farm had been repaired.

3.1.4 Newsletter group -

Cllr Kirk confirmed that the newsletter had now been printed and was available for distribution. This includes a request for parishioners to keep hedges tidy at their property.

3.2- by the clerk -

3.2.1 Parish Land Use Questionnaire Completion.

In consultation with the Chairman and two other Cllrs the questionnaire had been completed and returned.

The clerk advised that relevant matters would be covered later in the agenda.

3.3 Public participation (at the Chairman’s discretion)

Mrs Backman spoke about the proposed reductions to local bus services. She believed them to be a vital resource for the community especially as the buses were used on a regular basis by a wide cross section of the Parish and expressed her view that she was opposed to any cuts.

3.3.1 Report from the Borough Councillor

Cllr Cowell explained that Allerdale BC would be holding its budget meeting soon where a possible rise in Council Tax would be discussed.

Cllr Day asked about the latest situation concerning the Nuclear Depository situation. Cllr Cowell confirmed that the Government response would be made known in due course.

3.3.2 Report from the County Councillor

This was given after item 5.9 following his arrival.

4 New business

4.1 Mc Donald memorial – update and discussion/approval of any required action.

Cllr Day provided an update based on information supplied by Cllr Noblett. She was in the process of applying for grant assistance for the project but no funds were likely to be forthcoming in this financial year. There was discussion as to whether fencing work could commence at this point but it was **agreed** that this aspect should be considered as an element of the overall scheme for the site. Cllrs also **agreed** that they needed to formulate and approve an overall scheme for the site as the likely cost would require tenders to be sought and approved by full council. Cllrs Tweddle and Taylor offered to assist in preparing any necessary tender documents as they possess considerable experience in this area.

4.2 Condition of benches and purchase of new and re-placement items.

Any decision on benches was deferred until further progress had been made on the McDonald memorial project.

4.3 MRWS Nuclear Waste correspondence and Issues, including CALC and MRWS reports and related meetings.

Discussion of current situation and decision on any required action.

The Chairman and the clerk advised Cllrs of the current situation. The Chairman commented on the comprehensive and robust submission made by CALC and considered that this had covered all the major issues.

4.4 Hedge Cutting in the village latest situation and any required decision.

The clerk confirmed that an invoice had now been received and was on the agenda under item 6.2.6 for approval.

Mrs Backman left the meeting at this point.

4.5 CALC - NALC revised standing orders.

The clerk advised that he had reviewed the existing standing orders in the light of the new National Guidelines and the new ‘Local Council Administration’ publication. He then outlined the changes he believed to be necessary in order comply with recent legislation. The Chairman thanked the clerk for his work on this and Cllrs agreed to adopt the revised standing orders.

4.6 Footway Lighting - Current situation.

The clerk informed the meeting that he was not aware of any significant developments though he was aware that discussions had taken place.

4.7 Purchase of rubbish collection materials for the village and use during ‘litter picks’.

Cllr Willis explained the background to and frequency of the litter picks.

Cllrs discussed purchasing materials that could be used during litter picks by members of the community during the organised events. Whilst the organisation and administration of the litter picks was not a parish Council initiative Cllrs welcomed this regular initiative within the community and were keen to support it through providing appropriate materials. The clerk was instructed to contact Allerdale BC to find out if they were able to sell materials to the Council. The type of materials required was discussed and spending of up to £200 was authorised.

4.8 Refuse collection difficulties.

There had been no developments to report and Cllrs **agreed** that this was hopefully no longer an issue requiring attention.

4.9 Consideration of the situation concerning local buses.

Cllrs were made aware by the clerk of the proposal to reduce/cut some bus services in the County. – **noted.**

5 Correspondence

To review correspondence received and take any appropriate action.

5.1 Allerdale BC/CALC – Discussion of letters/e-mails concerning Precept/Concurrent Grant and possible action.

The clerk provided copies of the recent letters from Allerdale BC and the precept submission form, along with the views of CALC. It was noted that the Concurrent Grant had been abolished as anticipated but additional support in the form of the ‘Council Tax Reduction Scheme’ was likely to be forthcoming. Cllrs carefully examined the documentation/information and discussed the implications. See also item 6.1.2.

5.2 Royal British Legion receipt and thanks for donation.

This was **noted.**

5.3 Allerdale BC – Playground Inspection Report. Discussion of contents and possible action.

Cllr Tweddle led the discussion of the Inspection report. The recommendations were examined carefully Cllrs **agreed** that appropriate action, where necessary, would be taken. In particular attention would be given to the goalposts and basketball equipment.

5.4 Consideration of playground painting quotation.

The clerk confirmed that following the November meeting he had written to a contractor for a quotation but that to date nothing had been received. A response was to be sought before the next meeting.

5.5 Kirkbride Primary School – letter of thanks for donation.

This was **noted.**

5.6 Cumbria CC Highways Dept. – Invitation to ‘Meet and Greet’.

The clerk advised that there had been no expressions of interest in the offer to visit the Workington facility.

5.7 Cumbria Playing Fields Association – Annual Report 2013.

The clerk notified Cllrs of its availability – **noted.**

5.8 Cumbria CC – Advance notification of Bridlebridge over the River Wampool.

The clerk advised that notification of a forthcoming planning application had been received. However, to date no consultation papers had been forthcoming. – **noted.**

5.9 CALC – Royal Garden Parties 2014 invitation for nominees.

Following discussion it was **agreed** to nominate Cllr Kirk for the Garden Party. The clerk was instructed to submit her name to CALC for the draw.

Cllr Fairbairn arrived and gave apologies for his late arrival caused by his attendance at an earlier meeting. The Chairman invited him to make his report.

He provided details of the financial position facing the County Council and the need for large savings to be made.

The impact of the recent flooding was highlighted and he reported that he was now working with County Cllr Markley to have flood warning signs installed on the approached to the ‘white bridge’.

Cllr Fairbairn commented on the difficulties facing Wigton swimming pool, which was currently closed. A consultant’s report outlining the cost of repair is due to be received and discussed shortly.

In response to a question from Cllr Day, Cllr Fairbairn outlined the County Council position with regard to the Nuclear Depository consultation and possible future role.

6 Finance

6.1 Information

6.1.1 To approve accounts to 30th November 2013 and 31st December 2013 – available at the meeting. – **approved.**

6.1.2 Budget for 2014/15: see prepared sheet

& therefore precept request to Allerdale BC for 2014/15.

The clerk reminded Cllrs of the correspondence and additional information discussed under item 5.1.

Together with the anticipated expenditure for 2014/15 and some allowance for possible contingency, the budget was approved, it was **agreed** unanimously that the precept request for 2014/15 should be £9700, the figure agreed at the November meeting. It was noted that the council may receive further additional Local Support for the Council Tax (Council Tax Reduction Scheme) from Allerdale Borough Council. The Clerk was authorised to send the precept to Allerdale District Council.

6.2 Payments to approve.

6.2.1 Clerk’s salary: £421.14 – **approved.**

6.2.2 Expenses: postage + stationery £9.05; broadband £10.66 + phone £4.00, SLCC contribution £38.66, travel 8m @ 36p

= £2.88, total £65.25 – **approved.**

6.2.3 Allerdale BC fee for playground inspection £56.00 + VAT (when received). – **approved.**

6.2.4 - CGM Grass cutting (£56.79 + £11.36 VAT) £68.15 – **approved.**

6.2.5 – Bowness on Solway PC share of book purchase from SLCC £21.00 – **approved.**

6.2.6 – Messrs. John Graham invoice for hedge cutting (£150 + £30 VAT) £180.00 – **approved.**

7 Planning

7.1 Applications outstanding with Allerdale Borough Council and Cumbria CC.

7.1.1 – 2/2013/0579 Wind turbine, Studholme Farm, Kirkbride.

7.1.2 – 2/2013/0519 Erection of eight wind turbines, High Pow, Bolton New Houses.

7.1.3 – 2.2013/0583 Erection of biomass boiler, Land at West Lane, Kirkbride.

7.1.4 – 2/2013/0729 Application from Mr T Gordon to Allerdale BC to extend an existing Planning permission 2/2008/0937 at Ivydene, B5307, Kirkbride.

The above were **noted.**

7.2 Applications dealt with under standing order.

7.2.1 – 2/2013/0774 Ground floor extension and roof alterations, Birch Hill House, Birch Hill Lane, Kirkbride - Mr B. Day

The clerk advised that Cllr Day had declared an interest in this application which had been considered by the other Cllrs and there were **no objections.**

7.2.2 – 2/2013/0840 Listed building consent to replace floor, Midtown Cottages, Kirkbride. – Mrs D Bullock.

Allerdale BC had been informed that there were **no objections.**

7.2.3 – HRN/2013/0010, 0011, 0012 Hedgerow Removal Notices Townhead Farm, Kirkbride – Mr Alan Hedworth A & C Hedworth.

The clerk advised that Cllr Hedworth had declared an interest in this application which had been considered by the other Cllrs and there were **no objections.** This was an instance in which comments were invited if the Council wished to make them, so it had not been necessary to send a response to Allerdale BC.

7.3 Applications decided by Allerdale BC / Cumbria CC

7.3.1 – 2/2013/0726 Roof over and extend feed area at Park Field 7800, Kirkbride, Wigton. – permission granted.

7.3.2 – 2/2013/0747 Erection of biomass / boiler house, Land at West Lane Close, Kirkbride, Wigton. (Tweddle Developments Ltd). – permission granted.

The above were **noted.**

7.4 Applications for consideration by this Parish Council meeting.

7.4.1 See item 5.8 Bridlebridge over the River Wampool (if papers arrive in time).

See item 5.8 Bridlebridge over the River Wampool (if papers arrive in time).

To date no papers had arrived.

8.1 Documents received for comment

8.1.1 Cumbria County Council consultation Draft Budget Proposals 2014/15.

– **noted with no action.**

8.2 Documents received for information (available on request to the clerk)

8.2.1 CALC Circular for December.

8.2.2 Jennings River Ride details on 15th February 2014.

8.2.3 Prism IT Solutions offer of services.

8.2.4 Produlac product information.

8.2.5 SLCC publication details.

8.2.6 Fibre Broadband Improvement information.

8.2.7 Cumbria Rural Growth Network a free planning advice service to any rural business in Cumbria.

8.2.8 Sustainable Communities Act information.

8.2.9 Cumbria Local Access Forum Annual Report.

8.2.10 Connecting Cumbria Newsletter.

8.2.11 Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) Annual Review.

8.2.12 Winter warmth funding details.

All the above were **noted.**

9 Claypit Charity

Nothing

10 Any items of information brought by…

10.1 Clerk

The clerk provided details of an Allotment survey he had received.

The opportunity to respond to Allerdale CB draft 2014-15 Council Plan had been received recently with the response date being before the next meeting; also raised by the Borough Cllr.

Information was given on the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Community Fund.

The clerk read out the Police Report.

10.2 Councillors

No matters were raised.

11 Meeting dates

11.1 Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 11th March 2014 at 7.00 p.m. in Kirkbride School.

11.2 Future meetings: on Tuesdays: 13th May 2014 at 7.00 p.m. in Kirkbride School.

**The above dates were noted.**

**The chairman closed the meeting at 9.15p.m.**