

HELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2 September 2015 in the Helington and Brigsteer Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs J Seddon (Chairman), S Carman, A Davies, B Mansbridge, G Wilson.

Also present were District Cllr A Rawlinson, County Cllr J Bland, Veronica Waller (NFU), Ms J Saunders (Clerk) and 24 members of the public (part of meeting).

30/15 Apologies

It was resolved for apologies with reasons given to be noted and accepted from Cllrs S Steer and B Sykes.

31/15 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests

Cllr J Seddon had declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 6 relating to the Lyth & Witherslack Proposed Water Level Management Consultation and requested a dispensation to speak and vote on the matter in view of the trivial net pecuniary interest arising. It was resolved to grant this dispensation to Cllr J Seddon.

32/15 Minutes

It was resolved for the Chairman to sign the minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 1 July 2015 as a true record, having amended the numbering of minutes 27/15 - 29/15.

33/15 Appointment of a new Parish Clerk

- i. It was resolved to confirm the appointment of Jane Saunders as Parish Clerk with effect from 5 August 2015.
- ii. It was resolved to appoint a Working Group comprising Cllrs B Mansbridge, S Carman and A Davies to draft a Contract of Employment.
- iii. It was resolved to authorize a change of contact details for business banking.
- iv. It was resolved to approve the purchase of a printer/scanner/copier up to a cost of £100 for the Clerk's use.

34/15 Public Participation

A number of questions were asked by members of the public, and by Cllr J Seddon on behalf of members of the public, re the proposed Lyth and Witherslack Internal Drainage Board. Cllr J Bland and Veronica Waller answered these questions (some of which had been circulated to them previously by email) and provided more information about the proposal. Questions and comments related to the area covered, the levy, cost benefit analyses, the consultation and ballot process, the lack of consensus amongst stakeholders including the National Trust, South Cumbria Rivers Trust, RSPB and Cumbria Wildlife Trust, concerns about siltation and flooding, and the undemocratic nature of the proposed Board. Veronica Waller indicated that the Environment Agency would not proceed with decommissioning the pumping stations at the end of the year if the proposed IDB were still a possibility. A petition from Brigsteer residents containing 40 signatures and requesting that the Parish Council did not approve the proposed IDB was brought to the Council's attention. The petitioners advised that the occupants of more than half the properties canvassed had expressed concerns about the proposal.

Cllr J Seddon thanked members of the public for their input and advised councillors to consider the views which had been expressed.

35/15 Lyth & Witherslack Proposed Water Level Management Consultation

It was resolved to disagree with the proposal to establish an Internal Drainage Board (IDB) in Lyth and Witherslack in its current form, although the Council agreed in principle with the aims and objectives of the proposal. Support was expressed for operating the Ulpha and Sampool pumping stations, but not for maintaining watercourses to pre-2005 levels. It was felt that watercourses should be maintained to their current levels, and the need to protect the NT wetland at Park End Moss was emphasised. Concern was also expressed about the Board representation, which was felt to be undemocratic. In conclusion, it was felt that more time, more consultation, more consensus amongst other stakeholders and further public meetings were required in order to achieve community support for the proposal.

It was resolved to delegate the completion of the Consultation Response Form to Cllr J Seddon. It was further resolved to send a letter expressing the Council's views to SLDC and to Cllr A Rawlinson, and that Cllr J Seddon would represent the Parish Council's views during Public Participation at the SLDC Cabinet Meeting on 28 October 2015 at which the IDB proposal was due to be considered.

Thanks were conveyed to Cllr J Bland and Veronica Waller for attending the meeting and answering questions.

36/15 Planning

- i. The following planning application was received and considered:
SL/2015/0678 - Syke House, Brigsteer, Kendal - Detached garden room
It was resolved to make no observations on the application.
- ii. It was noted that no further planning updates or decisions had been received from SLDC since the last meeting.

37/15 Community Led Plan

Cllr S Carman advised that a local student had uploaded the online survey onto the Citizen Space at a cost of £200. 300 hard copies of the survey would be required, and it was resolved to obtain a quote from Stramongate Printers to produce these (funding already in place from ACT). Cllr Carman agreed to circulate a copy of the survey to all members. It was hoped that many people would complete the survey online, but paper responses would need to be uploaded, for which task it was resolved to use the local student previously involved in the project. Cllr Carman advised he would be calling a meeting of the Steering Group and that assistance with delivery of the survey forms would be required around the week beginning 28 September, with a 2 - 3 week timescale for responses envisaged which would allow responses to be uploaded by the end of October.

38/15 Parish Land

- a) It was reported that there had been no progress with regard to the inspection of trees on parish land as Luke Steer had been busy with other work recently.
- b) It was noted that the Council needs to clarify its ownership of land and any consequent liability to clear trees. To date the Land Registry had not been helpful in advising the Council how to proceed. It was felt that the Council may need to seek legal advice on the matter, but that in the first instance two individuals were recommended who could be approached for advice.
- c) There were no other matters raised involving parish land.

39/15 Highways/Footpaths

- a) The further response to Parish Council letter regarding Causeway Road from the Cumbria Highways Transport Manager was received. It was noted that the carriageway work outside the Wheatsheaf Inn had still not been undertaken.
- b) There were no other matters regarding Highways/Footpaths.

40/15 Reports

- a. There were no reports regarding meetings attended;
- b. There was no report available from Helsington Community Land Trust Ltd;
- c. There was nothing to report re Helsington & Brigsteer Village Hall;
- d. District Cllr A Rawlinson advised that SLDC support would be available in connection with the Community Led Plan; also advised that she would be unable to attend Cabinet meeting on 28 October but would be submitting a written report and would consider attempting to call in the decision re IDB if necessary; also advised change in waste and recycling collection day to Mondays from 21 September 2015.
- e. County Cllr J Bland had nothing further to report.

41/15 Finance

- a. The External Auditor Report of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2015 was received and noted. The Council's audited accounts for year ended 31 March 2015 were subsequently approved and accepted.
- b. The following payments were approved:
Jane Saunders re renewal of website domain registration and hosting - £36.46
R Franks re loading Community Led Plan survey onto Citizen Space - £200.00

42/15 Correspondence

Correspondence was received and noted from CCC advising that the mobile library service had been permanently withdrawn due to the van being irreparable. A letter from SLDC was received advising that the South Lakeland Parish Remuneration Panel was seeking recommendations in respect of parish members' allowances for 2016/17. No recommendations were made.

43/15 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- A public meeting re the proposed Internal Drainage Board
- Parish Land – inspection of trees, registration of land and offer of Strickland Quarry to National Trust.

44/15 Date of next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Helsington Parish Council would be 4 November 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Helsington and Brigsteer Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm

Signed:
(Chairman)

Date: 4 November 2015