

Minutes of the Meeting of Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Council held on 4 July 2013

Present: Mary Harkness (Chairman), Chris Smith, Bruce Worsley, Matthew Dobson, Martin Casson, Jim Bownass, Paula Cross

In Attendance: Cllr John Holmes (SLDC), Cllr Jim Bland (CCC), Kim Kearney(Clerk)

		Action
1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE None.	
2	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 JUNE 2013 These were approved.	
3	REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS None	
4	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None	
5	CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS Mary Harkness asked the parish council to thank Douglas Blair on behalf of the parish for the work he has continued to undertake in the Jubilee wood. He is currently laying a concrete plinth for a bench to be installed. Judy Goodland has kindly offered to pay for the bench. The clerk was asked to send a letter to Douglas Blair.	Clerk
6	OPEN SESSION An elector of the parish addressed the parish council regarding the planning application at Howe farm. She raised concerns about the height of the planned new houses in relation to the existing farm house. She also said that the planned houses would be intrusive as residents would look into the lounge and garden of Howefell Cottage and into the lounge of Barn Howe. The elector asked if this was the best place to site the new homes and wouldn't it be better to convert the barns into homes? She also proposed that the houses be turned around so that they looked out in the other direction. Another elector raised the issue that, in that case, they would look into someone else's property. Jim Bownass has received an email from another elector, raising concerns about the amount of traffic on the Howe and lack of local facilities. The electors present supported the need for local housing. The clerk had received comments about the planning application at Howefell cottage. The concerns were around lack of parking. The building had originally been a garage. This is a busy road – there had been an accident there very recently and the planned development is too near the road.	
7	COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Jim Bland reported that a decision is awaited from the National Board of the Environment Agency whether they will fund the two main pumps in the Lyth valley. The clerk was asked to write to Jim Walker at the Environment	

	<p>Agency in Preston expressing the parish council's support.</p> <p>Martin Casson asked if it was the County Council's responsibility to deal with Japanese knotweed and Jim Bland confirmed that it was.</p> <p>Chris Smith raised the issue that the white lines on the Lyth Valley road between The Damson Dene and Hubbersty Head needed painting. Jim Bland agreed to remind Highways.</p> <p>Jim Bland also reported that a working group was in place for the 541 bus replacement. Seven volunteers had come forward and it should be a seamless transfer to the new service in September.</p>	Clerk
8	<p>DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</p> <p>John Holmes referred to the latest A590 Route Management Document and that it was disappointing that apart from proposed additional signage at the end of Foulshaw Lane, no further work was planned for the Gilpin Bridge junction.</p> <p>He reported that there was no date yet for the rollout of high speed Broadband to Crosthwaite and Lyth and that the overall end date for the project had slipped.</p>	
9	<p>PARISH CLERK'S REPORT</p> <p>This was noted by the parish council.</p>	
10	<p>PCSO REPORT</p> <p>A report had been sent through on the day. The parish council noted that although no crime had been reported in the parish, thefts from farms and metal thefts continue to be issues.</p>	
11	<p>LANDOWNER OF CROSTHWAITE & LYTH – LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS</p> <p>Martin Casson outlined the work being undertaken by The Trustees of the Landowners of Crosthwaite and Lyth Charity in updating the Management Plans for land in their ownership. The Plans, which will be circulated to PC members in due course, define the management regimes for conservation and community access for the next few years and will be an important component of any submissions to Natural England and the Forestry Commission for grant aid. There is little variance to the management practices which have successfully prevailed for many years, being essentially a continuation of a softly, softly approach with discrete intervention where positive measures are required. It is intended to continue with coppice plot management on a sustainable basis which may necessitate reducing plot size in the future to ensure adequate re-growth. Areas like Fellside Plantation will continue to be used by the village school for outdoor lessons and Township Plantation and Allotment will continue to be available for access by the local community despite the significant nationally recognised conservation interests.</p> <p>The Parish Council noted and supported the Plans.</p>	
12	PLANNING	
12.1	<p>New Planning Applications</p> <p>7/2013/5310 – Extension Smithy House, Crosthwaite The parish council raised no objections to this application.</p> <p>7/2013/5344 – New Dwellings, Howe Farm, Crosthwaite</p>	

	<p>In principle, the parish council is in favour of housing for locals, so long as it is done in a manner sympathetic to the landscape. With respect to this proposed development they think that :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The houses stand out too prominently in the environment and impact the local amenity of the view • The houses will be too high and intrusive in the way that they overlook neighbours. • The design, which incorporates terraces, increases the intrusive manner in which they look into neighbours' homes. • The designs appear to have allowed for adequate parking space. However, the parish council is concerned about increased traffic on the Howe caused by further development as the roads are narrow. Lack of local facilities means that any residents will most likely need cars to travel around. • Planned waste treatment appears to be adequate. • The parish council would be more supportive of a design that re-used redundant barns on the site, but does not support the existing plans. <p>7/2013/5338 – Conversion of stable, Tarnside Farm, Crosthwaite The parish council raised no objections to this application.</p> <p>7/2013/5270 – Extension, Barn Howe, Lyth The parish council raised no objections to this application.</p> <p>7/2013/5278 – New building, Howefell Cottage, Lyth The parish council reviewed the plans and some councillors had visited the location. The proposed development will overlook adjacent properties and visually be very obvious. The existing garage is an eyesore. The parish council had the following observations for LDNPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parish council expressed concerns about the potential for future use of the building as a holiday let, recognising that this would require Change of Use permission. • An art studio/workspace would be preferable without any living accommodation • A single storey building that did not overlook neighbouring properties would be acceptable. • Parking is an issue • The parish council does not support the current application 													
13	FINANCE													
13.1	<p>Income & Expenditure 2013/14 The Parish Council approved the following expenditure and noted the receipts:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="288 1771 1185 2033"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="288 1771 770 1845">Item</th> <th data-bbox="770 1771 1007 1845">Expenditure £</th> <th data-bbox="1007 1771 1185 1845">Income £</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="288 1845 770 1883">NSIB interest</td> <td data-bbox="770 1845 1007 1883"></td> <td data-bbox="1007 1845 1185 1883">11.44</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="288 1883 770 1957">NSIB IA final interest & balance to Current Account</td> <td data-bbox="770 1883 1007 1957"></td> <td data-bbox="1007 1883 1185 1957">93.11</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="288 1957 770 2033">CALC training – Essentials for Local Councillors</td> <td data-bbox="770 1957 1007 2033">44.25</td> <td data-bbox="1007 1957 1185 2033"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Item	Expenditure £	Income £	NSIB interest		11.44	NSIB IA final interest & balance to Current Account		93.11	CALC training – Essentials for Local Councillors	44.25		
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13.2	<p>Statement of Charity Financial Activity 2012/13 The parish council approved the Charity Financial statement for 2012/13.</p>													
14 14.1	<p>PARISH ROOM Maintenance Works to the Parish Room The parish council received an update on progress from the working group.</p> <p>The parish council agreed an increase in the costs of insulating materials of up to £120 plus VAT.</p> <p>John Holmes also advised that trickle ventilation should be provided where there is no other ventilation.</p> <p>The Snooker club wish to replace an existing outwards opening door with one opening inwards. John Holmes agreed to check that Building Regulations don't require an outwards opening door.</p> <p>The budget allowed for refurbishment of the door rather than replacement. The parish council agreed that the working group should ask the Snooker club to price for a nominal hardwood door (i.e. one that would be painted).</p>													
15	<p>HOUSING SEMINAR UPDATE Jim Bownass reported back from a housing seminar he recently attended.</p>													
16	<p>PARKING ON VILLAGE GREEN It was agreed that the existing sign on the village green should be replaced by a larger sign saying ' Crosthwaite Village Green – no vehicular parking'. Chris Smith agreed to commission this.</p>	Chris Smith												
17	<p>QUESTIONNAIRE TRAINING Bruce Worsley and Mary Harkness will attend this training to assist with updating of the parish plan.</p>	Mary Harkness Bruce Worsley												
18	<p>MAINTENANCE OF FOOTPATH The parish council had received a request for the grass on the footpath behind the vicarage to be cut by the parish council. The parish council decided to turn down this request as it might be seen as setting a precedent on maintaining all the footpaths within the parish.</p>													
19	<p>PARISH COUNCIL SURGERY Jim Bownass reported that an elector had expressed her dissatisfaction over the tree felling along the Ulverston Road at the recent surgery.</p> <p>Matthew Dobson will attend August's surgery.</p>	Matthew Dobson												
20	<p>COMMUNICATIONS The parish council asked the clerk to communicate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfer of service of 541 bus in September 	Clerk												

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Progress of maintenance works in parish room	
21	MEETINGS The date of the next parish council meeting is 1 August at 7:30 pm, in the Memorial Hall.	Clerk

Kim Kearney
10 July 2013