

## HELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4 November 2015 in the Helington and Brigsteer Village Hall at 7.30 pm

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

Also present were District Cllr A Rawlinson, County Cllr J Bland, Ms J Saunders (Clerk) and 3 members of the public (part of meeting).

#### **45/15 Apologies**

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

#### **46/15 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests**

Cllr J Seddon had declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 5 relating to the Lyth & Witherslack Proposed Water Level Management Board 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 for the life of the Council to Cllr J Seddon.

#### **47/15 Minutes**

It was resolved for the Chairman to sign the minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 2 September 2015 as a true record.

#### **48/15 Public Participation**

A member of the public inquired about the opportunity to contribute during agenda item 5, Lyth & Witherslack Proposed Water Level Management Board. Chairman advised public input was allowed only during Public Participation. The speaker expressed the hope that a wider range of interested parties would be involved during further consultations in respect of the proposed Water Level Management Board. Another member of public commented that documents circulated by councillors summarising the current situation were helpful.

Chairman advised he had met with Jim Bland yesterday to discuss latest information re the proposals. Jim Bland advised there would be further consultation and it was likely there would be changes to the proposals. A Board meeting involving stakeholders was planned for 7 December 2015.

Cllr A Rawlinson advised she intended to hold public meetings in January in both Brigsteer and Levens, and had received considerable feedback to date from local people that they do not feel they have been consulted. She advised she would time the meeting with regard to WLMB developments and would liaise with Jim Bland accordingly. She wishes to be in a position to convey local views to SLDC Cabinet when it discusses the issue, which will possibly be at its meeting on 4 February 2016.

Some concern was expressed about the current apparent lull in activity and the need to use the additional time gained to facilitate further consultation.

A suggestion was also put forward that a local parish councillor could attend WLMB meetings in order to improve mutual communication and understanding.

#### **49/15 Lyth & Witherslack Proposed Water Level Management Board**

- i. It was confirmed that, following the previous meeting on 2 September 2015, the Consultation Response form re the Lyth & Witherslack Proposed Water Level Management Board had been completed and returned. A document expressing the Council's views as at the meeting on 2 September 2015 had also been sent to

SLDC and to Cllr A Rawlinson. An acknowledgement had been received from SLDC, and it was understood that further submissions may be made.

- ii. Copies of Cllr J Seddon's papers on the 'Inclusion of Higher Land' and 'Lyth Valley IDB – Costs and Funding Risks' were received and noted. The motion that 'The Council presently withholds its support for the proposed drainage district boundary, pending further justification for the inclusion of the land around Witherslack and Foulshaw Moss within the boundary, as is unclear that these areas benefit from the proposed IDB' was defeated. It was suggested that as the Environment Agency was currently looking into the legality of the inclusion of the higher land, and it was possible that the proposals may change, it was not the appropriate time to submit a further response. It was agreed to await further information, and if necessary to call an extraordinary meeting.

With regard to the Costs and Funding Risks, it was noted that external consultants had produced the WLMB costings, and that SLDC would be examining the costings as part of their consideration of the issue. Concern was expressed about the accuracy of the costings and escalating costs in future. The motion, 'Helsington Parish Council does not have confidence in the economics of costs and funding in the business plan' was not adopted after the Chairman declined to use his casting vote as the Council was evenly split in the vote. Again it was agreed to await further information and revisit the issue in future.

- iii. It was resolved to make no further submissions at this stage, and that any future submissions would be supplementary to the submissions already made and not rescissions. The work undertaken by Cllr Seddon in the provision of additional information to the Council was acknowledged.

#### **50/15 Planning**

- i. The following planning application was received and considered:  
**SL/2015/0880 - High House Farm, Helsington, Kendal – Improvements to service yard, including regrading and landscaping (part retrospective).**  
It was resolved to make the following observations on the application: the Parish Council supports the view that the proposed screen planting is inadequate and recommends an increase in the density and size of trees to be planted. Furthermore, the Parish Council notes that a previous planning requirement to screen plant was not complied with by the applicant, and also that there is a history of retrospective applications being made. The Parish Council therefore requests close monitoring of the proposed development.
- ii. The following planning decisions by SLDC were noted:  
**SL/2015/0678 Syke House, Brigsteer, Kendal – Detached garden room. Decision - Grant with conditions.**  
**SL/2015/0752 Honeypot Cottage, Brigsteer, Kendal – Erection of stone boundary retaining walls, glass balustrade and timber fences (part retrospective). Decision - Grant with conditions.**

#### **51/15 Lake District National Park (Designation) (Variation) Confirmation Order 2015**

Notice was received of the confirmation of the extension to the LDNP (to include part of Helsington parish) which will take effect from 1 August 2016.

#### **52/15 Community Led Plan**

Cllr S Carman reported that 300 copies of the survey had been printed and that the online survey was also ready to go live (anticipated to run for 4 weeks from 16 November - 18 December 2015). It was agreed to supply 1 or 2 hard copies of the survey to every property in the parish, although it was hoped that many

residents would complete the survey online. It was further agreed that hard copies would be hand delivered by volunteers in Brigsteer, but that as delivery and collection would be onerous in outlying areas, surveys and SAEs would be posted out to properties in Helsington, Prizet and Sizergh at a cost of £71.82 in postage. Cllr Carman to check that ACT grant funding could still be claimed, as it had come to light that the claim period had expired. It was anticipated that paper returns would be uploaded onto Citizen Space by a local student over Christmas. It was resolved to aim to launch the Community Led Plan within the life of the Council. Cllr Carman's work on the project was commended by the Council.

#### **53/15 Parish Land**

- a) It was reported that the inspection of trees on parish land had recently been undertaken and an inspection report was awaited.
- b) It was resolved to contact a local solicitor who has undertaken work for Levens with regard to the registration of parish land.
- c) It was resolved to contact the National Trust regarding the Council's offer of Strickland Quarry to the Trust.

#### **54/15 Highways/Footpaths**

- a) Notification of Road Closure at Brigsteer U5605 for two weeks from 2 November 2015 from Cumbria Highways was received and noted.
- b) There were no other matters regarding Highways/Footpaths.

#### **55/15 Reports**

- a. Cllr A Davies had circulated a report by email on the South Westmorland LAP meeting in October which had focussed on superfast broadband. He noted the lack of detailed information from Connecting Cumbria, but also that superfast broadband was due in Brigsteer before the end of the year.
- b. No report had been received from Helsington Community Land Trust Ltd;
- c. Cllr S Carman reported on current activities, events and planned works re Helsington & Brigsteer Village Hall. It was noted that wifi would soon be available in the hall.
- d. District Cllr A Rawlinson reiterated work she was undertaking in connection with the IDB proposals. Cllr Rawlinson also reported teething problems with the new waste and recycling arrangements, and some concern was expressed over poor communication from SLDC over issues including waste, recycling and planning.
- e. County Cllr J Bland had nothing further to report.

#### **56/15 Clerk's Report and Correspondence**

The Clerk's Report on recent correspondence, some of which had previously been circulated to members by email or post, was received and noted. Members' attention was drawn to CCC's Draft Budget and Council Plan Consultation 2016/17 (running until 22 January 2016), and it was resolved that members would respond to this as individuals if desired.

Correspondence from the Local Government Boundary Commission regarding an Electoral Review of South Lakeland had been received since the agenda was issued. It was noted that the public consultation was running from 27 October 2015 - 11 January 2016. Members agreed to consider the consultation material, particularly in the light of the inclusion of much of the parish in the LDNPA, and to circulate any views. It was resolved to delegate authority to the Clerk to respond to the consultation on behalf of the Council if there was a consensus of views, or alternatively that if necessary an extraordinary meeting would be called before 11 January 2016 to consider a response.

Clerk advised she had been unable to undertake any updates to the Council's website for various technical reasons. An application to the Transparency Fund was approved in order to facilitate website development and training to ensure

compliance with the government's new Transparency Code. At District Cllr Rawlinson's suggestion, Clerk also agreed to investigate training which may be available via SLDC.

**57/15 Clerk's Contract of Employment**

Cllr S Carman reported that following a meeting of the Working Group and the Clerk to consider a draft Contract of Employment for the Clerk, the Working Group recommended approval of the Contract as drafted. It was therefore resolved to approve the Clerk's Contract of Employment.

**58/15 Finance**

- a) The following payments were approved:
- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| Jane Saunders (Clerk's salary) 5 Aug - 30 Nov 2015  | £1101.84 |
| Jane Saunders (Clerk's expenses 5 Aug - 4 Nov 2015) | £105.77  |
| Jane Saunders (purchase of printer for Council)     | £79.99   |
| Stramongate Press Ltd (Community Led Plan)          | £450.00  |
- Payment of the Clerk for 18 hours in addition to contracted hours was approved. Payment of the Clerk by monthly standing order (£228.09) with effect from December 2015 was also approved, in accordance with terms of her Contract.
- b) A Financial Report including Bank Reconciliation dated 7 October 2015 and a Budget Monitoring Report 2015/16 was received and noted.
- c) A draft Budget for 2016/17 was received and considered. It was resolved to approve the Budget for 2016/17 giving rise to a precept requirement of £6,901.95 (on the assumption that the parish grant would be paid at the same level as 2015/16), and to authorise the Clerk to send the precept request to SLDC in accordance with its timescales. *(SLDC parish grant subsequently confirmed as £305.26 resulting in precept of £6,882.44).*

**59/15 Items for consideration for a future agenda**

- Update on Lyth & Witherslack Proposed Water Level Management Board
- Ward and parish boundary issues
- Parish Land – tree inspection report
- Agenda for Annual Parish Meeting 2016 - Community Led Plan

**60/15 Date of next meeting**

It was confirmed that the next scheduled meeting of Helsington Parish Council would be Wednesday 3 February 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Helsington and Brigsteer Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 21.44 pm

Signed: .....  
(Chairman)

Date: 3 February 2016