

Minutes of the Meeting of Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Council held on 7th July 2011

PRESENT: Messrs M L Dobson (Chair), C Smith,, M Casson, J Bownass, D T Dobson
Ms M Harkness

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

1. APOLOGIES:), Mr M J Dobson,

2. MINUTES of the meeting held on 2nd June 2011 (already circulated) were approved

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

re: Lyth Valley Land Drainage Group: An emailed progress report from Trevor Farrer had been received and circulated. They were currently expecting the Environment Agency to complete its report 'How to set up an IDB' soon, following which they have to make a strong case to the Minister to justify setting up an IDB. J Bland confirmed that the group was likely to put forward proposals for an IDB covering a much larger area than just the Lyth Valley. J Bland also confirmed that the IDB's primary concern would be with major issues in maintaining the upper and lower drainage systems and the pumps.

This led to considerable discussion during which Mary Harkness made a number of comments on the scheme as it appeared to date, as follows:

- The illogicality of limiting the catchment areas to rural land and coastal villages - not including towns such as Kendal and the Kent system which also drained into the coastal mosses.
- The cost to the tax payer of the scheme and the risk that a new local Quango would snowball into more ambitious things – not what is needed.
- The illogicality of using public money to both drain and re wet land in the same valley at the same time via RSPB supported higher level subsidies.
- The scheme is being promoted by a group of councillors, including the PC chairman, and landowners who are driving it forward – arguably some of whom may be motivated by self interest rather than the benefit of the community as a whole.
- The public are largely unaware of the scheme and to date have not been properly consulted.
- The Parish Council cannot provide further funding to the pilot group without going into deficit.

It was recognised that progress on answering these comments and other points raised would have to wait until an initial proposal was available for public consultation. The PC took no formal position at this time.

re: 3a Winter Gritting of Minor Roads Clerk has requested clarification on availability of grit bins from CCC – no response to date.. The proposed group contract was to be discussed at the next LAP meeting on 26th July.

re: 10.1 Car Parking – Westmorland centre Response from SLDC unhelpful – decision based `on need for revenue and 'uniformity'. Clerk to reply reiterating public concerns. **Action: Clerk**

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. No real response as yet.

4.2 Community Events: Flower Festival ran on 24th to 27th June. The Parish Room was used for an exhibition of historical items and archival material. A very successful and enjoyable event.

4.3 Employment and Business: No new matters reported.

4.4 Roads and Traffic:

Response received from Highways Agency re safety of A590 stated that a report was due during July which should address safety issues. Information had been passed to Witherslack & Meathop PC.

Clerk had spoken to the Highways Maintenance Team leader who said that no visits to parishes were scheduled ('they were still playing catch up'). However he would be pleased to meet with reps of PC to

go over identified maintenance requirements. 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 and M L Dobson volunteered to do so, walking the roads and producing a task list.. Clerk would arrange a meeting with the Team leader when the information was available. **Action: CCS, MLD, Clerk**

4.5 Community Web site; Query from Webmaster re advert for taxi service. It was agreed that large scale adverts were not appropriate but a notice could be inserted in the business directory section of the website. Clerk to advise webmaster accordingly. **Action: Clerk**

Broadband: Email received from CALC asking for a nominations for Parish Champion(s) to join SL Broadband Board. It was agreed to ask John Sceal (webmaster) to fill this role – M Harkness agreed to contact him. (deadline for response 5th August) **Action: MH, Clerk**

4.6 First Responders: J Holmes reported that the FRs were buying addition defibs from their own resources but would need to ask the PC, in due course, for a contribution towards the final total of 20/25 defibs at £700 each. This would probably be next year – although that might fall within the current 2011/12 financial year. – see also discussion on budgets, para 8, below.

4.7 Crime & Disorder: May newsletter received and circulated; which included reports on thefts in Crosthwaite. Email received asking for feedback re satisfaction with police contacts. It was felt that the PC could not reasonably demand that the Rural Police Team should attend PC meetings since crime in the parish was minimal or non existent. Clerk to respond accordingly. **Action: Clerk**

5. GOVERNANCE

5.1 South Westmorland LAP: Next Meeting 26th July: J Bownass and J Holmes commented:

Two Valleys LAP: Although the Chair was prepared to discuss the outstanding (2009) proposal with SLDC, there was no expectation that it would be accepted due to cost, organisational (and political?) constraints.

New Projects/Action Plan: PCs have been asked to put up a wish list of projects for inclusion in the plan There would be new criteria and forms for applications (not yet received). No fresh projects were identified by the PC during discussion.

Restoration of bus service 541: Clerk had received and paid an invoice from CCC fro £100 as PC contribution. Clerk had raised issue of insufficient capacity on the bus. Response from CCC to say that they had raised the matter with Lecks, requesting a larger vehicle but no action had been taken yet . ('owners away').

Funding: amounts and issues to be clarified at the next meeting.

5.2 S Lakeland Strategic Partnership: J Holmes reported that he had been in contact with the (new) Partnership which was in the process of developing a new Community Strategy to give it a more local focus, involving parish and LAP representation. It was noted that the original SLSP had been instrumental in setting up the current LAP structure, but the future responsibilities on the new partnership were unclear. J Holmes to keep a watching brief.

6. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 CALC SL Notes from meeting 9th June in Kendal). (MLD unable to attend) Noted and circulated

6.2 CCC Neighbourhood Forum Report from J Bownass re meeting of 9th June at Dallam School.

6.3 Cumbria CVS: Local Forum (SL) Agenda for meeting 13th July. Noted and circulated

6.4 Planning for Low Carbon living: Invitation to free training course Newton Rigg 28th July. **Noted.**

6.5 SLDC – Parking services consultation: 6th July to 25th Sept on line questionnaire.

J Holmes asked for councillors to respond – clerk to forward the email and attachment. It was felt that this consultation would have no significant effect – e.g. Q11 asks for preferences from a series of options, none of which was really acceptable!
Action: Clerk

7. PLANNING MATTER

Permissions granted, none.

New applications , none

Correspondence re Howfell Cottage – LDNPA confirm that the change to design/orientation of the gable end was at the request of the new owner – and not imposed by the planners.

Clerk was asked to check on the current status of Rickatree Foot as it was still being used as holiday accommodation – complaints received.

8 FINANCES (Since last meeting)

Income:	NSI interest (March)	£ 9.86
	Quarterly charity donations	£294.54
Expenditure approved:	CCC, contribution to service 541	£100.00

2011/12 Budget: Clerk tabled an updated budget. This showed that normal expenses set against a total income of £4600 would leave just over £200 for grants – normally given to Air Ambulance and CAB. Additional grants to First Responders and L&W Drainage Group would create a loss on the year, which would have to be met from reserves.

After some discussion it was agreed to consider each application for grants on its merits as and when it arose.

9. Property

Parish Room: Clerk had written to Snooker Club and had some verbal response – he had invited reps to attend this PC meeting to discuss sharing work on the Room but no one was present. It was agreed to continue to press for c£4 per night as a reasonable contribution to the costs of maintaining the Room and providing electricity.
Action: Clerk

Quarries:

Ulverston Road: Agreement signed @ £25pa.

Bowling Green Field / Jubilee Wood; Clerk had obtained information from The Woodland Trust which confirmed that advice, trees and some funding was available. However there had been no response from the insert in Two Valleys mag asking for interested parties. There was no enthusiasm in the PC for continuing with the scheme without public support – reconsider at the next meeting

9 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC; None

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS;

Clapper Bridge at Bowling Green Field had been reported as cracked; Clerk had advised the LDNPA ranger service who had closed the bridge for 21 days, hoping to repair in that time (at their cost).

Date of next Monthly Meeting: Thursday 4th August 2011 at 7.30pm, at the Parish Room.

GP 25/07/11