

## HELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held virtually  
on **Wednesday 3 February 2021 at 7.00pm**

Present: Cllrs S Carman (Chairman), K Ritchie (agenda item 6 onwards), R Caddick, J Cooper, A Davies, G Riley (agenda item 7 onwards) and E Templeton.  
Also present were District Cllr K Holmes (agenda item 6 onwards), County Cllr J Bland, Clerk J Saunders and two members of the public.

### 50/20 Apologies

Cllrs G Riley, K Ritchie and District Cllr K Holmes (late arrivals).

### 51/20 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests

None.

### 52/20 Minutes

The minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 4 November 2020 were approved (to be signed when possible).

### 53/20 Public Participation

None.

### 54/20 Planning

The following applications, responses, decisions and updates were noted:

#### a) Lake District National Park Authority

(view applications, responses and decisions online at

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

- i. 7/2020/5589 - Low Plain Cottage, Brigsteer - Detached double garage.  
**Granted with conditions.**
- ii. 7/2020/5624 - The Wheatsheaf Inn, Brigsteer - Proposed single storey extension to increase kitchen. **Granted with conditions.**  
7/2021/5040 re Approval of details reserved by condition no 3 (proposed extraction system) on planning permission 7/2020/5624 submitted 19/01/21.
- iii. 7/2020/5650 - Berry Holme, Whetstone Lane, Helington – Construction of agricultural worker's dwelling & installation of foul water drainage in place of covered store.  
**In the interests of transparency, Helington Parish Council wishes to advise that the applicant is a tenant of a small piece of land owned by the Parish Council (the parish land is at Dobdale Hill and is not the site of this proposed development). The Parish Council's only concern is that the public footpath which passes through Berry Holme and adjacent to the site of the proposed dwelling is not shown on or referenced in any of the plans submitted.** (Response submitted by Clerk following email consultation).  
**Granted with conditions.**

#### b) South Lakeland District Council

(view applications, responses and decisions online at

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

- i. SL/2020/0579 - Prizet Filling Station Northbound, Helington - Expansion of roadside services, including drive-through coffee shop (Class A3/ A5), 8 no. high-speed electrical vehicle charging points, car parking, landscaping and associated infrastructure. (Re- (Resubmission of SL/2020/0195). **Refused at Planning Committee 28/01/21.**
- ii. SL/2020/0794 - 1 Prizet House - Replacement of conservatory with new extension and associated landscaping works. **No comments.** (Response submitted by Clerk under delegated powers following email consultation). **Granted with conditions.**

## 55/20 Finance

- a) The **Asset Register** was reviewed and approved.
- b) The **Financial Risk Assessment and Management for 2020/21** was considered and approved.
- c) The **Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Audit Report**, including a recommendation to re-appoint the internal auditor, was considered and approved.
- d) The final **Budget for 2021/22** was received and noted, and it was further noted that the precept of £9,018.52 had been submitted to SLDC.
- e) Two duplicate payments totalling £35.39 made in error following the last meeting and the receipt of refunds in full were noted.
- f) The following payments were authorised:
  - i. EnviroGuard (CCTV survey of culvert under Parish Road) £216.00
  - ii. CALC (Effective Councillor training course for Cllr J Cooper) £40.00
  - iii. Ibex Internet Ltd (website hosting and domain name) £108.00
  - iv. Jane Saunders (Clerk's expenses, 1 Nov 2020 - 31 Jan 2021) £54.00
  - v. Viking (office supplies) £52.26
  - vi. Hutton Roof Parish Council (contribution to Zoom subscription) £6.00

## 56/20 Parish Land

- i. It was reported that the application to upgrade the class of title of the Land opposite the Village Hall from possessory to absolute had been completed. The land is leased to the Village Hall (leased agreed in 2013 for a term of 25 years from 1 January 2010). During the application process it had come to light that, as the lease is for more than 7 years, it should have been registered with the Land Registry. Land Registry advice was that the lessee was responsible for registering the lease but this had not been done. It was recommended that the Village Hall, as lessee and beneficiary, should be asked to register the lease and pay any fee incurred. It was resolved that the Clerk would write to the Village Hall to convey this request.
- ii. The Tree Safety Report (Nov 2020) was received and noted. It was resolved to forward a copy of the Report to Cumbria Highways and to draw Highways' attention to trees posing a risk to the highway (T7.1 on the highway adjacent to Parish Road and woodland/land opposite the Wheatsheaf and T8.2, T8.1, T8.3 and T8.4 on Crooked Gate). It was further resolved to obtain a quote for an ash dieback survey of the 5 sites with ash trees.
- iii. Cllr S Carman reported on drainage/flooding issue affecting the Parish Road (Land opposite the Wheatsheaf). Site visits had confirmed that the culvert was not coping with the flow of floodwater and, following consultation with councillors, a CCTV survey of the culvert had been instructed. The CCTV survey and report, which had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting, showed debris blocking the top entry point and a step up between two sections of the culvert which reduces the flow of water. It was suggested that remedial work would involve clearing the debris, digging out the culvert and re-laying the pipe. A quote had been requested for this work.

It was noted that boundaries between the parish land and neighbouring properties are unclear, with no settled ownership of the culvert, and that the culvert may be subject to riparian ownership with responsibility shared between the landowners. It was agreed that the survey findings should be shared with the owners of the four properties adjacent to the parish land and their input invited in order to determine responsibility for remedial action. It was agreed that further site visits and investigations would be deferred until the lifting of lockdown restrictions.

## 57/20 Highways

- i. The re-surfacing of the road to the church was noted and praised. County Cllr J Bland reported that the potholes on Whetstone Lane had been patched but that culvert repairs were required before the road could be re-surfaced. It was reported that the owners of the Wheatsheaf had received some negative reviews from customers due to the state of this road. Cllr Bland advised that repairs to Helsington Moss Bridge had not been possible due to the water level being too high and that the road remained closed to vehicles, cyclists and

pedestrians. He expressed his concern about the proposed cost and timescale of a new bridge and the possibility that the road may remain closed until summer 2022.

Cllr Bland agreed to report a large pothole at the bottom of Crooked Gate.

ii. Reports on drainage issues/ice hazards on Brigsteer Brow were received and noted.

Salt had been ordered and delivered for spreading by councillors and residents to address the ice hazard in the short term, but it was recognized that the drainage issue needed addressing with a long term solution. Cllr J Bland agreed to arrange a site visit with a Highways officer.

Cllr Bland also agreed to arrange a site visit to consider other safety issues affecting the junction at the Wheatsheaf; Cllr S Carman asked to be included in this.

### **58/20 Reports**

The following reports were received and noted:

a) Cllr S Carman conveyed his thanks to District Cllr K Holmes for funding of £250 towards a new bench/seat outside the Village Hall. He outlined the proposal for a seat to commemorate community resilience and spirit during the pandemic, which had been supported by councillors who felt it would be well used. It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain quotes for suitable maintenance-free seats.

b) Helsington Community Land Trust Ltd; no report.

c) Helsington & Brigsteer Village Hall; closed until further notice, but it was reported that the Hall was in a sound financial position due to the receipt of government grants. Cllr S carman conveyed his thanks to the Villlage Hall and the Brigsteer Band for the carol concert held in December.

d) Local Police Team; no reports until further notice.

e) District Cllr K Holmes was unable to report due to a poor video/phone connection.

f) County Cllr J Bland reported that County and District Council elections would not take place in 2021 if the proposals for local government reorganisation were still under consideration.

### **59/20 Clerk's Report and Correspondence**

Correspondence had been circulated by email, including information re Local Government Reorganisation proposals submitted by the principal authorities in Cumbria, including SLDC's Bay proposal and CCC's One Cumbria proposal, LDNPA Supplementary Planning Documents consultation (Housing and Biodiversity) and CALC's Developing your skills training programme. Clerk confirmed that Parish elections for Helsington were scheduled for 6 May 2021 and her understanding was that these would proceed despite the postponement of other local elections. Clerk reported that a re-declaration of compliance with The Pensions Regulator had been completed in December 2020 (no employees to enrol in a pension scheme). It was noted that the Clerk would be taking 2.4 weeks' annual leave before the end of March and carrying forward 1 week's leave to 2021/22.

### **60/20 Community Led Plan (CLP)**

CLP Working Group activity currently on hold, apart from Community Emergency Planning.

Cllr K Ritchie outlined a draft Risk Assessment and Community Emergency Plan she had produced. As this had not been circulated prior to the meeting, it was agreed that councillors would be given the opportunity to consider the drafts and make suggestions.

### **61/20 Future meetings**

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held remotely on Wednesday 7 April 2021, as authorised by the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England & Wales) Regulations 2020.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed: .....(Chair)

Date:.....