

Minutes of the Meeting of Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Council held on 3rd November 2011

PRESENT: Messrs M L Dobson (Chair), C Smith, M Casson, , M J Dobson, Ms M Harkness
15 members of the public.

In Attendance: Cllr J Holmes (SLDC), part time; Mr G Pitt (Clerk).

- 1. APOLOGIES:** Mr D.T Dobson, Cllr J Bland (CCC) PCSO Jessica Bullock.
- 2. MINUTES** of the meeting held on 29th September 2011 (already circulated) were approved.
- 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (not covered elsewhere in this agenda)**

**4. LYTH AND WINSTER LAND DRAINAGE GROUP (LWLDG)
now South Cumbria Water Level Management Group (SCWLMG)**

The Chairman stated his intention to delay this item in order to allow for the arrival of Cllr J Holmes from a Neighbourhood Forum meeting in Levens. M Harkness requested that the item be taken in its proper place in the agenda. However the item was delayed but was started before Cllr Holmes' arrival. In Cllr Holmes's absence the Clerk summarised his understanding of the current situation as:

* A pre release copy of the long awaited EA/ADA feasibility study had been provided to SCWLMG at the end of the previous week. M Harkness had distributed e-copies of this report widely in the last few days. A final copy of the report would be put on the EA consultation web site for Monday 7th Nov.

The report defines the lengthy process of creating an IDB and describes two options for identifying Drainage Board boundaries – one based on Flood level boundaries and the second on catchment area boundaries. Overall costs based on EA past experiences are also provided in the report..

* SCWLMG had issued a press release which indicates their preference for option 2, with differential levies and provides initial estimates for the various levy rates.

* EA would run their consultation from 7th November to 19th December by e-consultation on their web site supported by public meetings/drop-in sessions. Other publicity would be by posters and through all PCs. The primary purpose of the consultation would be to establish the level of community support for an IDB.

The PC agreed that councillors would participate in the consultation process as individuals and then decide on the PC's collective response at their next meeting on Dec 1st, based on their experiences and feed back from parishioners.

The members of the public present were invited to join in open discussion, during which Cllr Holmes arrived. Key issues raised/discussed were:

* There was a general concern that an e-consultation would exclude people without the ability to access the internet and that EA's planned levels of publicity would not necessarily get through to a sufficient majority of people to make the consultation meaningful. J Holmes stated that the Group would place information in the (Dec) parish magazine explaining the consultation process, the estimated costings and advising people how to make a manual response when they had no internet access. M Harkness proposed that the PC should also write to all C&L parishioners drawing their attention to the consultation and the issues involved. PC agreed and the Clerk agreed to help with this, pointing out that the content would depend on the scope of information to be provided by the Board.. In addition the PC would expect to see and approve the material before circulation. **Action: MH, Clerk**

* There was also a concern that a six week consultation period from a cold start was not long enough to ensure a good 'turn out' and the Group was asked to request an extension from EA to beyond the New Year. J Holmes agreed to take that request forward to EA.

* An RSPB rep (Mr Horner) explained that the Society was not necessarily against the IDB but it was looking to increase the area of wetland habitat across the proposed IDB area. He pointed out that alternative income streams (eg HLS) were available to farmers even if the IDB fell through.

* There appeared to be no clear statement of benefits to people outside the drainage benefit area which could justify the levies they would have to pay under the IDB.

J Holmes reiterated that the current consultation was only the first round and was aimed primarily at assessing community support for the proposed IDB. If sufficient support was evident then the next stage would be to develop a full and detailed proposal. This would be a complex process requiring the use of consultants. A further round of public consultation would take place before any proposals were put to the EA and the relevant minister.

* At this stage M Harkness queried the validity of using public money for this purpose, stating that the Group had already received £40,000 of public money and that she assumed that (some of) this money had been spent on consultants to get the Group to where it now was.

J Holmes replied that no money had been spent on consultants to date and that he did not recognise the figure of £40,000. The only public money received by the Board to date was the £1250 from 5 local parishes in 2010. He would verify what other sums had been committed.

NB1: Cllr Holmes has subsequently confirmed that £14,000 of CCC funds had been pledged earlier this year - £12000 from Cllr J Bland's funds under his personal control and £2000 from Cllr R Bingham's.. These funds are still with the County Council and will only be released to cover the considerable costs of preparing a full proposal, and then only if there is sufficient support for progressing the IDB.

NB2 Mary Harkness has subsequently accepted that her statement was incorrect and apologised to John Holmes as soon as she was aware of her mistake. She had been told this figure and reported it in good faith, but had not checked her sources beforehand.

5. PARISH PLAN – PROGRESS REPORTS

5.1 Housing:

LDNPA planning dept ran a Public consultation 'Drop In' on the Land Development Plan Document (which shows land allocations and usage) in the Village Hall on 13th October. The presentation was reasonably well attended by interested parties but did not provide much new information on the use of the MGS land behind St Mary's Green, the only plot identified as potential housing land.

However informal discussions with Ben Long and Paula Allen revealed that despite our optimism following the publication of the LDF and SPD on Housing Provision, The Row and The Howe had not been recognised as clusters linked to Crosthwaite Village which had led to problems with applications being treated as in the open countryside and hence breaking sustainability criteria.

Neighbourhood Planning Pilots; No further information to date.

5.2 Roads and Traffic:

Highways Authority re A590/A5074 junction ; there was still no sign of the safety report promised by the Highways Authority for end September. However an invitation to a consultation on 'A590 Route Management Issues' in Kendal on 16th November had been received. M Harkness, M Casson and M L Dobson all volunteered to attend. Clerk to forward relevant papers to them and to advise the Highways Authority accordingly. **Action: Clerk etc**

Team Scheduled Visit wc 19th Sept; Highways

No response to Clerks email of complaint.

Winter Gritting Contract – M Casson reported that contracts had been placed with D Wilson who would treat selected minor roads after the main roads covered by his contract with CCC. Roads in Crosthwaite to be treated would be as last year. CCC would deliver grit to the contractor if and when the Parish gritting scheme was reactivated.

Safe Routes to School – M Harkness reported that the spread sheet required by CCC had been completed and returned together with Video evidence.

A member of the public pointed out that a recent count showed 27 cars outside the school at 'letting out' time. This must represent a significant part of the dangers of walking to and from school.

5.3 Broadband:

The SL Regional BB Board met on 10th October. (J Seal as PC rep unable to attend)

J Holmes had provided some information on the Grange and Cartmel Broadband Group whose next meeting was set for 17th October but no update was available..

See also CALC notes on Community Engagement

5.4 First Responders.

Funding for additional units was still required.

5.5 Crime & Disorder:

PCSO Bullock had taken over responsibility for liaison with Crosthwaite and Lyth in Feb 2011.. She reported that no criminal incidents were shown in the monthly report but advised against complacency; there were still risks from sneak thieves, scrap metal thieves and theft of garden/building materials. There was still a postal scam doing the rounds and she had posted details through email as widely as possible.

She was keen to develop the list of Cumbria Community Links –eg Neighbourhood watch (see P Hill who was present). She and her colleagues planning a drop in session at the Exchange on the last Wednesday of each month. She was thanked for her report.

Clerk to advise on future PC meeting dates.

Action: Clerk

6. GOVERNANCE

6.1 South Westmorland LAP: Meeting Wed October 19th was attended by J Bownass and G Pitt (clerk).

They reported that two presentations at the beginning of the meeting plus the Chair’s guillotine of business at 9.00pm prevented the item relating to LWLDG being taken. The Clerks was asked to write to the co-ordinator expressing the PC’s disappointment and suggesting that presentations should be curtailed or taken later in the meeting.

Action: Clerk

6.2 Boundary Commission CCC Draft Recommendations for CCC ward boundaries had been circulated for consultation. Key changes did not appear to be relevant to C&L hence no comments made.

7. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

The following items were noted and circulated as ‘homework’

7.1 The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Beacons: Notes on how to join in.

7.2 Cumbria Fells& Dales Project – Annual Report

7.3 CCC– Fire & Rescue services: Letter from Fire Brigade Union

7.4 CALC Skills Training Sept 2011 – April 2012

7.5 Community Green Space Initiative: Invite to Case Study Launch & Lunch Penrith 11th Nov.

7.6 CALC AGM 12th Nov Castle Green Hotel

7.7 CALC Monthly Circular

8. PLANNING MATTER

Permissions granted,

7/2011/5307: Conversion of agric’l building at Mirk Howe for Mr R Rose.

7/2011/5420: Alterations at the Old Vicarage Crosthwaite for Drs Sloss.

New applications ,

7/2011/5459; Erection of solar arrays at Redwood, Crosthwaite for Mr P Whitehurst. No objection

7/2011/5552: Dwelling House, Old School House, Howe for Mr C Smith

Mr Smith declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this application and did not participate in the discussion.

The PC was wholly in support of this application as it was in line with the principles set up by the Housing sub group after the 2008 Housing Needs Survey. A supporting letter drafted by the Clerk was approved and would be forwarded to LDNPA development team.

Action Clerk

9 FINANCES (Since last meeting)

Income:	NSI interest (Oct)	£ 9.85
	Income from quarry agreements	£30.00
Expenditure approved	G Pitt Clerks exps (1st half)	£158.98

Accounts/Budgets/Precept 2012/13:

Clerk tabled half year accounts with a revised out turn to 31st March 2012, showing an expected surplus of £458 after allowing for a £827 refund from EON and a full range of grants given to Air Ambulance, CAB, First Responders and L&WLDG.

He also tabled a draft budget for 2012/13 showing a possible surplus of £127 but only after dropping grants to First Responders and L&WLDG. He had also made no allowance for the increased costs of paying a new Clerk in the coming year – a possible increase of c£2,000pa. It was agreed to consider the budget in more detail at the next meeting (1st Dec) and to set the precept for 2012/13 accordingly.

10. Property

Parish Room: Acceptance letter written to Snooker Club – no formal response as yet.

Bowling Green Field: D Blair has offered to follow up on the Jubilee Woods proposal. Clerk to provide all correspondence and material to date. **Action: Clerk**

12 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC; None

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS;

13.1 Crosthwaite Exchange had asked for funding from the CALOR VOY funds towards provision of flower boxes at the Memorial Hall. Clerk was able to confirm that the PC accounts included £374.30 remaining from the original £500 prize which was available at the discretion of the VOY organising committee.

Date of next Monthly Meeting: Thursday 1st December 2011 at 7.30pm.at the Parish Room.

GP 11/11/11