

Minutes of the Meeting of Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Council
held in the Parish Church on Wednesday 10 November 2021 at 7.30pm

(contact details for clerk crosthwaiteandlyth.pc@hotmail.co.uk)

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr Lisa Bibby, Cllr Matthew Dobson (*), Cllr Edward Sharp, Cllr Andrew Metcalfe, Cllr Robert Sykes (*)

Invited and present:

Cllr John Holmes - SLDC Councillor

24 members of the public

MINUTES

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair the Clerk asked for proposals to elect a Chair for this meeting.

It was **proposed** (MD prop, AM sec) that Cllr Robert Sykes take the Chair.

The Council **RESOLVED** that Cllr Robert Sykes Chair the meeting this evening with all in favour.

Cllr Robert Sykes accepted the decision and took the Chair.

1. Apologies to be noted and accepted

Written apologies have been received from Cllr Mary Harkness and Cllr Angela Dobson. These were noted and accepted.

Cllr Jim Bland had sent his apologies.

2. Declaration of interest

The Clerk recommended that all councillors have a personal interest in items relating to the Neighbourhood Plan, with all councillors present in agreement.

3. Dispensations

None received

4. Open Session

The Clerk asked for copies that any statements to be read out are passed to the Council at the end of the meeting as they will be attached to the minutes.

- John Holmes wished to speak as a resident of the Parish and not as SLDC Councillor and spoke in support of the Neighbourhood Plan and its progress.
- Simon Abbott spoke in support of the Neighbourhood Plan and its progress.
- Graham Paine spoke in support of the Plan and its progress.
- Alan Gerrard spoke in support of the Plan and its progress.
- Pamela Dunlop wished to ask a question.

The Council Chair, following Standing Orders, said Council may not be able to answer at this time, but to go ahead and ask.

- Pamela Dunlop asked which councillors requested the proposal item f?
- The Clerk asked councillors if they were content that he answers the question.
- Councillors agreed that the answer should be given.
- The Clerk stated that 2 written requests had been received prior to writing the agenda and two received afterwards. In order of receipt these were :-
 - 1. Cllr Andrew Metcalfe
 - 2. Cllr Robert Sykes

- 3. Cllr Matthew Dobson
 - 4. Cllr Edward Sharp
- Ian Moore spoke in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan and its progress (no copy given)

The Clerk asked the Chair if he was permitted to read several emails received relating to Item 5. The Chair confirmed that the Clerk should go ahead. The Clerk confirmed that the following emails would be recorded with the minutes.

- The Clerk read emails from :-
 - Ruth Grace in favour of the plan
 - Belinda Randall with her reasons for being in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan
 - Kath Edwards with her reasons for being in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan
 - Simon Johnson with his reasons for being in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan
 - Rosemary Webster with her reasons for being in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan
- A further email had been received from Colin Edwards in support of the Plan and its progress

The Clerk wished to correct statements made in two emails relating to Standing Order 7 which is as follows :-

“A resolution shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special motion, which requires written notice by at least () councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 9, or by a motion moved in pursuance of the recommendation of a committee or a sub-committee.”

There is no contravention of this standing order as suggested in the two emails because the word ‘except’ indicates that with certain conditions a resolution can be reversed. Those conditions have been met.

The Clerk confirmed that he had spoken with two qualified people on the subject and they were in agreement.

As a Point of Order it is recorded that Item 4 above concluded at 8:20pm and had lasted 40 minutes.

The Clerk asked the Chair if he was permitted to make a statement. The Chair confirmed that was in order and the Clerk read his statement setting out the order of events.

5. Neighbourhood Plan

Prior to addressing the items below each councillor read a statement, in the following order :-

- Cllr Matthew Dobson stating his reasons for being against the Neighbourhood Plan
- Cllr Edward Sharp stating his reasons for being against the Neighbourhood Plan
- Cllr Andrew Metcalfe stating his reasons for being against the Neighbourhood Plan
- Cllr Lisa Bibby stating her reasons for being in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan
- Cllr Robert Sykes stating his reasons for being against the Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk asked for further permission to address the meeting and was permitted to do so.

The Clerk stated that in order to limit ambiguity he had asked for councillors to state their reasoning on the main issues this meeting is to address.

The Clerk drew attention to the final paragraph that John Holmes had spoken and asked if he would be permitted to read it again, which was granted by the Chair, and was as follows :-

“I cannot formally propose a course of action -that remains within the remit of the PC – but I would ask that should the PC be minded to stop the Plan proceeding then they at least put both sides of the argument to another Parish Meeting and accept the result of that meeting. I believe that to be a fair and democratic way forward.”

The Chair considered this and asked if any councilor were minded to 'stop the plan' to which some councillors noted agreement.

The Clerk confirmed that it was in order for an additional proposal to be put to the Council.

In light of this the Chair asked if any councilor wished to make an additional proposal.

It was **proposed** (LB prop, RS sec) that the Council should hold a Parish Meeting at which reasons for and against having a plan are heard with a vote at the end of those in favour and those against which is binding for the Parish Council.

This proposal was put to Council with a vote by show of hands 2 in favour and 3 against.

The Council **RESOLVED** not to accept the proposal with a majority against.

- a. It was **proposed** that the Council take the Neighbourhood Plan process forward with all speed

The above proposal was put to the Council by the Chair with a resulting vote of 1 in favour and 4 against.

The Council **RESOLVED** not to accept the proposal with a majority decision against.

As item a. was voted against then proposals b, c, and d are withdrawn and move to item e.

The Chair stated that items b, c, and d, shown below, were not required.

- b. It is **proposed** that CALC should be invited to appoint an independent mediator to build relationships with the Parish Council and the Steering Group.
- c. To agree plans for the expansion of the Group and initiate that process.
- d. To review and adopt the revised Terms of Reference for the Steering Group based on best practice guidelines as can be seen on the Locality web site.
- e. The Clerk had received 4 requests from councillors for the following proposal :-
- f. It is **proposed** that the decision made on 01 June item 16a is rescinded.

This proposal was put to Council by the chair with a resulting vote of 4 in favour and 1 against.

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the proposal with a majority in favour.

- g. As Council was in favour of item f then h and I were considered.
- h. It was **proposed** that the Council pause the Neighbourhood Plan process indefinitely.

This proposal was put to the Council by the Chair with a resulting vote of 4 in favour and 1 against.

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the proposal with a majority decision.

- i. It was **proposed** that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is disbanded.

This proposal was put to the Council by the Chair with a resulting vote of 4 in favour and 1 against.

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the proposal with a majority in favour.

6. Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 07 December 2021 in the Parish Church starting at 7:30pm

Meeting ended at 8:55pm

..... Cllr Mary Harkness (Chair)

Dated:- 07 December 2021