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

**Held on Tuesday 9thth September 2014 at 7.00 p.m. in Kirkbride School**

Present:

Councillors: Hedworth (Chair), Day, Little, Noblett, Taylor, Willis

County Cllr Fairbairn, Borough Cllr Cowell.

Public attendance: Mr and Mrs Taylor, Mr J.Dilley

Clerk: M Abbs

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

**Apologies had been received from Cllr Kirk and PCSO Nichol**

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.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Cllr Taylor declared an interest with regard to item 4.6.

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 8th July 2014 – **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 –

See also item 4.10

Cllr Day advised that some rust had been seen on the underside of the slide and he had treated it.

Cllr Noblett arrived at this point.

3.1.2 Footpaths –

No issues requiring attention were raised. See also item 4.2

3.1.3 Highways steward –

Cllr Willis commented that Parishioners seemed to be delighted with the standard of the recent major repairs. The clerk advised that clarification had been sought by Cllr Kirk from County Cllr Fairbairn as to whether any further work was to take place.

Cllr Willis commented on the road surface near ‘Stampers’ which was breaking up and said she would report this to the Highways Department.

A possibly abandoned car near the ‘Barley Mow’ was mentioned and Cllrs said they would make enquiries.

3.1.4 Newsletter group -

Cllr Noblett confirmed that the latest edition had been printed and delivered. The clerk advised that the invoice had been received from Kirkbride School for the printing and would be handled under the standing order procedure.

3.2- by the clerk - including

Cumbria Archive Centre – the clerk advised that the papers relating to the former village Friends and Neighbours scheme had been taken to the Cumbria Archive Centre who had confirmed that they wish to retain them on deposit and had sent paperwork for completion. This was explained by the clerk and the Chairman and Vice Chairman said they would complete it in line with the Standing Orders.

## 3.3 Public participation (at the Chairman’s discretion)

3.3.1 Report from the Borough Councillor

Cllr Cowell did not have any major developments at Allerdale BC to report but pointed out that there was a Council meeting the following day. Cllr Day asked about the situation concerning the large power lines and pylons which may be installed in North Cumbria. Cllr Cowell responded that there were no major development to report at this stage but encouraged Cllrs and the public to become involved in the forthcoming consultation.

3.3.2 Report from the County Councillor

Cllr Fairbairn commented further on the power lines mentioned by Cllr Cowell and why the plan was to take them over ground rather than underground.

Progress was being made to replace the local Drainage Board with another organisation which would keep the existing drainage pumps operational.

Cllr Fairbairn commented on the situation concerning local bus services. Services were being reduced rapidly following the withdrawal of subsidy. Resulting problems for groups such as the elderly were commented on along with the role being played by agencies such as Age UK and Rural Wheels.

The roll out of Superfast Broadband was commented on, especially the fact that consumers will need to ask their providers for the improved service when work was complete.

The current progress on the nearby Bridlebridge over the Wampool was highlighted.

Cllr Noblett asked Cllr Fairbairn about the possibility of further footpath/bridge work in the Powhill/Laithes area. Cllr Fairbairn thought significant spending was unlikely in the near future due to funding constraints.

Cllr Fairbairn confirmed that he was seeking clarification from the Highways Team as to whether there would be further work on the roads in the area and would keep Cllrs informed. It was acknowledged that the recent work had been carried out to a high standard.

Mr and Mrs Taylor commented that they were present to hear the discussion relating to item 4.6 which affected their property.

The Chairman thanked them all for their contributions.

**The Chairman took item 4.6 at this point - see below.**

**4 New business**

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

The clerk had been providing regular updates to the Cllrs on developments since the last meeting and re-capped the current situation. The contractor having carried out much of the work, was awaiting delivery of the stone circle in order to complete the refurbishment of the area. Mr and Mrs Battison, who live nearby, had raised an issue with the Council since the last meeting which had been quickly and amicably resolved. Cllrs had acknowledged that it may be necessary to purchase some hedging plants in order to fill any remaining gap in the boundary. The clerk confirmed that he would keep Cllrs up to date with developments and forward any necessary invoice requiring payment for approval.

4.2 Condition of benches update. Possible purchase of re-placements and additional benches for the village.

Installation of latest bench purchase.

The clerk confirmed that he had been in touch with Mr C Turner who would welcome the opportunity to provide the Council with a quotation for the installation work. Cllrs discussed possible locations and Cllr Wills agreed to provide grid references for the chosen locations on the footpath network. The clerk said he would arrange a meeting with Mr Turner when the necessary details were finalised.

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

Cllrs decided that there were no issues arising and the clerk advised that there was no invoice to bring to their attention.

4.4 Co-option of new Cllr to fill existing vacancy.

Review and discussion of applicants and possible decision.

The clerk reminded Cllrs of the procedure that need to be followed in any appointment.

The clerk had circulated relevant papers to Cllrs ahead of the meeting.

The Chairman opened the discussion and invited comments on the candidates, Mr Irving’s and Miss Carruthers’s, submissions.

During a full discussion it was acknowledged that they were both strong applicants; the merits of both being discussed at length.

A vote was subsequently taken and it was **agreed**, with the required majority, that Mr Irving be co-opted onto the Council.

The clerk was instructed to notify the candidates of the outcome and complete the required paperwork.

4.5 Grass cutting specifications for 2015.

Review of the current tender procedure and possible action.

Cllrs reviewed the existing specification and **agreed** to amendments following the refurbishment of the McDonald memorial area which in future will require less maintenance. The clerk was instructed to approach the same contractors used the previous year.

4.6 Mrs Taylor – possible purchase of land from the Parish Council.

Cllr Taylor played no part in the following item.

The Clerk presented documents to the Cllrs relating to previous handling of this land ‘Old Village Well’ adjacent ‘Brighton House’, by the Council. These indicated that the land had been registered as Common Land without ownership following a hearing of the Commons Commissioners in Keswick in April 1981. In the early 1980’s the Parish Council had spent a considerable amount of time and money, to no avail, in an attempt to sell the land. A lease arrangement resulted following advice from solicitors.

The Taylors had recently indicated an interest in purchasing the land from the Parish Council. Cllrs discussed the documents and the situation at some length; concluding that they may be willing to consider selling some, or all, of the land, if it could be established that they had a legal right to do so. It was acknowledged that it appeared, based on the presented evidence that they did not have the right to do so.

County Cllr Fairbairn provided useful background to the debate and suggested that CALC may be able to provide advice on the current legal situation. The clerk was instructed to approach CALC for clarification and report back to the next meeting.

There was a strong feeling amongst the Cllrs that there would be a need for wider consultation with parishioners before any decision regarding a sale (even if legally possible) could be considered.

4.7 Kirkbride Community Energy Co-operative website formation and possible Parish Council participation/involvement.

The clerk advised Cllrs on the correspondence he had received from Mrs Kirk of the Energy Co-operative. Cllrs **agreed** that they would like to be involved with the website initiative and to the clerk contacting other local bodies on behalf of the co-operative to ascertain if they wished to be involved. This would ensure that the data remained confidential whilst giving the bodies concerned an opportunity to respond if they wished.

4.8 Kirkbride Learning Centre – request for support for ‘community meals’.

The clerk read out the letter received from the Learning Centre. Following discussion a donation of £300 was **agreed** in accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. The expenditure, in the opinion of the council, being in the interest of the area and its inhabitants.

4.9 HSBC Bank – Amendment of Mandate for cheque signatories.

The clerk appraised Cllrs of his dealings with the bank and advised on the additional information, following changes in bank policy, that was being requested.

Cllrs confirmed that they wish to add Cllr Hedworth and delete former Cllr Tweddle form the list of signatories, with the remaining signatories being unchanged. The clerk advised that he would liaise with individual Cllrs to obtain the required information then approach the Bank again.

4.10 Playground - Arrangement of inspection and any other matters requiring attention.

The clerk confirmed that the Annual Inspection had been booked with Allerdale BC. Cllrs had just become aware of some damage to the perimeter fence caused by children forcing their way through it. Cllrs Hedworth and Little said they would investigate this urgently and carry out appropriate remedial action if possible. The possibility of Mr Turner (see item 4.2) proving a quotation for further fencing was **agreed.** The clerk said he would explore this as necessary.

## 5 Correspondence

To review correspondence received and take any appropriate action.

5.1 Connecting Cumbria Broadband update.

Cllr Fairbairn had provided an update earlier in the meeting which had been **noted.**

5.2 Footway Lighting Current situation.

The clerk advised that contrary to expectations there were no significant development to report. – **noted.**

5.3 Cumbria County Council – Supported Bus Service Withdrawals, including No 71 and No 93, and any related communications.

The clerk and Cllr Day updated Cllrs on developments since the last meeting. the clerk handed out copies of the recently revised timetable. It was feared that further losses to the service could follow. The clerk said he would keep Cllrs up to date with any developments.

5.4 Allerdale BC – Completed copy of Ivydene Section 106 Agreement for retention.

The clerk confirmed that a copy of the document completed by all parties had been received from Allerdale BC. – **noted.**

5.5 CALC – information on the implications of the 2010 Bribery Act.

The clerk updated Cllrs on the recently received information which seemed to indicate a tightening of the rules. – **noted.**

5.6 CALC - New Regulations – Open and Accountable Government.

The clerk updated Cllrs on the Government’s intentions to bring in further legislation and its likely effect especially on the recording and filming of meetings. – **noted.**

5.7 CALC – Details of the Vodafone Rural Open Sure Signal Programme.

Possible appointment of representative for this initiative and Broadband Champion.

The clerk provided details of the programme and pointed out that it was not possible to progress any application as the Parish did not have Superfast Broadband. – **noted.**

No Broadband Champion was appointed.

5.8 CALC – HGV notification of proposed speed limit increase.

The clerk reminded Cllrs of the Government’s intentions to raise some speed limits for HGV’s. – **noted.**

5.9 CALC - DECC geological disposal siting review.

The clerk reminded Cllrs that the DECC had published a review but it appeared that there had been little response to it locally. – **noted.**

5.10 CALC – Interim Cumbria Local Health Economy Strategic Plan.

The clerk informed Cllrs of the existence of the plan and the availability of speakers to attend Council meeting. – **noted.**

5.11 Allerdale BC – Adoption of Local Plan (part1).

The clerk read out the letter received from Allerdale BC which was – **noted.**

5.12 Cumbria CC – Proposed changes to Speed Limits.

The clerk provided background and clarified that there were no proposed changes to any local speed limits. – **noted.**

5.13 Cumbria CC – notification of Road Closures on B5307 and C2040 for road works.

Cllrs were aware of the planned works which had been **noted.**

5.14 National Grid – latest on North West Coast Connections Project.

The clerk provided an update to confirm his understanding of the situation outlined by the Borough and County Cllr earlier.

Cllrs were aware that this was likely to be a controversial and significant project that could have a major impact on the area.

5.15 CALC – Guidance on dealing with complaints.

The clerk advised that NALC had published guidelines on the handling of complaints. Cllrs **noted** that these could be referred to if necessary in future but did not adopt them into the Standing Orders.

5.16 CALC – External Audit and Date Transparency.

The clerk updated Cllrs on the Government’s intentions to bring in further legislation and its likely effect. – **noted.**

5.17 Mr P Todhunter – Notification of plans for a Wind Turbine at Drumleaning Farm, Aikton.

The clerk reminded Cllrs of Mr Todhunter’s correspondence which was **noted.**

5.18 Allerdale BC – Wigton Profile Invitation to workshop session.

The clerk provided Cllrs with background to the workshop which was **noted.**

5.19 Allerdale BC – Adult Education Survey.

The clerk provided Cllrs with background to the survey which was **noted.**

5.20 Police Commissioner – Launch of Council Tax Consultation.

The clerk provided Cllrs with background to the consultation which was **noted.**

5.21 Police Commissioner – Launch of Low Level Crime Consultation.

The clerk provided Cllrs with background to the **consultation** which was **noted.**

5.22 CALC – Data Protection / Freedom of Information Workshop.

The clerk provided Cllrs with background to the workshop and said that he would make enquiries about attending this possible event which was **noted.**

5.23 Life Long Energy – notification of forthcoming planning application for 2 wind turbines at High House Farm Wigton.

The clerk reminded Cllrs of the correspondence which was **noted.**

5.24 Allerdale BC – Final Claim Form for precept for year ending 31st March 2014 if form received in time.

The clerk confirmed that the form had been received and reported to Cllrs the required figures to complete it. Allerdale BC require sight of all relevant invoices. He confirmed that no further payment from the authority towards the cost of grass cutting should be expected even though (the audited) expenditure had, as anticipated, exceeded the grant received. This was **noted and the clerk authorised** to submit the figures to Allerdale BC.

Cllrs agreed to continue beyond 9.30p.m. in order to complete the Agenda.

## 6 Finance

**6.1 Information**

6.1.1 To approve accounts to 31st July 2014 and 31st August 2014 – available at the meeting. – **approved.**

6.1.2 Allerdale BC – receipt of second Precept payment £4850 + CTRS grant £254.50 **£5104.50 – noted.**

### 6.2 Payments to approve.

### 6.2.1 Clerk’s salary: £429.43 – approved.

### 6.2.2 Expenses: postage + stationery £5.78; broadband £10.66 + phone £5.00, travel 12m @ 36p

### = £4.32, total £25.76 – approved.

6.2.3 Colville Ground Maintenance: grass cutting (VAT £22.72) **£136.30 – approved.**

Further invoices to be advised at the meeting.

6.2.4 Bowness on Solway PC – share of consumables **£27.84 – approved.**

6.2.5BDO Audit Fee – (VAT £20.00) **£120.00 – approved.**

6.2.6 CALC New and Aspiring Chairman Course **£29.50 – approved.**

The Chairman confirmed that the course had been extremely beneficial.

**7 Planning**

**7.1 Applications outstanding with Allerdale Borough Council and Cumbria CC.**

7.1.1 – HRN/2014/0002 Hedgerow removal application, Townhead Farm, Kirkbride

Mr A Hedworth & A and C Hedworth.

7.1.2 – 2/2014/0113 Biomass storage facility incorporating solar panels, Gordon House, Kirkbride

Mr Tom Fox.

7.1.3 – 2/2014/0217 Erection of 2 Dwellings, Land Adjacent to Beechdale, West Lane, Kirkbride

Mr N Roe.

7.1.4 -2/2014/0292 Installation of 1no. 500kw wind turbine (maximum tip height 77m) and associated infrastructure, including an access track, Water Flosh, Aikton Wigton. Applicant: Hallmark Power Ltd.

Within Aikton Parish Council boundary.

All the above were **noted.**

**7.2 Applications dealt with under standing order** .

7.2.1 – 2/2014/0514 Demolition of existing garage and erection of two detached dwellings. Land Adjacent to Beechdale West Lane, Kirkbride. – the clerk confirmed that no objections had been raised and Allerdale BC had been notified.

**7.3 Applications decided by Allerdale BC / Cumbria CC**

7.3.1 - 2/2013/0729 Application to replace extant approval 2/2008/0937, Ivydene B5307, Kirkbride, Wigton. – permission granted. – **noted.**

**7.4 Applications for consideration by this Parish Council meeting.**

None – **noted.**

**8.1 Documents received for comment**

8.1.1 Allerdale BC - Local Plan (Part 2): Site Allocations.

Issues and Options Consultation – response by 30th September 2014.

The clerk outlined the situation which was **noted.**

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

8.2.1 CALC Circulars.

8.2.2 CALC – Availability of food waste digesters.

8.2.3 Glasdon Product Information.

8.2.4 Cumbria Together website information.

8.2.5 Red Cross – HumaniTEA Information.

8.2.6 Allerdale Sports Award Details.

##### 9 Claypit Charity

9.1 Charity Commission Return completed.

The Clerk presented Cllrs with the completed report for examination. – **noted.**

**10 Any items of information brought by…**

10.1 Clerk

The clerk advised that a planning consultation for 2/2014/0571 Eastholme House, Kirkbride had just been received and would need to be handled under the Standing Order procedure.

The clerk provided details of a circular from CALC concerning the right to challenge parking policies.

Wickstead Playscapes product information was provided along with details of the SLCC Annual Meeting agenda and the Police Commissioner’s report for 2013-14.

10.2 Councillors

No further matters were raised.

**11 Meeting dates**

11.1 **Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting** Tuesday 11th November 2014 at7.00 p.m. in Kirkbride School.

11.2 **Future meetings: on Tuesdays:**  13th January 2015 at 7.00 p.m. in Kirkbride School.

The dates were **noted.**

**The chairman closed the meeting at 9.58p.m.**