

HELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on
Wednesday 4 September 2019 at 7.30pm in the Helsington & Brigsteer Village Hall

Present: Cllrs S Carman, K Ritchie, R Caddick, M Cheesbrough, A Davies and E Templeton.
Also present were County Cllr J Bland, District Cllr K Holmes, Clerk J Saunders and 1 member of the public.

40/19 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr S Savasi .

41/19 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests

None.

42/19 Minutes

The minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 26 June 2019 were approved.

43/19 Public Participation

A member of the public advised that the balance of the Parish Council grant to the Brigsteer Band had been transferred to him and that information on how the grant had been spent to date had been reported to the Chairman. He also reported that the Community Orchard was doing well, with a good crop of plums and greengages and the damsons yet to ripen. He mentioned that the National Trust had advised that the Community Orchard may feature on BBC's Countryfile as part of filming at Sizergh.

44/19 Planning

Lake District National Park Authority

(view applications, responses and decisions online at

<http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/swiftlg/apas/run/wphappcriteria.display>):

It was noted that no applications or decisions had been received since the last meeting.

South Lakeland District Council

(view applications, responses and decisions online at

<http://applications.southlakeland.gov.uk/planningapplications/welcome.asp>):

SL/2018/0925 - Land adjacent to Rivers Mint and Kent extending from adjacent to Lakeland Distribution Centre to Helsington Mills - Kendal Flood Risk Management Scheme Phase 1.

Granted with conditions on 28 June 2019.

Notification of the following application had been received on 2 September 2019:

SL/2019/0694 - Prizet Filling Station Northbound, Helsington - Extension of Prizet Service Station to include drive-thru Costa restaurant, offices, car parking with electric charging points and associated site works. As this application was received too late for inclusion on the agenda, councillors were asked to circulate comments by email by Monday 9 September 2019.

45/19 LDNPA Planning Policy

a) Landscape Character Supplementary Planning Document

It was noted that no response was submitted to this consultation.

b) Local Plan Review

It was noted that the Lake District Local Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination on 1 August 2019.

46/19 SLDC Community Governance Review

SLDC's final recommendation of no changes to the current parish governance arrangements was noted.

47/19 Highways

- a)
- i. The speed indicator device had returned to Brigsteer Brow for a 2 - 3 week period, adjusted to 20mph. Some effort was involved in the process (councillors offered assistance with the practicalities), but the consensus was that the SID did have an impact on traffic speed and that 20 mph was the appropriate speed. It was resolved to monitor the usefulness of the SID for 6 months though it was felt that perceptions would be subjective unless a traffic monitoring radar device could be used to record traffic speeds. Cllr K Ritchie agreed to contact Victoria Upton at Cumbria Highways about the use of such a device. A complaint about the shiny pole glinting into a local property was received and noted. It was further noted that high traffic speeds were an issue at other locations in the village.
 - ii. Collapsed paving slabs over the beck under the highway outside the Village Hall; Cllr A Davies reported that he had joined Cllr J Bland and Rob Huck of Highways on a walk round Brigsteer in July. It had been agreed to tidy up and reinforce the banks of the beck near the road and to cover it with slabs. A camera may also be used to inspect the culvert under Broom Bank to ensure that it is not blocked. Cllr J Bland confirmed that the request for the works has been submitted.
 - iii. Damage to parapet wall over culvert at Mill Ghyll, Low Lane; Cllr A Davies reported that it was unlikely that Highways would take responsibility for repairing this or if they did, it would be very low priority. Rob Huck had advised that if the Parish Council wished to engage someone to repair the wall, Highways would have no objection and he didn't foresee any health and safety or liability issues. It was noted that some of the stone has been transferred to the other side of the road to reinforce another wall. It was understood that there was no danger of the stone blocking the beck. It was resolved not to spend parish funds on any repairs.
 - iv. Drainage/flooding between Syke House and Honeybee House; Cllr A Davies reported that Rob Huck had agreed that the existing drains were inadequate and should be dug up and replaced by larger storm drains. A further site visit had been undertaken more recently and Rob Huck had confirmed that he was hopeful of obtaining a budget allocation to allow drainage works to take place this financial year and before the onset of winter. A road closure would be required (residents would be informed in advance) and Highways would liaise with United Utilities on this. It was noted that there was already a road closure in place from 16 September 2019 in relation to other works and Cllr A Davies agreed to circulate this information to residents.
 - v. Parish Road; Cllr A Davies reported that it is thought that parish ownership stops short of where the Parish Road joins the tarmacked carriageway, and it had been suggested that Highways would tarmac a triangular area between the carriageway and a line from the corner of the drive to Bieldgarth to the corner of Barton Scar opposite. Rob Huck had advised said that to do this would mean edging the new tarmac with flush-mounted kerbstones to avoid it being eroded away. However, this would create a step and may make it look as though the road led directly to the drive to Bieldgarth. As there is already an issue with vehicles mistaking the private drive for the road, the owners of Bieldgarth are opposed to this proposal. Signage was a possible solution, but there were practical difficulties with this suggestion. An alternative proposal was to tarmac the area from Barton Scar to the midpoint of the Bieldgarth drive, but as this is such a small area it was not felt to be worthwhile. A further complication with tarmacking is that the Parish Road north of the kerbstones would still be unsurfaced and liable to erosion, probably leading to a step. There is a dormant proposal from the wayleave holders to concrete the Parish Road, but this was

only to be as far as the "No Parking" signs, which would still leave an unsurfaced section up to the tarmacked area. It was suggested that Highways need not edge the tarmac with kerbstones but that some form of edging would be helpful in delineating different areas of responsibility on the ground. Cllr J Bland confirmed that Highways accepted responsibility for the area adjoining the carriageway. The parish owned section of the road was currently deemed to be in reasonable state.

The question of painting white lines at the side and in the centre of the carriageway near the Wheatsheaf had also been discussed with Highways. It would be acceptable to paint a dashed line at the side of the carriageway, but current Highways advice is to avoid central white lines on rural roads, as it is thought they encourage drivers to go faster. It was felt that white lines would make the line of the road clearer and also assist with traffic calming in the vicinity. Cllr J Bland advised that Rob Huck had subsequently agreed to putting a dashed line at the side and a central line in the road at this location. It had also been agreed that the "double bend" sign below the Wheatsheaf would be replaced.

vi. Road markings on Kendal Road.

Cllr J Bland reported that Highways had agreed to paint central white lines on the Kendal road at the junction with the road to the church but not further along this road as it was not deemed to be wide enough. He was still proposing a road widening scheme in this location.

b) An update from Cumbria Highways re the Working Together Service was received and noted. This involves template agreements clarifying roles and responsibilities when parishes are undertaking highways works such as roadside verge maintenance using volunteers or lengthsman. The Service also provides health and safety training and equipment to support these works.

48/19 Community Led Plan

Theme 1 - Housing. Nothing to report.

Theme 2 - Road Safety. Issues addressed under Highways item.

Theme 3 - Sustainable Environment. Nothing to report.

Theme 4 - Vibrant Communities. Cllr A Davies advised he had emailed 8 residents in outlying areas of the parish to ascertain the availability of broadband in the wider parish. Whetstone Lane had poor speeds but Prizet was much better with some fibre to the premises and a good signal from the Kencomp transmitter at Hayclose. It was suggested that the latter may be of use to those in Whetstone Lane. Other areas such as Heatherbank/Kistwells and Larkrigg had poor speeds. Cllr Davies advised that the Connecting Cumbria website was not up to date and unhelpful. Positive reports had been received of the service from B4RN, which has a project underway in Levens and a map of its coverage area shows it may extend to Sizergh. B4RN requires community engagement and residents are responsible for the connection to their houses. There are now grants available for businesses and residents. It was not known whether B4RN would be viable in the more remote areas of Helsington parish. As Sizergh had been omitted from the recent survey and problems affecting Growing Well were noted, it was agreed to investigate further the availability of broadband in this part of the parish.

49/19 Reports

a) No reports were received from the Chairman or Parish Councillors.

b) No report from Helsington Community Land Trust Ltd.

c) Helsington & Brigsteer Village Hall; A number of forthcoming events including a table-top sale, a highlights event and the new year ceillidh were noted.

d) Local Police Team; Chairman had reported the criminal and anti-social behaviour in the parish to the local police sergeant. The police had agreed to send more patrols and police

vehicles had been observed patrolling in the area recently. There had also been further reports of criminal and anti-social behaviour and it was agreed that residents should be advised to report incidents to the police at the earliest opportunity and not to wait until the next Parish Council meeting.

e) District Cllr K Holmes reported on local suspicious/criminal activity. Lake District Foundation Call for Applications for grant funding for local projects was forwarded to councillors.

f) County Cllr J Bland reported on the proposed Highways England A590 Brettargh Holt to Meathop upgrade. Cllrs Bland and Holmes had attended a recent meeting at which proposed improvements to junctions including a roundabout at Levens and closures of some crossing places on dual carriageway were outlined. More detailed proposals were expected in January.

50/19 Clerk's Report and Correspondence

Email correspondence had been circulated as usual. Clerk drew attention to CALC's Developing your skills training programme in the autumn and paperwork for the next District Association meeting (AGM) on Thursday 19 September 2019.

Clerk advised that the bank balance at 30 August 2019 was £13,210.31. There was an unanticipated high level of income due to receipt of the VAT refund for last financial year, compensation from HMRC for its late payment and income from rents. Following a rent review earlier this year, all tenants given the option of 1 year or 5 year tenancies had opted for the latter and rents totalling £600 have been paid to date. It was noted that the grants budget of £400 was currently unspent. It was agreed to order a poppy wreath for Remembrance Sunday and to make the normal donation of £30. It was noted that Parish Council grants and donations are advertised on the website and notice board. The Grants and Donations Policy which includes information on how to apply is also on the website. Councillors agreed to consider potential beneficiaries; it was understood that the Community Orchard Group may wish to submit an application.

Clerk reported that various documents including minutes Feb 1998 - April 2012, cash book 1960 - 2007 and accounts from years ended March 1994 - March 2012 had been deposited with Cumbria Archive Service in Kendal in accordance with the Retention of Documents policy. Other papers and documents not required had been destroyed or shredded in accordance with the Data Protection Policy.

51/19 Parish Land

a) It was understood that Cllr S Savasi was investigating the possible use of the Open Spaces Act 1906 to acquire the land at Crooked Gate.

b) It was confirmed that Cllr S Savasi had submitted a request for a tree to be planted at Dobdale Hill Quarry under SLDC's Tree Planting Scheme. Cllr A Davies had undertaken a site visit and noted that there are currently 6 mature trees, some of which dying or unhealthy and that any new tree would need to be fenced to avoid damage by grazing stock. Clerk reported that the tenant has no objection to one tree but had commented that trees do not do well on the site as it is windy and exposed. If multiple trees are planned, the tenant requested that the Council refers back to him. Clarification had also been given to the tenant that the Council as landowner and not the tenant would be responsible for tree protection and maintenance.

c) No meeting had taken place with Parish Road residents regarding the maintenance of the Parish Council's section of the road.

d) An update on income from parish land had been given under Clerk's Report.

52/19 VE Day 75

Cllr S Carman advised he would be discussing plans for the VE Day 75 anniversary event in May 2020 with the Wheatsheaf. It was understood that the Village Hall had been booked for

another event but that Friday 8 May (bank holiday) had been freed up for VE Day 75 event.

53/19 Finance

The following payment was authorised:

CALC (Cllr E Templeton - Effective Councillor course 17 June 2019) £35.00

54/19 Clerk's Contract of Employment

A revised copy of the Clerk's contract, job description and copy of NALC Good Employer guide had been circulated for review. Proposed changes concerning new national pay scales implemented this year and minor changes in wording to reflect current policy and practice were agreed, subject to switching clauses 9.1 and 9.2. It was further resolved that the Clerk's appraisal would be undertaken by way of an annual informal discussion with the Chairman and that this requirement would be inserted into the revised contract. It was agreed that the Chairman would schedule a discussion with the Clerk before the next meeting.

55/19 Future meetings

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 6 November 2019. It was noted that a financial report and a draft budget for 2020/21 would be circulated well in advance for consideration at this meeting. Apologies were received from Cllrs K Holmes and J Bland who have another engagement.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed: (Chairman)
Date: 6 November 2019