

HELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 06 July 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in the Helsington & Brigsteer Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs J. Sunderland (Vice-Chairman), J.Cooper, K. Ritchie, J. Seddon, M. R. Curry (Clerk).

In Attendance: County Councillor J. Bland, District Cllr. K. Holmes. The Clerk introduced Cllr. Janet Battye present as the Shadow Councillor for the Westmorland and Furness Council. There were no members of the public present.

21/22 Apologies: Written apologies were received from Cllr. S. Carman and G. Riley. In the absence of Cllr. Carman Vice-Chairman Cllr. Sunderland took the Chair.

22/22 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests: None

23/23 Minutes: It was **Resolved** to approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 04 May 2022

24/22 Public Participation: No members of the public were present to raise issues.

25/22 Planning: The following applications, responses, decisions and updates were noted:

a. Lake District National Park Authority: View applications, responses / decisions online at: <http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/swiftlg/apas/run/wphappcriteria.display>

- i. **7/2022/5267 – Orchard House, Brigsteer:** Various external alterations. No objection submitted 19/11/2021. **Approved with conditions: 31/05/2022.**
- ii. **7/2022/5342 - Trevol, Crow Wood, Brigsteer, Cumbria LA8 8AW:** Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed erection of a dwelling under pre-existing consent from 1960s. A written response to an email from the Parish Council requesting clarification of several points had been received from the Planning Officer. The application has not yet been considered in detail, but the letter made it clear that opinion and current policy was not relevant, though evidence and/or legal argument would be taken into account. After discussion, it was concluded unlikely that an objection could be constructed and agreed to keep the application under review.
- iii. **7/2022/5379 – Ashbank La., Sizergh LA8 8AE:** External welcome sign within the visitor complex, Sizergh Castle. It was **Resolved** to make **No Objection**.

b. South Lakeland District Council: View applications, responses and decisions online at: <http://applications.southlakeland.gov.uk/planningapplications/welcome.asp>

- i. **SL/2021/0775 - Land south of Prizet Filling Station Southbound:** Construction of new business buildings. A Sequential Assessment had been received on the 14 June. It was agreed that this did not influence the position of No Objection already submitted.
- ii. **CU/2022/0005 – Barn to the east of Prizet, LA8 8AB:** Application to determine if Change of Use consent is required for the conversion of a barn to dwelling. Members agreed that this was not an application on which it needed to take a view at this stage.

c. Cumbria County Council: Ref: 530000-376-WCA81: Claimed public footpath at Helsington Underpass. Councillors noted the submission of a No Objection response sent on 24/06/2022.

26/22 Parish Land

a) Land Opposite the Village Hall:

- i. Rectification of address: HMLR has not yet responded to the request for rectification of address.
- ii. Damage to fence between the car-park opposite the Village Hall and Puddleduck Cottage: Councillors noted a letter to the Chairman from the occupant of Puddleduck Cottage highlighting damage to the boundary fence between that property and the car-park. Councillors noted that the car park was leased by the Village Hall from the Parish Council and that the lease might contain references to responsibility for the boundaries. The Clerk undertook to locate the lease. The emplacement of concrete buffers was not favoured. The Clerk reported that Cllr Carman had indicated his willingness to meet with the resident and view the position on-site and this proposal was supported.

b) Tree work on Parish Land: The Clerk reported that a Tree Felling Licence for Peat Houses and Moss Lane had now been secured. He had written to Mark Sigrist to explore arrangements for the next phase of woodland work.

c) Drainage on the Parish Road opposite the Wheatsheaf: Councillors noted an email of 24 May from a resident confirming that re-instatement work on the culvert had been completed, but raising doubts about the stability of adjacent ground. Councillors concluded that if this was outside the boundary of land owned by the Parish Council then responsibility and remediation of the impacts of failure would lie with the relevant land-owner. On flooding, it was noted that this area has always flooded and that if the culvert has been reinstated satisfactorily then any flooding is as a result of wider issues and of historic nature. This then goes beyond the PC's ability to rectify and that its role should be to monitor and liaise with appropriate agencies and stakeholders. The Clerk reported that he had written to Cllr. Bland to secure advice from the County Council as lead flood agency with devolved responsibility from the Environment Agency. Cllr. Bland undertook to look at the CCC role in this. It was agreed to secure the Chairman's observations on these conclusions.

d) Registrations of Title: The Clerk reported that he had now located the previous registrations of possessory title. He had spoken direct with HMLR and had received advice on next steps which included a requirement to submit a formal application for change of contact details on Form COG1. This would need to be countersigned by the Parish Council before he could make the applications to upgrade titles. Councillors were happy to regard this as work in progress and supported a proposal to prepare an updated definitive Schedule of Properties including a view on whether claimed ownership could be reversed.

27/22 Highways

a) Highways Schedule:

- i) Update of Schedule: No updates were to the Schedule were proposed.
- ii) Low Lane: Cllr. Riley's had submitted a written note confirming that no aggregate had yet been delivered. Cllr. Bland confirmed that he had offered for road planings to be collected from a site on Lord's Plain and agreed to mention this again to Bruce.
- iii) Moss Lane Bridge: Cllr. Bland reported that replacement of the bridge was due to start before the end of July.

b) Speed Indicator Device (SID): Cllr. Cooper confirmed that the equipment had been received and was currently with Cllr. Carman. It was agreed to arrange for installation as soon as possible. Financing amounted to £1,300 from Cumbria County Council Community grant; £1,000 from Cllr. Bland's capital project fund and a pledge of £250 from Robinson's Brewery, (payment of which has now been invoiced) totalling £2,550, against net costs of £2,620 (ex VAT which will be reclaimed). The balance is to be funded by the Parish Council.

28/22 Reports

- a) **Chairman & Parish Councillors: No reports submitted.**
- b) **Helsington & Brigsteer Village Hall:** Cllr. Ritchie reported that the recent Open Gardens event had been very successful and had raised approximately £3.5K. Cllr. Seddon reported that publicity had been wide including profile in Lancashire Life and visitors had come from as far afield as Burnley and Skipton. The success of the Jubilee events was also noted and it was **Agreed** to Minute the appreciation and thanks of the Parish Council to all concerned. It was also agreed to recommend to the Chairman that a letter be written to the Village Hall Committee expressing these sentiments, together with payment of the first tranche of grant support previously approved.
- c) **Local Police Team:** No update on local issues had been received.
- d) **District Councillor:** Cllr. Holmes reported as follows:
 - i) The Licensing Regulation Committee at SLDC has agreed new standards which will be applicable to all taxis operating in the area. It was confirmed that Rural Wheels is still in existence.
 - ii) SLDC has received nearly £2.2M from a government fund to ameliorate the negative impacts of Covid19 on local businesses. Councillors noted that there were local businesses within the Parish that might benefit.
 - iii) Cllr Holmes has been re-elected as Chair of the Lake (Windermere) Administrative Committee.
- e) **Councillor J. Battye** (for the Shadow Westmorland & Furness Council): Cllr. Battye reported that the first full meeting of the Shadow Council had been held in mid-May and that a Shadow Executive is in place. Its mantra is to have services delivered locally and it is focusing on how to combine existing district council services and separate out those services currently delivered by the County Council. A key theme will be tackling climate change. Cllr Battye will provide regular updates as the new Council prepares for Vesting Day on 01 April 2023.
- f) **County Councillor:** Cllr. Bland referred to plans for the Moss Lane Bridge due to start by the end of the month. He is working to introduce a weight limit on the road, but confirmed that this will not affect legitimate farm traffic. This will require a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) which is an expensive process. Councillors expressed themselves comfortable with these plans. It was noted that there were plans to re-surface Whetstone Lane from top to bottom. With reference to the wind-up of the SWVMA, Cllr Bland reminded Councillors that in the event of severe winter weather there will be no local response in advance of County services getting to rural locations.

29/22 Finance

- a) **Receipts:** Receipts since the last meeting were: Cumbria County Council grant (SID) - £1,300; SWVMA refund - £214.52; Cllr. Bland Project Fund via Levens PC - £1,000.
- b) **Payments:** The following payments were approved:
 - i) Parish Bench: Ratification of costs (reimbursed to Cllr. Carman) £ 408.00
 - ii) Parish Bench: Contribution to the Village Hall for installation costs: 80.00
 - iii) Zurich Insurance: 2022-23 premium (previously approved in principle): 224.00
 - iv) Pandora Technologies Ltd: Supply of SID: 3,144.00
 - v) M R Curry: reimbursement of expenses (printer costs): 31.69
- c) **Financial Report**
 - i) Submission of AGAR 2021-22: The Clerk confirmed that the AGAR has been submitted to the External Auditor and that the Notice of Public Rights has been published.

- ii) **Bank Reconciliation:** Councillors received and approved the bank reconciliation to 06 July 2022.
- iii) **Budget Review:** The Clerk had circulated a budget review to 30 June with projections to 31 March 2023. Expenditure was projected to be higher than the budget, but this was anticipated as a result of ash die-back work not being completed in the previous financial year. Otherwise there were no matters of exception to report and Councillors accepted the report.
- d) **Bank Mandate:** With authorities now received by both Cllr. Sunderland and the Clerk the mandate update was now complete.

30/22 The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee: This had been largely dealt with at 28/22(b) above but Councillors noted the finalisation of plans for the location of the Jubilee bench which had been purchased by the Parish Council with grant support from District Cllr. Holmes. The proposed contribution of £80 towards installation had been approved.

31/22 Community Initiatives

- a) **Community Led Plan (CLP):** Cllr. Ritchie reminded Members that the CLP was out of date and required updating. Cllr Seddon recollected that the process and structure was relatively straightforward but did contain provision for local consultation. It was agreed to defer further consideration to the next meeting.
- b) **Community Resilience and Emergency Plan:** Councillors noted the outcomes of the Working Group meeting held on 18 May to be followed up at the next meeting to be held on 18 July. Cllr Ritchie acknowledged the value of the templates provided by CALC and it was agreed to review these on the 18th and to focus on the suggested Risk Assessments.

32/22 Correspondence Received: The Clerk referred to a letter from Tim Farron MP addressed to all Parish Councils within his constituency requesting suggestions for the governments ‘levelling-up’ agenda. This had prompted a follow-up letter from an anonymous source asking parish councils to ensure that if suggestions were made that Mr Farron acted on them. Councillors noted the correspondence.

33/22 Future Meetings: The next meeting was confirmed as to take place on Wednesday 07 September 2022. Other than matters arising from items on the July Agenda, it had been agreed to include an item on the Community Led Plan.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Signed..... Chairman

Date.....