

## Minutes of Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Council meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015

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

Absent: Judy Goodland, Cllr John Holmes

In attendance: Cllr Jim Bland, Joanne Taylor (clerk), Ewan Sale, Daniel Dobson, Hartley Trotter, Gordon Pitt

### 1 Apologies for Absence

Judy Goodland and Cllr John Holmes sent their apologies

### 2 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> July 15 were approved as a true and accurate record.

### 3 Requests for Dispensations

None

### 4 Declarations of Interest

Mark Harkness declared an interest in planning 11.1, West View, Crosthwaite

### 5 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed the Parish Council back after having no meeting in August. She also supported the delegated powers of the clerk for the planning applications in respect of the longer break.

### 6 Open Session

Hartley Trotter read out a letter giving positive feedback for the proposed IDB. As below:

"The beautiful Lyth Valley created by glacial action some 12000 yrs ago has been turned into a very productive area by generations of loyal and friendly farmers and agricultural workers .

Man had laboured for years to drain the valley in order to harvest peat an essential fuel prior to coal arriving by canal barge from the Lancashire coal fields.

In the late 1700s William Pearson from Bordside Crosthwaite wrote in his journals that whilst riding on horse back through the Lyth Valley he had witnessed an area of stinking swamp infested with mosquitos and other vermin and that the common marsh land was vastly over grazed.

Then in 1815 the Heversham Award was set up to alleviate the problems in the Valley. This award decided how the land in the Valley was to be divided amongst the surrounding landowners and quite a grand drainage scheme which gave details of where and to what dimensions ditches had to be constructed. The spoil from these excavations was to provide a basis for the road network hence to-day you will note that the main road through the valley follows the main drainage ditch.

This drainage created a very fertile valley able to grow wonderful crops of grain and many varieties of root crops and proved a very useful exercise to help feed a starving nation during the two great wars when German U boats were sinking our supply ships. The farmers in the valley were much appreciated by the city dwellers especially if they could obtain extra supplies of meat and veg. The government of the day realised the importance of this food supply and encouraged more production by grant aiding the renewal of obsolete drainage systems and doing extensive work on the tidal embankments. There was just one problem with the system which allowed drainage water to flow out to sea by gravity and that was high tides would deposit large amounts of sand in front of the sluice doors at Ulpha preventing them from opening thus no drainage.

I became an unpaid member of the board who decided that the answer was to have a dragline on standby at the sluice doors to remove any sand deposits and place the sand onto the tidal bank, this is no longer allowed by a ruling from Natural England.

All the maintenance of these ditches and embankments was carried out by the Lancashire River Board and contract labour and paid for proportionally by a drainage rate levied on any land and property below a certain contour and a contribution from government.

Then in the late 70s early 80s the drainage board was advised by learned gentlemen that a grant was available to improve and upgrade the drainage of the valley. This entailed the tidal banks would be heightened and strengthened and five pumping stations would provide 24 hr seven days a week removal of drainage water from the low level system into the rivers. This was received with scepticism by the older members of the board as too the cost but were assured that there would be no cost to the landowners in the valley so the board and the drainage rate were abolished.

The powers that be realised that it was essential to keep a good drainage system as not only would food production suffer but the road network, electricity supply pylons, gas mains and several water supply pipelines would suffer. I have witnessed water 2ft deep on the A590 and several occasions when the Brigsteer and Toll bar causeways have been impassable

Now we have come full circle, the government can no longer fund this drainage system and so the answer would be to create another Internal Drainage Board and revert to the old system but the problem being that drainage water can no longer flow out to sea by gravity as it did originally the gradients of the ditches were altered to bring water back to the pumps. plus there are large concrete structures within the watercourses.

To operate an Internal Drainage Board requires money, and man seems to have a resistance to pay for something extra, which in this case would be about £13 per acre plus a contribution from Local government for the water which drains from the road network and enters into the pumped drainage system.

This contribution from Local government seems to have opened a can of worms, people with no knowledge of the past history and no connection with the Lyth Valley have started to voice their negative opinions saying that no monies should be forthcoming from rates to pay towards something that they are receiving no benefit. albeit they need food to survive. Millions have been spent in the Valley on Foulshaw Moss and Helsington Moss creating wildlife habitat which doesn't help any of the local farming community. I myself therefore should not contribute to street lighting as we have none and perhaps the extra I pay to subsidise energy schemes should be abolished or I am not sure if a fire engine could attend my house before the embers had died, nevertheless I am obliged by law to pay and try and look happy.

If this proposed scheme was to falter through lack of funding the Valley would eventually return to its stinking mess with all sorts of undesirable creatures moving in. The road system with a higher water table would suffer the A5074 often subsides as it is and would be almost impassable resulting in traffic once again having to travel through Levens Brigsteer Underbarrow and Crosthwaite.

Some of the Nature loving population would like to see the Valley become a permanent wetland, they often have had no connection with drainage or land within the valley, but we have a large acreage of water already in our ditches and rivers and if this is not sufficient for the bird population they have wings and could easily fly on vacation to the lakes or Leighton Moss. I wonder how these people would feel if we interfered with their livelihood or perhaps suggested they return their gardens to barren land.

I hope that the committees that will be voting on this matter will not be shortsighted and allow drainage to continue to allow our wonderful valley to remain a workable and profitable area for generations to come who will hopefully provide much needed food for an ever increasing world population. Once lost to the powers of nature it will be a mammoth task if not impossible to return the Lyth Valley to its' present state plus the fact that jobs could be lost and unemployment benefits having to be paid." Letter read by Hartley Trotter to the PC regarding Agenda item 15.

Gordon Pitt spoke about the Proposed IDB and gave reasons why the PC should vote that the proposed IDB should go ahead, he saw that there were concerns of funding for others but in principle it is suitable.

Daniel Dobson spoke and said he agreed with Hartley, hes concerned for the future and the community are stronger when they stick together.

Joanne Taylor spoke about her concern regarding planning application 7/2015/5454. She advised that she had no objections to the architects drawings, look etc of the annexe what she was concerned about was the amount of water to sustain the dwellings already at Pool Bank as the stream that provides the properties has been producing less water over the last few years and then to add another dwelling to this could be detrimental for existing dwellings.

## **7 County Councillor's Report**

Jim Bland had nothing to report other than white lines had now been added to the A5074, as most councillors had been on holiday over the summer months.

## **8 District Councillor's Report**

None

**9 Clerk's Report**

The parish council received the July/Aug15 report and approved it.

**10 PCSO report**

No PCSO at the meeting, but a statement was received stating there had been no criminal activities in Crosthwaite and Lyth, but for people to be vigilant and if they see anything that concerns them to ring 101. Be aware of traffic at the time of the The Lantern Parade, Ulverston.

**11 Planning**

**11.1 New Applications**

**7/2015/5453 & 7/2015/5454 Pool Bank North – Witherslack** – External and internal alterations to ancillary accommodation to form annexe.

Approved in principle but the PC are concerned of the sustainability of the existing water supply of Pool Bank to supply the extra proposed annexe accommodation.

Mary Harkness left the building.

**7/2015/5479 West View- Crosthwaite** – Proposed single storey extension – Approved.

**11.2 Planning application decisions of LDNPA**

7/2015/5233 Nabs Nook – Granted with conditions

7/2015/5241 Crosthwaite Cof E school – Granted with conditions

7/2015/5279 Crosthwaite Cof E school – Granted with conditions

7/2015/5055 Smithy Cottage – Granted with conditions

7/2015/5344 Low Fell West – New semi glazed and part rendered porch – Granted with conditions

7/2015/5381 Virginia Cottage – Single storey extension. Construction of store. External patio area – Granted with conditions

7/2015/5341 Damson Dene Hotel – Extension to hotel – Granted with conditions

7/2015/5142 The Stables, Tarnside Farm, Crosthwaite -Amend local occupancy clause on approval 7/2013/5338-Granted

7/2015/5316 Rose Cottage- Single storey extension, new access and revised parking- granted with conditions

**12 Finance**

**12.1 Income & Expenditure 2015/16**

The Parish Council is approved the following expenditure and approved the latest bank reconciliation statement.

Item	Expenditure £	Income £
Clerks Wages Aug	176.60	
Clerk Expenses	40.17	
Website Hosting(john Sceal)	60.00	
NSIB interest		6.16
First Responders	300.00	
NW Air Ambulance	100.00	

**12.2** Parish Council approved the Charity funds financial activity for the year ending March 31<sup>st</sup> 2015

**13 LAP Meeting Update**

Jim Bownass advised that Sedbergh PC were concerned of the withdrawl of subsidies for transport at the age of 16, as their young students would have to come to Kendal until their education ended.

The Parish Council thanked Jim Bownass for the public service he was providing on the LAP committee.

**14 Parish Council Surgery**

Concerns were raised over the trees overhanging the parish roads as a tractor had become stuck.

**Clerk to write to Highways**

- 15 Lyth and Witherslack Proposed Water Level Management Board Consultation**  
In view of the significant number of representations we have received regarding the proposed Internal Drainage Board, the strength of feeling expressed both for it and against it and in the interests of continuing good community relations the Parish Council have decided that they are unable to vote and feel that there are many questions which still need answering on this emotive subject and propose the following:

A notice will be placed on the village website, in the “Two Valleys News” and “The Westmorland Gazette” advising our residents to contact the SLDC portfolio holder who has cabinet responsibility for the environment (which covers the proposed IDB) with any comments in support of or against the proposal. It is our understanding that because all SLDC residents will be contributing 30% to the costs of the IDB in their council tax that SLDC has to vote to approve the proposed IDB or it cannot be established.

**The Parish Council advise that you read the Water Level Management Board Justification statement on our village website or on [www.lythvalleywlmg.wordpress.com](http://www.lythvalleywlmg.wordpress.com) regarding the proposed IDB to become fully informed.**

SLDC hope to make this decision at a cabinet meeting in October and they have indicated that any representations received by the end of September will be taken into consideration: Representations already made to the NFU can also be made to SLDC.

The address is Cllr Sue Sanderson (Environment Portfolio, South Lakeland House, Kendal. LA9 4NF

Email- [s.sanderson@southlakeland.gov.uk](mailto:s.sanderson@southlakeland.gov.uk)

- 16 PC Land at Tarnside to be sold**  
Clerk advised that all pieces of land had been measured and all details/ right of ways up to the gate at Tarnside and across the drive of Green Moss to Strickland Tennement were sent to the solicitor and purchasers. It was all now in the hands of the solicitor.

- 17 A5074 Junction to Tarnside**  
A letter was received regarding the safety of the turn to Tarnside. **Clerk to write to Highways**

- 18 Annual Litter Picking**  
That time of year has come round again for our Annual litter pick. Commencing this year the 1st week of October. If anybody would like to join the Parish Council helping with this then please contact the clerk at [crosthwaiteandlyth.pc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:crosthwaiteandlyth.pc@hotmail.co.uk).

- 19 Crosthwaite Community Led Plan**  
Postponed until Octobers meeting.

- 20 Correspondence received**  
Old Wells – Crosthwaite and Lyth are looking for a person/persons who may be interested in or have knowledge of any old wells/pumps within our parish and would like to record all remains of these wells still in existence. If anybody would like to offer their time and support to help the Parish Council in this, then please contact the clerk, Joanne Taylor at [crosthwaiteandlyth.pc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:crosthwaiteandlyth.pc@hotmail.co.uk)  
Letter from Desmond Holmes regarding the condition of the Crosthwaite and Lyth Manor records – The Levens Hall Archive – PC will offer £100.00 towards the proposed treatment for the documents  
Letter – Broadband in Crosthwaite – BT do not need to consult with Parishes regarding the amount of telegraph poles or where they will be placed within the Parish.

**21**            **Communications from this meeting**  
**The council to agree topics to be communicated via:**    Website,  
Westmorland Gazette, Parish Magazine

Letter from PC regarding proposed IDB  
Annual Litter Pick  
Recording Old Wells

**22**            **Parish Council Meetings**  
The date of the next parish council meeting is 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015 in the  
Parish room at 7.30pm

Joanne Taylor    Clerk. 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015 Meeting finished 9pm