

## HELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 1 July 2015 in the Helsington and Brigsteer Village Hall at 7.30 pm

**Present :** Cllrs J Seddon (Chairman), A Davies, B Mansbridge, S Steer, G Wilson, County Cllr J Bland, District Cllr A Rawinson, Mrs J Davidson (Clerk) and two members of the public.

#### **16/15 Apologies**

It was resolved for apologies with reasons given to be noted from Cllr Carman and Cllr Sykes.

#### **17/15 Declarations of Interest/Dispensation Requests**

None.

#### **18/15 Minutes**

It was resolved for the Chairman to sign the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 6 May 2015 as a true record.

#### **19/15 Public Participation**

Attention was brought to the increased use of the car parking area opposite the Village Hall and concerns regarding the safety of using the area when it is dark.

#### **20/15 Planning**

i) It was noted the following planning application had been submitted to SLDC since the last meeting :

##### **SL/2015/0539 – Willow Tree (formerly Plumtree Barn), Brigsteer, Kendal**

Erection of plant room and installation of underground ground source heat coils, plant and machinery in connection with domestic ground source heating system.

There were no observations.

#### **21/15 Community Led Plan**

- a) Information regarding conducting online surveys received from Dalton with Newton Town Council was received and noted. This was in response to an e-mail sent – via Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) – to all Cumbria Town/Parish Councils asking for any experience of conducting online surveys.
- b) The Chairman introduced a discussion regarding progressing the Community Led Plan and whether it was felt to be worthwhile. The questionnaire which has been prepared is understood to not be of a format to enable it to be used to conduct an online survey. The help which had been promised by SLDC at the commencement of the process has now been withdrawn. The comments regarding the lack of support provided by SLDC were noted by District Cllr Rawlinson who would explore with SLDC whether some help could be given. The Parish Council agreed that cancelling the project would mean that a lot of work would have been done without any reward and in the first instance would wait to see what District Cllr Rawlinson may be able to achieve.

#### **22/15 Parish Land**

- a) Correspondence had been received from a resident with a request for the Parish Council to give consideration to the sale, or lease, of a small section of land adjacent to Puddleduck Cottage. The land adjacent to Puddleduck Cottage is owned by the Parish Council and is currently on a long term lease to the Village Hall to be used for car parking. If the Parish Council wished to break the terms and conditions of the lease then the next stage would be to explore the feasibility with the Village Hall Committee. The Parish Council unanimously resolved that no further action should be taken regarding this matter and the Clerk would convey this response to the resident concerned.

- b) The Chairman reported a purchase order for £300 has been placed with Treescapes Consultancy Ltd. to carry out tree inspection work on parish land. This will cover work for one day and any additional work required would need to be covered by a further order. It is not yet known when the work will be carried out and a meeting with Treescapes Consultancy Ltd. has been requested to assess the Crooked Gate site.
- c) Cllr Mansbridge reported she has obtained forms from the Land Registry in order to try and progress the registration of the three remaining parcels of parish land which have not yet been registered.

#### **23/15 Highways/Footpaths**

- a) It was reported that since the last meeting there have been two further incidents of substantial damage caused to the boundary walls of residential property. A suggestion was made as to whether the possibility of using motion-triggered cameras to detect vehicle damage should be considered. It was agreed to explore the feasibility and costs of providing cameras but no further action would be taken without consulting with residents who may be affected by the use of them.
- b) The response to the Parish Council letter regarding Causeway Road from the Cumbria Highways Transport Manager was received and noted.
- c) Cllr Mansbridge reported that thought is currently being given as to whether there are any suitable sites for the Lyth Valley Speed Indicator Device to be used in the Parish.

#### **24/15 Reports**

- i) **Any meetings attended** – none.
- ii) **Helsington Community Land Trust Ltd.** - a written report had been submitted on behalf of Helsington Community Land Trust Ltd. The Trust is now finalising the financial arrangements for the affordable homes on site RN213 and is working with the following to enable both predevelopment and development costs : Homes & Communities Agency; National CLT Fund; Community Building & Housing Agency; South Lakeland District Council; Cumberland Building Society; the Unity Bank and the Triodos Bank. The next stage will be for the Trust to engage the architect who will arrange the percolation tests on the site. The Trust took this opportunity to thank Jacky - as the Clerk to the Parish Council - for all her work both with the current and the previous Parish Council. Jacky and her husband Peter were wished every success with their new venture.
- iii) **Helsington & Brigsteer Village Hall** – it was reported the Village Hall Committee is currently exploring sources of funding now that planning permission has been granted for the proposed resurfacing of the car park.
- iv) **Any relevant matters from District Cllr Rawlinson** – District Cllr Rawlinson had no relevant matters to bring to attention.
- v) **Any relevant matters from County Cllr Bland** - County Cllr Bland reported there is to be a Lyth and Winster Proposed Water Level Management Consultation commencing in August. It is proposed that a public meeting which will present a summary of the issues will be held.

#### **25/15 Finance**

- i) It was noted the Internal Audit has now been completed and no matters have been raised. The Audit Report has now been submitted to BDO Stoy for the External Audit to be carried out.
- ii) It was resolved for the following payments to be approved :

Helsington & Brigsteer Village Hall – Annual Contribution	£1,325.00
Lyth Valley First Responders - Annual Contribution	£ 300.00
Clerks' Salary & Administration Costs (April - August)	£1,092.10

#### **26/15 Correspondence**

Any other correspondence, circulars and publications which had been received since the last meeting and not included as an item on this agenda was received and noted.

**26/15 Administration**

- a) The resignation of the Clerk was received with regret due to her relocating to another area of the UK because of her husband's employment. It was noted this would be the last meeting attended by Jacky and warm appreciation and best wishes were conveyed to her. Jacky conveyed that she would be very sad to leave Helsington Parish Council and the community it represents.
- b) Consideration was given to what arrangements should be made for the recruitment of a new Parish Clerk. The vacancy has already been advertised in the CALC newsletter and on the Parish Council and CALC websites. It was resolved that a Working Group comprising of all members of the Parish Council would be formed to select and interview any suitable applicants. In the event of there being no suitable candidates coming forward in response to the current advertisements then the vacancy would be advertised in local Parish Magazines and in the Westmorland Gazette if felt necessary.

**27/15 Items for consideration for a future agenda**

- Lyth and Winster Proposed Water Level Management Consultation

**28/15 Next Meetings**

It was confirmed the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 2 September 2015 commencing at 7.30 pm in the Helsington & Brigsteer Village Hall.

*The meeting closed at 8 : 30 pm*

Signed : ..... (Chairman)  
Date : 2 September 2015