

Minutes of the Meeting of Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Council held on 14th October 2010

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

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

1. APOLOGIES, Mr C Smith, Mr M J Dobson, Mr D T Dobson, Cllr J Bland (CCC)

It was noted that Cllr Rosie Ballantyne Smith (SLDC) had resigned for personal reasons and a vote of thanks for her attendance and support was recorded.

2. MINUTES of the meeting held on 16th September 2010 (already circulated) were approved.

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

re: Winter Gritting etc: Keith Masser's report and recommendations had gone forward to CCC Cabinet but no response as yet. Funds for additional bins are unlikely to be available given current financial cut backs. Clerk had written to SWLAP administrator to suggest that grit bins be put forward as a project for use of LAP funds (as suggested by J Bland). The response was no – as being already covered by Keith Masser's report.

re: Environment Agency – Lyth Valley Drainage: L&WLDG still working on setting up an internal drainage board and the costs and charges involved. Conclusions to be presented to a public meeting shortly. Meanwhile the EA had agreed to reinstate the Pool Bridge pumping station in response to pressure from the group and others.

re: Bowling Green Field: No movement

re: 10. NHI Treatment; Response received from CEO of the Morecambe Bay University Hospitals Trust, confirming that the new fast track CT and thrombolysis (clot busting) treatment would be available from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. The out of hours Telestroke service, accessing remote clinical advice leading to thrombolysis is still under development (due end 2010?). Clerk to seek confirmation of the availability of this service

re: Neighbourhood Forum: MLD, JB and Clerk had attended a meeting in Brigsteer's new village hall JB had bid for money to fund two way radios for the hall and other events and was allocated £500

re: 6.3 CALC Conference – The Big Society. No feed back yet.

4. PARISH PLAN – PROGRESS REPORTS

4.1 Housing:

M Harkness reported no further movement in dealings with Manchester Grammar School over their possible development adjacent to St Mary's Green.

The Clerk had arranged an informal meeting of the Housing WP, (MH, MC and J Holmes) with Ben Long, LDNPA planner, to discuss the National Park's policies and concerns about the approach to possible developments in the Parish. Mr Long commented that there were possible development sites in the village he might accept as exception sites – i.e. sites which include a significant number of affordable and intermediate homes – including the MGS land.

It emerged that other discussions were being held with the planners about the possible development of another site within the village – on land owned by a local farming family. However he was unable to provide further information as an application had not yet been received, but as an exception site, provision for a number of affordable homes would need to be included in the plan.

The Housing WP had re-iterated to Mr Long its opposition to intensive affordable housing development on a single site, pointing out that this would not meet the housing needs identified in the Parish Survey.

[It was agreed that the PC should discuss this possible development without the presence of the Chairman due to a clear conflict of interest. Mr Dobson accepted this, declaring a personal interest (his son Stephen Dobson owns the land in question) and left the room.]

MH informed the PC that she had been contacted by Nathan Dobson who had been in discussions with LDNPA about developing some land belonging to the family.

A wide ranging discussion ensued. Key issues discussed were:

- The LDNPA's contention that any development on an 'exception site' must involve the building of blocks of affordable (social) housing is of great concern to the PC. This runs contrary to the Council's stated aims of supporting the piecemeal, distributed approach to developing affordable /intermediate housing that has been our model all along and that is described in the Housing Needs Survey. The associated problems of SLDC's Housing Waiting List criteria means that developments in the Parish may be used to meet the (affordable) needs of wider communities. In addition intensive block development would not in fact meet the Parish's needs, and could cause problems as seen in the existing Two Castles property.
- Would the approval of either development effectively remove the justification of our current piecemeal policy? This needs to be resolved with LDNPA
- The Council recognised that it could not make any formal representations until detailed application(s) are put before LDNPA planners. This in turn raised questions as to whether the applications would be put forward together or in sequence, in which latter case comparisons would not be possible.
- This will be a contentious situation and the Council will need to take note of all opinions within the Parish to ensure that they are fairly represented. It was agreed that until there was concrete information about one or both possible sites, further work to consult with parishioners was presumptive as no applications had yet been made.
- Because of their family connections with one development and the competitive nature of the other, it was agreed that Messrs Matthew, Daniel and Michael Dobson would be expected to declare personal and prejudicial interests in both developments and to withdraw from any substantive discussions on this issue.

[Mr M Dobson rejoined the meeting as Chairman at this point].

4.2 Community Events: No new matters reported.

4.3 Employment and Business: No new matters reported.

4.4 Roads and Traffic:

Signs on Row Lane (Children playing): Clerk had initial estimate of £50 for simple signs and would now liaise with Paula Cross re wording and siting. **Action: Clerk**

MLD had provided the Highway Steward with info and photos of blocked drains. He would maintain an ongoing contact with the Highway Steward.

4.5 Community Web site; 4.6 First Responders: No Change

4.7 Crime & Disorder: 12 month crime statistics for Lyth Valley to October tabled .plus parish profile as held by police. Circulated.

5. Governance

5.1 SL Strategic Partnership – Local Area Partnership:

Next meeting to be held at Heron Cornmill on 20th October. Clerk will be away but JB to attend.

Following the minutes of the previous meeting, Clerk had been in contact with Judith Quigley re Grit Bins (see above) and contacts with 2 Valleys parishes.

5.2 Training Needs: No response from PC members, hence no bookings required.

6. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 CALC – Boundary Commission – Electoral Review.. No comments made.

6.2 CALC – October Newsletter – Circulated. Reference made to 'Right to Build' policy, requiring only 75% majority support rather than original 90%.

6.3 SLDC – Papers for next meeting of the Standards Committee: For info in the light of current govt proposals to disband the current Standards Board regime.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

Permissions granted: - noted

7/2010/5305 – Store at Howe Lodge for Mr J Trotter

7/2010/5354 – Extensions at Haycote Barn for Mr Findlater

New application – no objection

7/2010/5413 – Extension to Owl Bank Barn, Row, Lyth for Mr & Mrs Hugh.

The complaint about Beck Cottage/Rickatree Foot; no further news from LDNPA compliance group.

8 FINANCES (Since last meeting)

Income:	NSI interest (August)	£ 12.61
	Argles Memorial Hall	£ 75.00

Expenditure approved:	Hackney and Leigh for valuations	£ 176.50
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Half year accounts and year end forecast, as presented at the September meeting, were formally approved.

Parish Room registration: Clerk reported that he had carried out the necessary searches and obtained a fresh valuation for insurance purposes which would also be acceptable to the Land Registry. He could now complete the necessary application forms for the Land Registry. It would also be necessary to advise the Council's insurers of an increase in valuation from £96,500 to £125,000. **Action Clerk**

Quarries. Clerk reported that he had advised both Mr Dobson and Mr Sharp of the PCs decision on sale of quarries. He had not yet done any work on raising new tenancy agreements. **Action: Clerk**

Snooker Club: Clerk was asked start negotiations with the Club to set a fresh rent agreement and to establish how the electricity charges/meter usage are handled. **Action: Clerk**

9 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC;

None.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS;

Date of next monthly Meeting: Thursday 18th November 2010 at 7.30pm.

GP 02/11/10