

Minutes of the Meeting of Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Council held on 24th June 2010

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

In Attendance Cllr J Bland (CCC), Mr G Pitt (Clerk), Mike Fell (Project Officer, Environment Agency)

1. **APOLOGIES**, Mr D T Dobson, Mr M.J.Dobson, Cllr R Ballantyne-Smith (SLDC)
2. **MINUTES** of the meeting held on 19th May 2010 (already circulated) were approved subject to the replacement of Paula Adams, LDNPA for Lucy Reynolds, SLDC in item 4.1. The minutes were then signed.
3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (not covered elsewhere in this agenda)**
re: 8 Finances – Parish Room Income/Snooker Club: No further progress. There had been some informal contacts re the possible use for a Flower Festival in July 2011, but this would require a degree of tidying up of the Parish Room. (see also 4.2 below)

re: 4.4. Winter Gritting etc: Chairman & Clerk had responded with relevant details and suggestions re additional bins. No response yet. It was reported that Cartmell Fell PC had purchased bins on their own account. Cllr Bland commented that Keith Masser (CCC) was willing to provide additional bins and grit heaps when asked. Clerk was asked to reiterate additions included them the above return. **Action: CI**

re: 6.5: Environment Agency – Lyth Valley Drainage: Clerk had written to EA and a number of councillors had attended meeting at Gilpin Bridge. Mike Fell had agreed to meet PC to discuss and provide more detail of their plans.(see 3a below). A CD copy of the full consultant's report had been provided. Clerk had extracted and printed sections relevant to Lyth Valley (circulated) See also 3a.

re: 10: Bowling Green Field: Councillors had visited the site before this meeting and agreed that the immediate requirement was to arrange some grazing to clear the overgrown rough grass. C Smith agreed to contact Marcus Knipe to see if he was prepared to put some of his stock onto the land. It was also agreed that the future use of the area should be put on a future agenda as a specific item. **Action: Clerk**

3a Environment Agency – Briefing on Lyth Valley Drainage Proposals by Mike Fell

M Fell restated the Agency's constraints in respect of funding and priorities for flood prevention. The Agency had commissioned a consultant's report on the options open to them within those constraints, and has decided on the report's option 3. Under this option the Agency will shut down 3 out of 5 existing pumping stations in 2012 whilst still maintaining the rivers and main arterial low level drains; the Levens catchment pump will remain in commission to protect property and the pumping station at at Ulpha will be retained. at least until 2013. as a means of maintaining the outflow of the low level system should the need arise.

Given this decision, landowners/users in the Lyth Valley had only two options left:

- a) To live with the decision as stated, applying pressure on the Agency to continue to maintain the low level system in the face of any further financial limitations. The effect would be that any future flooding would see surface water lying for much longer than the current few days – implying that more land would become effectively waterlogged for longer.
- b) To set up a Local Drainage Board for the valley which would take over the management and maintenance of all the (3?) pumping stations while the Agency continued to maintain the low level system. This could maintain the status quo but would involve much organisation and cost.

In both options, landowners would be responsible for maintenance of minor drains and culverts carrying water to the main drains as at present under the Agency's post 2007 commitments.

The Parish Council discussed these options at length. They concluded that they were not competent to make recommendations at this time but would support any conclusions reached by the Lyth Valley Drainage Group set up by Cllr J Bland and others when they had examined the situation in more detail./ Mr Fell was thanked for attending the meeting and providing detailed facts and comments.

4. PARISH PLAN – PROGRESS REPORTS

4.1 Housing: The Clerk had copied the SPD to all councillors and had passed comments to LDNPA by the response dateline of 15th June. The LDF Core Strategy examination (5th – 14th May) had resulted in some suggested changes to submitted the document one of which expands policy CS18 – much of which is already reflected in original SPD of 28th April.. Comments invited by 12th July. **Action Clerk**
A letter from the inspector (of the submitted Core Strategy) had been received re the implications of national policy changes – in particular the abolishment of Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) and changes to definitions in PPS3 could affect policies and proposals in the submitted Core Strategy. Comments invited by 12th July. PC felt that this was a technical matter and were unable to comment.
MH had arranged a meeting with the Landowners of Crosthwaite & Lyth and Andy Lloyd to discuss the role of Community Land Trusts in meeting housing needs (eg Witherslack). The object was to establish the Landowners' attitude to forming the basis of a CLT in the Parish, should the need arise. At this stage the Landowners were reluctant to consider supporting such a proposal. Hence the way forward in the short term is to support our current organic /ad hoc approach to local needs applications.

4.2 Community Events:

Open Gardens Ramble: Excellent event – good financial return.

Flower Festival 2011: Preliminary ideas for a flower festival involving Church and Parish Room with teas etc in the Village Hall. (NB Would require Parish Room to be cleaned/repainted!.) Ref Yvonne Sharp and Rev Woodcock..

4.3 Employment and Business: No further action.

4.4 Roads and Traffic:

CCC Highways – Solar powered 20mph signs installed protecting School approaches..

- Request for 'Caution children playing' sign on approaches to Row.. **Action: Clerk**

4.5 Community Web site; No change

4.6 First Responders: Plenty of activity; Witherslack & Winster...

4.7 Crime & Disorder: The standard monthly report covering the Kent Estuary area had not been received at the time of the meeting.

MC reported on a car abandoned at Fellside; the owner had been identified. No action necessary at this time.

4.8 Recycling of Plastic Waste: The Chairman, M Dobson had advised PC and members of the public that he could no longer sustain the effort needed to keep up with the flow of domestic plastic into the collecting point at the Memorial Hall. He had applied to the authorities for a permanent skip and regular collections but had been advised that they could not afford to amend the current contract schedules. The Clerk had since written to the SLDC manager responsible and the portfolio holder requesting that they review that advice. No response had been received to date.

5. Governance

5.1 SL Strategic Partnership – Local Area Partnership: The next meeting had been held on 12th May in Preston Patrick village hall. There were no attendees from Crosthwaite & Lyth Minutes had been received showing that 8 parishes were represented.. Apart from LAP Governance the main issue discussed with Keith Masser was road maintenance (potholes and gully cleaning). Under AOB a query had been raised re the use of LAP funds to buy/install additional salt bins. J Bland commented that additional bins could be obtained by application to Keith Masser. **Action: Clerk**

6. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 SLDC consultation on New Leadership Arrangements: SLDC required to make a choice between: Leader and Cabinet (much as now) or Elected Mayor and cabinet with separately elected Mayor whp cannot be voted out by Council. Comments by 17th August.

6.2 LDNPA 'The Partnership Plan': Summary already circulated – full document available Comments required by 2nd July.

6.3 LDNPA Listed Building Condition Survey: Notice of inspection in the coming months.

6.4 CALC (SL) Meeting on 17th June. No attendees. Noted.

6.5 Big Lottery Fund – Community Wildlife Programme: A notice re grants available for community projects. No such projects in hand at this time. Noted.

6.6 Post Office – Bowland Bridge: Notice re service re opening through hosted service at the Hare & Hounds, Tues & Thurs 14.00 to 16.30...Noted with relief

6.7 SLDC – Register of Financial & Other Interests: All councillors had received and returned forms confirming no change to current interests.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

Permissions granted: - noted

7/2009/5623: Wooden cabin as classroom for Crosthwaite CE School

7/2010/5065: Conversion of barn at Greenbank Farm for Mr J Crompton.

7/2010/3114: Ménage near Gilpin Cottage for Mr P Smith.

New application – no objection

7/2010/5227: Extension at Brackenrigg for Mr & Mrs B Fife.

8 FINANCES (Since last meeting)

Income:	NSI interest (May)	£ 15.00
	Refund from Garden Ramble project	£ 123.75
	SLDC – 2010/11 precept	£1750.00

Expenditure approved:	AON for insurance	£ 585.95
	Cumbria Playing Fields Assocn	£ 15.50

9 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC;

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS;

MH reported that the telephone box at the Old Post Office had been damaged by a crashing motor cycle (rider unhurt). She suggested that BT be advised of the damage if they were not already informed.

Action: Clerk

Date of next monthly Meeting: Thursday 15th July 2010 at 7.30pm.

GP 28/06/10