

Minutes of the Meeting of Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Council held on 29th September 2011

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

2 **Membership: Resignations and recruitment**

M J Dobson had moved but remained in the locality hence he need not retire. No action was necessary under this heading.

3. **MINUTES** of the meeting held on 1st September 2011 (already circulated) were approved.

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

Re ‘Seeing is Believing’ – LDNPA Parish Tour.

There were four attendees (J Bownass, M L Dobson, M Casson and G Pitt)

J Bownass and M Casson reported that the tour took in Staveley (Hawkshead Brewery), Bowness (Steamboat Museum) and Brockhole (LDNPA Visitor Centre). The tour was essentially a PR exercise but did give useful insights into the plans of the LDNPA – particularly on plans to develop the eastern shore of Windermere and facilities at Brockhole.

5. **Lyth and Winster Drainage Group (LWDG) - Issues and actions**

There was a full and frank discussion of the issues arising out of the work of the Drainage Group.

J Bownass was particularly concerned that recent reports and public talk were creating a divisive situation in the village and he hoped that sensible discussion would reduce tensions.

J Bland restated the current situation;

- The Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) had been commissioned by the Environment Agency (EA) to draw up guidelines for the formation of Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs). This had been a long drawn out process and had delayed the time at which LWDG could make firm proposals.
- LWDG would complete proposals for an IDB in the Lyth & Winster area using those guidelines when available – until that happens it would not be possible to specify all the details of the IDB’s responsibilities and powers .
- The proposals would be put out to public consultation under the management of the EA. The consultation period would be approximately six weeks, possibly starting in early November.
- If the consultation does not establish majority support from those groups, organisation and individuals who will be expected to contribute to the IDB, then it cannot be implemented.

J Bland also explained (for the benefit of the members of the public) the background to the LWDG , arising from the government cutbacks, changed responsibilities of the EA and their use of consultants to identify/justify a drainage policy involving switching off pumps.

In the subsequent discussion the following key points were raised/made:

:M Harkness pointed out that there was no legal obligation on the LWDG to form an IDB.

She also wished to make it clear that she was not against an IDB per se but considered that she had every right as an individual and as a Parish Councillor representing all parishioners, to lobby against the setting up of an IDB which could levy charges on all householders in the catchment area. She was concerned that a round picture had not been presented to the PC and her actions had helped to bring more information into the open.

:J Bownass asked who would pay for the consultation and was advised that it would be the EA.

J Bland and J Holmes were pressed on the consultation process, in particular on its scope and their commitment to the end result. J Holmes felt that much of the information was in the public domain and he was happy to circulate, to the PC, a draft consultation plan produced by the EA which demonstrated the scope of the process. They confirmed that the final decision on the results of the consultation process would be made by the EA, not the LWDG.

Members of the public were invited to comment. Their main concerns were:

:There had been a general lack of information on what was being considered and how it might affect local inhabitants. J Bland accepted that the LDWG had very little ability to communicate with locals, except through public meetings (two in the last year). He did point out that Parish Councils had been kept informed and the Clerk confirmed that the minutes reflected that.

:The consultation process could be flawed and/or manipulated to give whatever answer was required. Their perception was that without a referendum the IDB could be steamrollered through. JH referred to the earlier item on consultation.

:The boundaries of the catchment area will be defined by the LWDG and will be spread so as to minimise the cost per household. J Bland stated that the criteria for defining catchment area boundaries would be defined within the ADA guidelines and would not be the responsibility of LWDG.

The PC agreed that should place a statement in the Two Valleys Magazine to clarify its position in respect of LWDG and the proposed IDB. The Clerk tabled a statement which was approved after minor amendments – namely:

‘The Parish Council’s current position is that, having received regular reports from the Drainage Group, some of the proposals under discussion give cause for concern – in particular the possible distribution of charges through the precept system. However the PC will reserve judgement until such time as government guidelines on setting up a new Internal Drainage Board are available and the Drainage Group’s initial proposals have been prepared. At this stage there will be extensive public consultation before final decisions are made. The PC will participate fully in these consultations and will do its best to represent the views of the inhabitants of Crosthwaite and Lyth. The Drainage Group have made it clear that without the proven support of the groups, individuals and organisations expected to contribute to it, a proposal for an IDB cannot go ahead.’

6. PARISH PLAN – PROGRESS REPORTS

6.1 Housing:

LDNPA/LDF are running a series of Public consultations on the Land Development Plan Document which shows land allocations and usage. There will be a drop-in presentation in Crosthwaite village hall on 13th October - councillors will attend individually. The only land allocated for affordable housing is that owned by MGS behind St Mary’s Green.

Neighbourhood Planning Pilots;

SLDC had circulated all parishes inviting applications from interested neighbourhoods to act as pilots LDNPA had already set up pilots in Coniston and Torver – apparently without any significant consultation. J Holmes had provided some back up paperwork on these pilots.

It was agreed that the PC should pursue the possibility of joining in with the main scheme, as and when it went ahead. The HNS would provide a good evidence base for defining a neighbourhood planning policy.

M Harkness expressed her interest in continuing to pursue this and any other housing issues. The Clerk was asked to forward copies of the relevant papers to her. **Action: Clerk**

6.2 Roads and Traffic:

Highways Authority re A590/A5074 junction - still awaiting report on A590 security.

Team Scheduled Visit wc 19th Sept; Highways

M L Dobson reported that 2 people had turned up but for only four days and even then had been dragged away by telephone to higher priority. The net result was ineffective and very little of the specified work was completed. Clerk was asked to convey the PC's dissatisfaction with the result. **Action: Clerk** J Holmes would also raise the issue of ineffectiveness in the next LAP meeting.

Winter Gritting Contract – progress report

M Casson tabled a written report on a recent meeting to establish the 'South Westmorland Village Maintenance Association' to place and manage contracts for the winter gritting of secondary roads in the parishes of Brigsteer, Crook, Crosthwaite and Lyth, Hincaster, Underbarrow and Witherslack. He had been elected as Chairman and J Holmes as Secretary/Treasurer.

A formal constitution had been prepared and participating PC's reps were being asked to sign copies on behalf of their PCs, committing them to the terms and objects of the Association... The agreement was signed by M Casson and the Chairman on behalf of the PC.

The SWLAP had allocated £5000 to the work of the Association which should cover at least six gritting sessions for all parishes. Individual parishes had allocated additional funds (eg C&L additional precept of £1000) which could be used to cover local requirements within each if/as necessary.

John Holmes was congratulated and thanked for getting the gritting organisation up and running.

Safe Routes to School

J Bownass and M Harkness reported that they had met with the SWLAP representative and CCC staff to discuss danger points on the routes to school through the village. J Bownass has put together video evidence of narrow roads and traffic hazards. – (Witherslack had shown interest in have similar video evidence produced to support their work on Safe Routes to School). M Harkness currently holds the paper and video evidence preparatory to a meeting with CCC. Hopefully this would be followed by a site visit and should form the basis of an assessment to be prepared by the Area Engineer – it is likely that the assessment will be extended to cover all safety issues on the stretches of roads concerned... They were thanked for the work done to date and the PC were happy for both of them to continue to pursue the issue with LAP and CCC.

6.3 Broadband:

The SL Regional BB Board meeting date now set as 10th October. (J Sceal as PC rep)

J Holmes had provided some information on the Grange and Cartmel Broadband Group whose next meeting was set for 17th October.

6.4 First Responders.

Funding for additional units was still required. J Holmes thanked the PC for the £300 contribution agreed at the last meeting.

6.5 Crime & Disorder Sept newsletter had been received and was circulated. (nil retuen).;

Two CSO policewomen had visited the Exchange on Wed 27th and were working towards a drop-in point at future exchanges (Monthly?)

7. GOVERNANCE

7.1 South Westmorland LAP: Next meeting Wed October 19th

7.2 Boundary Commission proposed changes to constituencies.

The proposed changes involved re-assigning the Lyth Valley ward to a new constituency stretching up to the West Coast of Cumbria. It was agreed that this proposal made no sense in terms of established relationships and logistics – the proposal seemed simply to be based on a desire to even up the numbers in each constituency irrespective.

It was agreed that the Clerk should respond to the consultation on behalf of the PC and individual councillors should also do so on their own behalf

Action: All

8. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 CALC – Invitation to AGM 12th November

8.2 LDNPA Partnership, Parish Forum 24th October

8.3 CCC– Fire & Rescue services: Correspondence from Cabinet Member and Chairman. The latter was intended to reassure the populace that the centralised call out system would use the same (established) technology as the centralised Ambulance service, which was operating successfully. Noted

8.4 Cumbria Police Authority: Independent Custody Visiting scheme. Request for volunteer visitors to check on conditions in police station cells. Circulated.

8.5 CALC/Village SOS fund. Invitation for applications from Rural Businesses for funding under this scheme. Noted and circulated

9. PLANNING MATTER

Permissions granted, none

Footpath Order confirmed diversion of 514206 at Town End.

New applications , no objections

7/2011/5459; Broad Acre Extension and alterations for Mr & Mrs Sumner.

7/2011/5480; Low Yews Crosthwaite Oak framed orangery extension for Mr Crossley

10 FINANCES (Since last meeting)

Income:	NSI interest (June)	£ 9.85
	Income from Charities (Quarterly)	£294.50
	Income from quarry agreements	£125.50
Expenditure approved	G Pitt Clerks fees (1st half)	£500.00
	ICO, data protection registration fee	£ 35.00

NB Eon dispute is now settled (back to 2002) – PC now in credit of £860.92 (approx £100pa)

PAYE registration done -. starter pack received – first return due October.

11. Property

Parish Room: An offer of £3 per night had been received from the snooker club. The offer was accepted.

Action: Clerk

Bowling Green Field: Repairs on the clapper bridge due to be carried out 29/30th Sept.

12 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC; None

12.1 D Blair (member of the public) asked if the PC had made any progress towards setting up a Jubilee Wood – a proposal which he had initiated. The Clerk reported that he had made contact with the Woodland Trust and established that they would support such a project with advice and trees but not with cash. An initial notice in the Two Valleys magazine had not generated any volunteers so the PC had regretfully allowed the proposal to lapse.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS;

13.1 GPO Phone box. J Holmes reported on an exchanges of letters with the GPO re necessary repairs to the call box adjacent to the Old Post Office. The end result was that the GPO would not repair the box and, as the box had not been used for some time, the would give (90 days) notice of its removal. The PC was not inclined to protest against this decision.

Date of next Monthly Meeting: Thursday 3rd November 2011 at 7.30pm.at the Parish Room.