

Minutes of the Meeting of Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Council held on 26th March 2009

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

In Attendance: Mr G Pitt (Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES Cllr R Ballantyne-Smith (SLDC). Mr J Bownass **Cllr J Bland (CCC)**

2. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES – none..

3. MINUTES of the meeting held on 26th February 2009 (already circulated) were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Re 7.3 CALC SL district meeting 7th March. Attended by Chairman and Clerk. Presentation by the Land Registry interesting but added nothing to existing experience.

5. PARISH PLAN – PROGRESS REPORTS

5.1 Housing Survey questionnaires collected and returned to CRHT in November for initial analysis. Still no report from CRHT on the affordable housing aspects due to pressure of work. Mary Harkness and Gordon Pitt tabled an initial assessment of the personal data extracted from the questionnaire. This would be refined and used to produce a report which could be used as an addendum to the CRHT report as well as ‘stand alone’.

CRHT had sent a list of all references to sites made in the returned questionnaires for comment. Many references were vague/ill defined. Housing sub group should review and comment. **Action MH/GP**

5.2 Community Events: No further action.

5.3 Employment and Business: No further action. .

5.4 Roads and Traffic:

The additional road gang, reported on at the last meeting had carried out repairs to some road surfaces up to end March. The patching was of better quality than previously but many potholes remain – particularly on the lower sections of the A5074. Clerk to check with John Handley and to write to the Highways authority if necessary. **Action: Clerk.**

5.5 Community Web site; Still growing with more content and contributors. The PC agreed to cover the £50 cost of an additional hard disc for the web administrator (John Sceal) as backing up the increasingly large website was causing problems.

5.6 First Responders: Good progress. Training had started. Neighbourhood forum had allocated some funds (£1000) towards set up costs. More funding was required towards annual running costs..

6. GOVERNANCE

6.1 SL Strategic Partnership – Locality Working - Consultation document:

The Chairman and Clerk had attended a CALC conference on locality working on 28th February with workshops on the consultation document; feedback from the conference was tabled and circulated. It was clear that the SL Strategic partnership (CCC SLDC CALC) intended to impose some form of LAPs in response to Government pressure to make local government more effective and accountable. The attendees at the conference remained sceptical about the effectiveness of these proposals and were concerned about the longer term effect on the future of parish councils. Recognising that opting out of this process would be counter productive, a meeting with other parish councils (Two Valleys) had been called for 31st March to discuss their views and to see if a proposal for a LAP based on the Two Valleys grouping was appropriate. The PC approved of these steps and agreed to support proposals for a Two Valleys LAP if there was a consensus among those attending the meeting on 31st March.

6.2 Twinning (with La Pomarede, France)

The clerk had made contact with La Pomarede via email and they were still interested. Clerk had contacted Crosthwaite CE School and had received a positive response. Councillors were asked to consider what other benefits might come from a twinning arrangement. **Action: All**

7. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 LDNPA/EA – Conference 18-21 May: To consider social, economic and environmental issues in the Lakes. Prestigious speakers but costs for non residents were £120 +VAT per day. A subsequent letter had been received offering access to funding for PCs who cannot afford the fees! PC considered this still to be irrelevant and too expensive.

7.2 LDNPA re Parish Council tours: ‘Seeing is Believing’: Invitation for 11th or 17th September. (Letter to run into Lakes Parish meeting but conflicted with a PC meeting) Two representatives were invited – form was circulated for volunteers to complete.

7.3 CCC Environment – Landscape Character Guidance & Toolkit on line survey: Due 20th March –too late!

7.4 CCC Local Transport Plan 2006-11, 2008 Update: Noted and circulated

7.5 Cumbria Highways – Grants for Bus Shelters: Letter asking for confirmation of current record showing an outstanding request ‘adjacent to public toilets’. Clerk to write. **Action Clerk**

7.6 CCC Cumbria Minerals & Waste Development Framework : Notice of work on site allocation policies and proposals map. No sites relevant to C&L – noted and circulated.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

Grant of Planning Permission

7/2008/5527; Replacement of extensions to Mirk Howe for Mr R Rose.

New applications

7/2009/5082; Porch extension to High Barn Lyth for Mr & Mrs J Mitchell – no objection.

8 FINANCES (Since last meeting)

Income: NSI interest (March) £ 21.87

Expenditure approved: Parish Clerk fees, postage & petty cash spend £ 546.01

WI for Neighbourhood Forum catering £ 6.00

CALC subs for 2009/10 (due 1st April) £ 155.50

Draft Annual Accounts: Tabled by the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer..

The Accounts showed a small surplus of £65 after allowing for spend of residual Parish Plan grant brought forward from the previous year. Interest receipts in the last quarter had dropped significantly.

Revised budget 2009/10: Tabled by the Clerk

The revised budget reflected the effect of reduced interest rates arising from the current financial crisis. However this was largely offset by the increased precept (£1500) and the budget showed an overall result close to breakeven. The revised budget was approved by the PC

BDO (Auditors) Local Council briefing: The PC is required to approve the Annual Return by 30th June 2009 which should not be a problem. In their notes on key issues BDO comments that uncommitted reserves should not exceed one year’s costs (cf current reserves at £12000 = approx 4x current spend.) Excessive reserves are to be explained in the notes to the accounts.

9 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC None

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS;

A draft annual report for year ending 31st March 2009 was tabled and approved.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 16th April 2009

GP 31st March 2009