

Kirkbride Parish Council



Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council Held on Tuesday 9th January 2018 at 7.00pm in Kirkbride School.

Present:

Councillors: Hedworth (Chair), Day, Kirk, Little, Mostyn and Willis.

County Councillor: Fairbairn

Borough Councillor: Hedworth

Public attendance: Mrs D Backman.

Clerk: M Abbs

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

Apologies for absence had been sent to the clerk by Cllrs Noblett and Irving. Cllr Irving's absence was **agreed** to be a fair reason.

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.

No additional dispensations were requested.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Cllr Kirk declared an interest with regard to item 7.2.1

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 14th November 2017 – **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 4.6.

This was considered later in the meeting.

3.1.2 Footpaths -

Cllr Day commented on the fact that the sign near Sutherland House needs replacing. Cllr Willis confirmed that this had been reported.

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3.1.3 Highways steward –

See also item 4.4

The poor condition of the road between the Laithes and Powhill was commented and noted by Cllr Fairbairn.

There was still a flooding problem on the road near Powhill, this was considered to be worse following the work to install Superfast Broadband. Cllr Fairbairn advised that the contractor who carried out the work could be responsible for this.

Cllr Mostyn reported that Mrs H Ibbitson wanted to record her thanks to local farmers who had pumped some drains out.

Cllr Willis reported that the drains at Chapel Bank had been cleared out again by the County Council.

Cllr Day commented on the fact that the hedges on the Birch Hill Lane link road had not been cut back making the road even narrower. Cllr Hedworth advised that the farmer concerned was aware of this and planned to cut the hedge.

3.1.4 Newsletter group -

Cllrs involved with production **agreed** that a planning meeting would be needed soon. Potential items for inclusion were discussed.

3.2- by the clerk - including:

3.2.1 Grass cutting contract.

The clerk advised that all the required contractors had been notified of the Council's decision. Other actions would be reported later in the meeting.

3.3 Public participation (at the Chairman's discretion)

Mrs Backman expressed her concern about continued speeding by vehicles coming through the village.

Thurstonfield, she felt, had more coverage from the speed cameras and she wondered if Kirkbride could receive similar attention. She was assured by Cllrs that the camera van did visit Kirkbride on a regular basis.

She feels that the cutting near Station House is in a poor state of repair. Cllrs said they would investigate land ownership before considering any action.

Mrs Backman mentioned that she was concerned about a potentially dangerous pick-up point for the school bus which the Secondary school pupils use. Cllrs were unsure if this was an 'official' pick up point.

She then raised the issue of dog fouling which she felt was still a considerable problem in the village.

The local shop no longer issued free 'dog poo' bags. This was believed to be due to Local Authority spending cuts.

The clerk advised on action which the Allerdale BC dog warden may be able to take, if they were given adequate information.

Cllrs said the problem would be given coverage again in the next Newsletter.

3.3.1 Report from the Borough Councillor

Cllr Hedworth had no matters to report.

3.3.2 Report from the County Councillor

Cllr Fairbairn mentioned the 'Speed Watch' scheme in Burgh by Sands and said that if there was sufficient local interest it may be possible to establish a similar scheme in Kirkbride.

He commented on the situation concerning the Allerdale BC and County Council budgets and felt it was likely that householders would see increases in their bills.

He explained the legal position and householder's duties concerning hedges.

Cllr Fairbairn was putting together a Community Travel plan which would feature Kirkbride.

Item 4.5 was considered at this point after which Cllr Fairbairn left the meeting.

4 New business

4.1 Mc Donald memorial / Brighton House – update and discussion/approval of any required action. Consideration of correspondence from Minihan McAlister.

The latest correspondence from Minihan McAlister and Mr Tim Cartmel was reviewed. The 'Your Details' form was discussed, and the form provisionally completed by the clerk was **approved** and its return to the solicitors authorised.

4.2 Footpaths – discussion of current condition and possible action.

Update on footpath leaflet.

Cllr Willis commented that the footpath behind the shop required new signage and believed this to be in hand with the Authority.

The recently printed footpath leaflet was reviewed and **approved**. **The clerk advised that the invoice had not yet been received but Cllrs approved** payment if it was for the anticipated amount when examined. See item 6.2.4.

Cllrs made arrangements to distribute copies of the new leaflet to every household.

4.3 Asset Register and Risk Assessment.

Review and possible update.

The clerk advised that he had reviewed the Council's systems and documentation covering Control and Governance and believed that the assessment of risks faced by the Council were being adequately covered by the Internal Controls and Insurance cover. After discussion and consideration of the existing risk assessment it was **agreed** that the existing arrangements were fit for purpose and **approved**.

The Asset Register was **approved** unchanged.

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4.4 Speeding traffic in the Parish.

Cllrs had recently received further concerned comments from residents about speeding traffic. The possibility of 30mph repeater signs in the village would be mentioned to Cllr Fairbairn by the clerk. It was felt that **no further action** was required at this point with the County Cllr being fully aware of the local concern and details of the speed indication device (SID) which Cllrs approved of.

Cllr Fairbairn's 'Community Travel Plan' was awaited with interest.

4.5 Untidy/obstructive hedges in the Parish. Discussion of the current situation and any required action.

Cllr Day provided a good summary of the current position along with the legal position, which he had investigated. The clerk updated Cllrs on his understanding of the situation with the local authority. Cllr Fairbairn confirmed that he had instructed Council Officers that hedges that contravened the regulations should be addressed. He believed that some residents had been informed by the CC of the need to cut hedges back but would check on the current situation with the officer concerned.

4.6 Playground.

Current situation on maintenance and repair and possible equipment purchase decisions. Current situation on grant application. See also 5.4.

The clerk and Cllr Day provided details of the site meeting that had taken place with Fresh Air Fitness. Cllrs, using the Standing Order procedure, had been in favour of applying, via the supplier, for grant funding. The clerk confirmed that the initial form had been submitted and he had not heard anything further at this point. Cllr Day had not received any detailed plans.

The Cllrs were aware that there was still outstanding painting work to be done and the clerk said he would contact the contractor.

5 Correspondence

To review correspondence received and take any appropriate action.

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

The clerk updated Cllrs on the latest correspondence from Allerdale BC giving additional information and advising that the amount of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme grant would again fall this year and would not be paid beyond 2018/19. The amount received for this year would be £79.58. This was **noted without action**.

5.2 Royal British Legion receipt and thanks for donation.

The clerk provided details which were **noted**.

5.3 Great North Air Ambulance – thanks for donation.

The clerk provided details which were **noted**.

5.4 Allerdale BC – Playground Inspection and report update.

The clerk confirmed that he had contacted Allerdale BC about the Playground Inspection but was unaware of the cost at the moment. However, it was hoped that there would not be an increase. - **noted**

5.5 CALC -Capping, Section 137 limit and Transparency Code.

The clerk advised that there was no news on whether Parish Councils would have their precept capped for 2018/19.

Transparency Code requirements remained unchanged. – **noted**.

5.6 HMRC – Updated procedure to reclaim VAT.

A letter had been received informing the Council that there would be a change to the procedure to reclaim VAT. HMRC would provide further details in due course. – **noted**.

5.7 Cumbria Children's Dyslexia Project – Information and request for support.

The clerk provided details of the letter which was **noted without action**.

5.8 Audit arrangements for 2017/18 and future years.

The Council had received some details of the arrangements for the 2017/18 Audit and the clerk was aware that further details would be forthcoming in the next few weeks. He envisaged that the Council would be able to apply for an exemption to the requirement for an external audit due to the size of the Council's income and expenditure. – **noted**.

Mrs Backman left the meeting.

6 Finance

6.1 Information

6.1.1 To approve accounts to 30th November 2017 and 31st December 2017 – available at the meeting.

– **examined and approved**.

6.1.2 **Budget** for 2018/19: see prepared sheet

& therefore **precept request to Allerdale BC for 2018/19**.

The clerk provided an updated budget which reflected the Council Tax Reduction Scheme grant which was now known – see item 5.1. Cllrs **approved** the budget and **agreed** that no changes to the Precept request were necessary.

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6.2 Payments to approve.

6.2.1 Clerk's salary: **£498.93 – approved.**

6.2.2 Expenses: postage + stationary £3.10; broadband + phone £13.25, SLCC contribution £52.66, travel miles 10 at 36p/mile= £3.60 total **£72.61 – approved.**

6.2.3 Marilyn Leech – design work on Parish Paths leaflet. **£25.00 – approved.**

6.2.4 H&H Reeds Printers – Printing of the leaflets. Anticipated amount **£395.00 – see item 4.2.**

6.2.5 J Graham, hedge cutting (VAT £30.00) **£180.00 – approved.**

6.2.6 Bowness on Solway PC - consumables (print cartridges) **£23.65 – approved.**

6.2.7 Bowness on Solway PC – share of computer maintenance and repair **£36.11. – approved.**

7 Planning

7.1 Applications outstanding with Allerdale Borough Council.

7.1.1 - 2/2017/0529 Application to vary condition 2 on planning approval 2/2013/0729 to remove remote footpath link and removal of affordable housing requirement, Ivydene, Kirkbride. (Mr Gordon). – **noted.**

7.2 Applications dealt with under standing order.

7.2.1 – 2/2017/0547 Proposal to demolish existing lean to extension and erection of new storage shed, Bank House, Church Road, Kirkbride.

The clerk confirmed that Cllr Kirk had declared an interest and Allerdale BC had been advised that there were no objections. - noted.

7.3 Applications decided by Allerdale BC.

None – **noted,**

7.4 Applications for consideration by this Parish Council meeting.

None - **noted.**

8.1 Documents received for comment

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

Focussed Consultation: Additional Sites Submitted and Policy Options 2017.

Cllr discussed the documents which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The clerk was instructed to pass on the following **agreed** comments to the Authority:

with regard to the possible development in the Birch Hill Area of Kirkbride, the nearby lane does not currently appear to have the capacity to bear more traffic. The link section to the main road has inadequate drainage, frequently floods and is very narrow. The field in question is used as a soakaway for a field drain which drains water from the east end of Birch Hill Lane which is not on mains drainage as well as draining water from the link road which frequently floods.

The Council is keen to see more affordable housing provision in the village.

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

8.2.1 CALC Circular for December. – **noted.**

9 Claypit Charity

Nothing – **noted.**

10 Any items of information brought by...

10.1 Clerk

The clerk reminded Cllrs of a forthcoming meeting in Cockermouth being organised by the Police.

Nominations were invited by CALC for the forthcoming Annual Buckingham Palace Garden Party which would take place in May. Interested parties were asked to contact the clerk in the next few days.

10.2 Councillors

Cllr Day mentioned he felt that Wyne Lonning required refurbishment and Cllrs said they would investigate this before the March meeting.

11 Meeting dates

11.1 **Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting** Tuesday 13th March 2018 at 7.00 p.m. in Kirkbride School.

11.2 **Future meetings: on Tuesdays** 8th May 2018 at 7.00 p.m. in Kirkbride School.

The dates were noted, and the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05p.m.