

Minutes of the Meeting of Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Council held on 4th August 2011

PRESENT: Messrs M L Dobson (Chair), C Smith, M Casson, M.J Dobson
Ms M Harkness. Seven members of the public

In Attendance: Cllr J Holmes(SLDC) , Cllr J Bland (CCC), Mr G Pitt (Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES:), Mr D.T Dobson, Mr J Bownass

2. MINUTES of the meeting held on 7th July 2011 (already circulated) were approved after an amendment to the minute of the discussion on LVLDDG.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (not covered elsewhere in this agenda)

re: Lyth Valley Land Drainage Group: See MH notes

J Bland reported progress. The LDG has supplied all the necessary paperwork to ADA by on time. However the date for a response from ADA had been put back a month and a draft report should now be available for consultation towards the end of September. It was apparent that the scope and extent of the IDB was likely to increase to a 'South Lakeland Water Level Management Board' extending well beyond the Gilpin and Winster Valleys but not including the Kent. CCC were now the lead authority for flood management and were being supplied with govt funding to establish appropriate organisation(s). As soon as the draft report was available the LDG, through SLDC, would arrange public consultation meetings in the parishes affected.

This led to a wide ranging discussion in which the members of the public participated. Keys points were:

- * Costs would be established by ADA but initial estimates indicate local precepts of c£6 per property within the catchment area and £7 per acre on land on the flood plain. There was much concern that householders would feel that they were being charged for a service which was of no benefit to themselves, but only to the farmers whose land was affected. J Bland pointed out that any drainage authority had the obligation to deal with water draining off high ground into their area of responsibility and that it was fair for householders and other landowners to contribute.

- * The issue of farm subsidies and their possible contribution to drainage costs was raised in the discussion on fairness of charges. J Bland was able to comment that specific subsidies for land drainage were withdrawn around 1991.

- * The consultation process and the makeup of the proposed IDB were raised. It was clear that although consultation on the proposals would be widespread, there would be no local referendum.

Implementation would be through an act of parliament. The Board members would be non elected but would include representatives of elected bodies such as Parish and District Councils.

- * The LDG were developing a website to keep the public up to date but it was not yet up and running.

- * It was recognised that the original pumped drainage scheme in the Lyth Valley had been installed to increase the productivity of the land and to contribute to long term food security in the country. Despite recent trends to reduce agricultural production there was still a moral obligation to ensure land was available for long term food security even if there was a short term cost.

re: 3a Winter Gritting of Minor Roads Clerk had forwarded requests for 3 grit bins at specified points.(provided by MLD)

SWLAP had agreed to allocate £5000 to J Holmes's scheme for 5 parishes' joint contract. This was based on up to 6 gritting visits pa with grit supplied by CCC, plus added salt. J Holmes would now set up and manage a small organisation, with representatives from each Parish, which would place and manage the necessary contract(s). M Casson volunteered to represent Crosthwaite & Lyth. The roads to be treated in C&L would be the same as those treated under last winter's separate contract.

4. PARISH PLAN – PROGRESS REPORTS

4.1 Housing:

The Clerk had emailed CRHT seeking an explanation of their failure to use HNS data and relationships with SLDC and LDNPA LDFs. Response received which in effect said that SLDC were responding to a government requirement for them to have strategic information and that local HNS reports did not provide all the data required and they gave incomplete coverage.

4.2 Community Events: Crosthwaite Show.6th August

4.3 Employment and Business: No new matters reported.

4.4 Roads and Traffic:

Still awaiting report on A590 from the Highways Agency. Clerk to chase.

Action: Clerk

At the last PC meeting's it was agreed that we should mark all gulleys/drains requiring cleaning so that the Highways Team could find them. C Smith had done so and was thanked for his efforts. Clerk would now arrange a meeting with the Team leader.

Action: CCS, Clerk

4.5 Community Web site; John Seal, (Webmaster) attended the meeting and presented statistics for July – showing 1508 visits with 3375 page downloads across 55 different pages. Top in the page downloads was Damson Walks (123). This was very satisfactory; John Seal was congratulated and thanked for all his voluntary efforts in setting up and maintaining the community website.

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Broadband: John Seal (Webmaster) had also agreed to act as SL Broadband Board, representing C&L PC – CALC had been advised accordingly.

4.6 First Responders: J Holmes and M Dobson reported that they had continued to provide additional defib units but would need to ask the PC for a £300 contribution within the current financial year. It was agreed to consider this request under the next budget discussion.

4.7 Crime & Disorder: July newsletter had not yet been received but would be circulated when available.;

5. GOVERNANCE

5.1 South Westmorland LAP: Meeting 26th July: J Bownass and M Harkness attended and MH reported in writing (circulated in advance of this meeting):

Funding: Had been confirmed as £24,167 from SLDC of which £11,500 had been allocated.

Gritting Project £5000 – see above.

Running bus service 541: £1500. CCC had asked the operator for more capacity but had been advised that a larger bus would cost an additional £30 per day, so they had left the situation unchanged at 16 seats per day. This could still lead to there being no seats available from Crosthwaite to Kendal.

Shared Speed Signals: £5000, PC to recommend sites, preferably with poles in situ

New Projects/Action Plan: Discussed but not decided.

Safer Walking to School

First Responders

No Cold Calling Zone

Shared Lengthsmen

No othe fresh projects were identified by the PC during discussion.

5.2 The LOCALISM BILL = NALC Progress Report. Currently in the Lords. Circulated

5.3 WHITE PAPER 'Open Public Services' NALC report circulated

6. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 SLDC – Land Allocation, Further Consultation: Still not relevant to LDNPA parishes.

6.2 CALC Community Transport Additional funding Noted and circulated

6.3 CALC Rural Policymaking Survey Not relevant to PC level

7. PLANNING MATTER

Permissions granted, none.

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New applications , no objections

7/2011/5307; Mirk Howe, concersion of agricultural building to I bed annex for Mr R Rose

7/2011/5355; Foulshaw & Meathop mosses – bunding work for Cumbria Wildlife Trust

Clerk had checked on the current status of Rickatree Foot. LDNPA conformance section had checked and stated that the property was now being used for family accommodation and as such was not in breach of planning consent. There was no evidence of it being used as holiday accommodation.

8 FINANCES (Since last meeting)

Income:	NSI interest (June)	£ 9.85
Expenditure approved	BDO Llp Audit Fees	£ 60.00

Annual Audit: External audit report received with no adverse comments. Report was formally approved by the PC and will be displayed as usual. **Action: Clerk**

9. Property

Parish Room: C Smith tabled a written response from the Snooker Club(I Nelson, Treasurer) asking for clarification of PC costs. Clerk to respond. **Action: Clerk**

Bowling Green Field: The clapper bridge was still closed (by LDNPA ranger service) pending arrival of suitable material.

NB Since the meeting we have been informed that a suitable slab of limestone is on order from Burlingtons and delivery is dependent on activity in the quarry.

9 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC; None

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS;

J Holmes asked that the BT be reminded that the telephone box is still damaged and requires to be repaired or replaced. **Action Clerk**

M Casson asked for action on the parapet of Durham Bridge which had been in a parlous state for several years after being struck by a vehicle. **Action: Clerk**

M Harkness asked that action be taken on the hedge obscuring sight lines at the top of Totter Bank, threatening to do so herself if necessary. J Bland to speak to Amey **Action: J Bland**

Date of next Monthly Meeting: Thursday 1st September 2011 at 7.30pm,at the Parish Room.

GP 12/08/11