

## HELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 1 April 2015 in the Helsington and Brigsteer Village Hall at 7.30 pm

**Present :** Cllrs J Seddon (Chairman), B Mansbridge, S Carman and S Steer,  
County Cllr J Bland, Mrs J Davidson (Clerk) and no members of the public.

**86/14 Apologies**

It was resolved for apologies with reasons given to be noted from Cllr Davies, Cllr Sykes and Cllr Wilson.

**87/14 Declarations of Interest**

None.

**88/14 Dispensation Requests**

None.

**89/14 Minutes**

It was resolved for the Chairman to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2015 as a true record.

**90/14 Public Participation**

An e-mail had been received on behalf of the organisers of this year's Brigsteer Open Gardens event which is to be held during the Bank Holiday Weekend of Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> and Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May. Concerns had been raised that this event – depending on the weather – could possibly attract a number of visitors/vehicles to Brigsteer in addition to those who are expected to visit the Wheatsheaf Inn. The Clerk had spoken with Sergeant Paul Mellard – Kendal Neighbourhood Policing Team - who had advised that an increase in traffic in our area on Bank Holidays is usual and something the police would not routinely respond to unless actual offences or public safety risks occurred. Events organisers are recommended to either provide adequate parking or inform attendees that parking is limited. The Kendal Neighbourhood Policing Team is already committed to a pre-planned operation during this weekend as it often marks the start of the arrival - and transit through the area - of members of the travelling and gypsy communities as they make their way to Appleby Fair. Cllr Carmen agreed to convey this information back to the organisers of the Open Gardens event.

**91/14 Planning**

i) It was noted the following planning application had been submitted to SLDC since the last meeting and the consultation deadline had been before this meeting of the Parish Council. The Clerk had consulted with the members of the Parish Council individually and - using delegated powers - had submitted a response to SLDC that all members of the Parish Council were in support of.

**SL/2015/0093 – Sizergh Castle, Sizergh, Kendal**

Erection of bird hide

The following comments had been conveyed on behalf of the Parish Council to SLDC :

Helsington Parish Council is in full support of the wetland restoration at Park End Moss and the proposal to erect this bird hide.

ii) It was noted the following planning application has now been granted by SLDC since the last meeting :

**SL/2015/0093 – Sizergh Castle, Sizergh, Kendal**

Erection of bird hide

#### **92/14 Community Led Plan**

Cllr Carman reported he had discussed the formatting/presentation of the draft Community Led Plan questionnaire with the Clerk who has now re-formatted the document. However it is felt perhaps more thought might be needed regarding the arrangement of the sections and headings. It is also uncertain as to whether the current format of the document will translate to an online survey and any help/expertise from SLDC which used to be available is not now. A discussion was introduced as to whether the survey could be carried out using paper copies only and it was agreed that - although this should be feasible - it may be more of a challenge to analyse the data. Cllr Carmen agreed to call a meeting of the Community Led Plan Working Group in order to discuss these matters.

#### **93/14 Parish Land**

At the February 2015 meeting of the Parish Council it was resolved that a Working Group of at least 3 Councillors should be convened in order to consider recommendations regarding land owned - or potentially owned - by the Parish as follows :

- Whether land presently owned by the Parish should be retained or disposed of;
- Whether land potentially owned by the Council - which has not already been officially registered - should be officially registered as owned;
- How retained land should be managed in the interests of Parishioners as a whole.

The report of the recommendations which had been made by the Working Group which had comprised of Cllrs Mansbridge, Davies and Seddon was received and considered. It was resolved that the report and the recommendations should be approved.

#### **94/14 Highways/Footpaths**

Cllr Seddon again brought to the attention of County Cllr Bland that the carriageway markings which had been requested for opposite the Wheatsheaf Inn have still not appeared despite the Clerk sending a reminder to Cumbria Highways. Also action has still not been taken regarding the dangerous structural deterioration of the highway descending to the Brigsteer Causeway despite there having been two site meetings with Highway engineers. It was resolved that the Chairman and the Clerk would send a formal letter regarding to Cumbria Highways regarding the Causeway Road and the Clerk would send another reminder regarding the white lines.

#### **95/14 Reports**

i) **Society of Local Council Clerks' Conference** – the Clerk reported she had attended a Society of Local Council Clerks' Conference which had been held in Bolton on 25 March 2015. Items on the agenda had been :

- Law for local councils
- Managing your council's risk
- An update on neighbourhood planning progress, support available and examples of successful consultation and plan policies
- Consulting with your community
- Fracking
- Employment workshop

ii) **Helsington Community Land Trust** – Helsington Community Land Trust Ltd. (HCLT) had submitted a written report. The HCLT is pleased to report significant progress in its project to provide affordable homes for the Parish. Legal agreements are now close to being agreed between HCLT, Forest Enterprise and Levens Hall Estate. Architects - Damson Design - led by Tony Hills have been selected to design and plan the homes. Andrew Dobson has stepped down as Chairman and received a huge thank you from the Shareholders for his work over the past few years. A Brigsteer resident - Martin Hoggard - has been elected as the new Chairman of the HCLT. A training day on how to prune the apple trees in the Community Orchard at Park End Farm had been recently organised with The National Trust. The next training day for plum and damson trees will be at the end of August – everyone is welcome - on a date yet to be arranged.

- iii) **Helsington & Brigsteer Village Hall** – Cllr Carman reported the Village Hall AGM is to be held on 13 April 2015. Due to the constitution of the Village Hall Committee some Trustees will be required to stand down and new ones be appointed.
- iv) **Police** – PCSO Mark Hutchinson had submitted a written report. One crime – a drive off without payment at the Prizet petrol station – has been reported in the Helsington Parish this year. Several reports have been received over the last couple of weeks relating to doorstep sellers and fish sellers in white vans. Members of the public who encounter cold callers and feel there is anything suspicious about them should call ‘101’ with a vehicle registration number if possible. The Policing Team is also investigating reports of possible deer poaching in the area and again if anything suspicious is seen members of the public should contact ‘101’. There continue to be incidents of rural acquisitive crime with opportunistic thieves targeting both secure and insecure out buildings, quad bikes, fuel oil, vehicles and power tools.
- v) **Any relevant matters from District Cllr Rawlinson** – apologies had been conveyed by District Cllr Rawlinson due to being unable to attend this meeting.
- vi) **Any relevant matters from County Cllr Bland** - County Cllr Bland had no relevant matters to bring to the attention of the Parish Council.

**96/14 Finance**

- i) The Payments/Receipts Report for 2014/15 was received and noted.
- ii) It was resolved for Section 1 – Accounting Statements for ... and Section 2 – Annual governance statement of the Audit Return for 2014/15 to be signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

**97/14 Correspondence**

- i) Lyth Valley Water Level management Group (Internal Drainage Board) Newsletter March 2015;
- ii) Any other correspondence, circulars and publications which have been received since the last meeting and not included as an item on this agenda was received and noted.

**98/14 Items for consideration for a future agenda**

- Community Led Plan
- Office Facilities (July)
- Registration of Parish Land (July)
- Tree Management (July)
- Highways and Parking (July)

**99/14 Next Meetings**

- a) **Annual Meeting** – it was confirmed the next meeting of the Parish Council will be the Annual Meeting and will be held on 6 May 2015 commencing at 7.15pm.
- b) **Parish Meeting** – it was confirmed the Parish Meeting will follow the Annual Meeting commencing at 8.00pm. A discussion was introduced as to what arrangements should be made for this meeting. It was decided that this year it should consist of simply the mandatory agenda items - Approval of Previous Minutes - Chairman’s Report and Public Participation) – refreshments would be served after the meeting.

*The meeting closed at 9 : 25 pm*

Signed : ..... (Chairman)  
Date : 6 May 2015