

HELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 07 February 2024 at 7.30 p.m.
in the Helsington and Brigsteer Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs S. Carman (Chairman), J. Cooper, G. Riley, J. Sunderland, J. Tudor, R. Ward.

In Attendance: Cllr. J. Battye (W&FC), M.R. Curry (Clerk) and 2 members of the public

60/23 Apologies: No apologies had been received.

61/23 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests: The Chairman declared an interest in Agenda Item 5(a)iv: Planning application - Plumb Tree Cottage, Brigsteer and will hand the Chair to the Vice-Chair at that point.

62/23 Minutes: The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 01 November 2023 were **Approved** and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

63/23 Public Participation: Councillors welcomed the presence of R & K Keith in respect of their planning application for Crow Wood (Item 5(a)v) but no representation was made.

64/23 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. **7/2023/5324: Park End Farm, Brigsteer, LA8 8AS:** Internal alterations. **No Objection** submitted 20/10/23. Application **Approved** with conditions (ACON) 17/11/2023
- ii. **7/2023/5585: Sizergh Castle LA8 8AE:** Upgrade fire alarm system. **No Objection** submitted. **ACON** 09/11/2023
- iii. **7/2023/5750: Nether Wells, Helsington, LA8 8AF.** New polytunnel – JJ & MM Park & Son. For information only - no provision for consultation
- iv. **7/2023/5606: Plum Tree Cottage, Brigsteer LA8 8AN.** Modification of garage and outbuildings; kitchen extension and addition of shower room. Having declared an interest, Cllr. Carman withdrew. There was detailed discussion about the pros and cons of component parts of the application including the proposed kitchen extension and shower room. Concerns were expressed about potential use for air-bnb or self-catering accommodation and Councillors acknowledged likely objections from neighbours relating to the loss of privacy in that event. Reference was made to a previous planning consent in January 2014 which was made on condition that the extension: "... shall not be used as a self-contained independent residential or commercial unit." Councillors concluded that the proposals for improvements to the garage and driveway were reasonable as were those for the proposed kitchen extension and shower room so long as the restriction in use in respect of self-contained accommodation / holiday-let remains in place. It was **Resolved** to submit **No Objection** subject to the retention of the condition relating to self-catering / commercial use.
- v. **7/2023/5575: Crow Wood, Brigsteer LA8 8AW.** Removal of 1st floor front extension and erection of rear dormer & rear dormer. Porch extension and elevation re-modelling. Having considered the plans, Councillors **Agreed** to submit **No Objection**.

b. Westmorland and Furness Council (W&FC): View applications, responses and decisions online at:

<http://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/search-planning-applications>)

- i. **SL/2023/0023: Land South of Prizer Filling Station (Southbound):** New business building & associated development. The Parish Council had previously submitted **No Objection** but the application had been refused. Councillors noted that the applicants have lodged an Appeal with the Planning Inspectorate.
- ii. **2023/1061/FPA: Brigsteer Road, Kendal.** Councillors noted the application for 108 dwelling houses as Phase 4 of Story Homes development on a site adjacent to, but outside, Helsington Parish boundary. Councillors **Agreed** to submit an observation about the increase in traffic, some of which is bound to impact on Parish roads, and the negative proportions of affordable housing against market-price homes.

65/23 Parish Land

- a. Trees on Parish Land: Cllr. Carman confirmed that the familiarisation tour of Council owned plots which was postponed as a result of bad weather would be reinstated. Work to secure quotes for a new Tree Health and Safety Survey will continue.
- b. Councillors noted the report of a hung-up tree on the Highways verge near the junction with Whetstone Lane submitted by Cllr. Riley in January and its subsequent removal.
- c. Parish On-Line: Councillors **Agreed** to take out an annual subscription for Parish On-Line at £60.00.

66/23 Highways

- a. Defects Schedule: No new items were added.
- b. Crooked Gate: Cllrs noted that the re-surfacing of Crooked Gate had been completed. There was no immediate evidence that Japanese knotweed has been treated and the Clerk was asked to request an update on what work had been done. It was felt that signage to advise residents that treatment was underway would be appropriate to deter individuals from undertaking work themselves.
- c. Low Lane: Cllr. Riley confirmed that he will make a monitoring visit towards the end of February.
- d. It was noted that repairs to the fallen wall at the Community Orchard were underway.

67/23 Westmorland and Furness 20-mph Speed Limit Initiative

Cllr Ward reported on an on-line meeting hosted by W&FC that he had attended immediately prior to the Parish Council meeting. The deadline date of 16 February for the submission of an application is part of a phased roll-out and not a final guillotine. The host of the meeting was familiar with Brigsteer and thought it appropriate to encourage an application.

On the question as to whether the Parish Council should apply for a 20-mph zone, its **Agreement** to do so as recorded in the November meeting was confirmed.

It was **Agreed** that evidence of community consultation could be gained from Alan Davies' email list. Cllr. Carman undertook to compile a question with a yes / no answer for circulation and confirm locations for signage. The Clerk and he will then work to finalise the already part completed application with contributions from other Councillors and submit it by the due date, together with evidence of public support, a location map and the Minute reference demonstrating Parish Council agreement to apply.

The possibility of traffic calming was also discussed and felt to be worthwhile. This will be followed-up as the speed limit initiative unfolds.

68/23 Reports

a. Chairman and Parish Councillors:

- i. There were no particular reports or updates from Councillors.
- ii. Parish Council Vacancy: It was noted that the vacancy is publicised on the website and the Parish Council will welcome expressions of interest. It was also noted that Parish Council elections will take place on 02 May 2024.

b. **Helsington and Brigsteer Village Hall:** The Chairman reported that the Village Hall had been busy and had hosted an excellent New Year's Eve event. It was currently helping with preparations for the upcoming Open Gardens initiative. The benefits of having a Village Hall Committee member as a Parish Councillor were expressed.

c. **Westmorland and Furness Council:** Key items from Cllr. Battye's report were:

- i. Budget: The Council will be setting its budget in a couple of weeks with a likely increase of 4.99%. The levy on second homes is not possible for the 2024-25 financial year for legal reasons but work continues for its introduction.
- ii. A590: Despite the reduction in priority for improvements at Gilpin Bridge by National Highways, efforts continue to keep the pressure on to achieve the original plan for a roundabout – the importance highlighted by one fatality already this year. In the meantime, verge-side work to cut back dead and decaying ash together with signs and lines work is continuing.
- iii. Local Plan: the Council is recommencing work on a composite Local Plan for the area.
- iv. The Boundary Commission is embarking on a review of W&FC ward boundaries.
- v. Cllr. Battye concluded by summarising some of her own work particularly on the Health and Welfare Scrutiny Committee which is currently reviewing the availability of NHS dentists in the region.

d. **Local Police Team**

- i. Speeding and anti-social behaviour: Councillors **Agreed** the need to push again for police action in respect of joy-riding through the village, littering and other anti-social behaviour at St John's Church which had been evident as recently as the previous weekend. The Clerk was asked to ensure that the local PCSO is sent a copy of the Minutes recording these concerns.

69/23 Finance

- a. **Receipts:** Councillors noted the VAT Refund for the years 2021-22 and 2022-23 received on 01 February 2024 totalling £690.58.
- b. **Payments:** Councillors noted and **Approved** the following payments for the period 01/11/2023 – 01/02/2024:
 - i. 08/11/2023: AIMS Accountants – Monthly payroll fee £ 16.40
 - ii. 14/11/2023: HMRC – PAYE etc £ 77.20
 - iii. 14/11/2023: Lowland Curlew Group £ 700.00
 - iv. 14/11/2023: Brigsteer Village Hall - Grant £1,325.00
 - v. 14/11/2023: Brigsteer Village Hall – Room Hire £ 128.00
 - vi. 14/11/2023: Community Hear – Grant: defibrillator £ 250.00
 - vii. 15/11/2023: M R Curry – Salary November 2023 £ 308.74

