

HELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6 April 2016 in the Helsington and Brigsteer Village Hall at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs A Davies, (Chairman), S Carman, B Mansbridge, J Seddon, S Steer.

Also present were District Cllr A Rawlinson, County Cllr J Bland, Ms J Saunders (Clerk) and 9 members of the public.

77/15 Apologies

It was resolved for apologies with reasons given to be noted and accepted from Cllr B Sykes. (Apologies with reasons had also been sent prior to the meeting by Cllr G Wilson, but these were not received until after the meeting).

78/15 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests

There were no declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda, and no dispensation requests.

79/15 Minutes

It was resolved for the Chairman to sign the minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 3 February 2016 as a true record.

80/15 Public Participation

Andy Clifford spoke on Agenda item 8a) regarding his correspondence to the Council concerning damage to his property by vehicles using Low Lane on 2 consecutive days. Mr Clifford advised he had contacted Kevin Beaty of Cumbria Highways and received a response advising that speed bumps would not be considered in this location. It was noted that a width restriction sign at the end of the village was missing, and another had been obscured by bushes (now cut back). Give way markings also need replacing after resurfacing work. Mr Clifford understood that the width restriction applied to all vehicles, with no exemption for access. There was some discussion about whether this restriction applied to Low Lane, and it was suggested that there may be two separate width restrictions applicable to different routes through the village. Mr Clifford expressed concern about speeding vehicles, especially large vehicles, and advised that he may consider the installation of CCTV. He expressed appreciation for the advice received from the Parish Council on this matter.

81/15 Planning

It was noted that no planning applications or decisions had been received since the last meeting on 3 February 2016.

A notice re Change of use of The Barn, Low Lane had been posted at the site and was noted.

82/15 Community Led Plan

It was noted that a detailed presentation on the Community Led Plan was to be given at the Annual Parish Meeting which was to follow this Council meeting.

83/15 Parish Land

- a) It was reported that the tree inspection report regarding trees on parish land had been emailed to the Council at 6.30pm that evening. It would therefore be considered at the next Council meeting.

- b) Correspondence from Mrs G Nelson and Mr G Riley respectively (circulated previously) regarding trees on parish land (toll road) was received and noted. Re Mrs Nelson's concerns: it was understood from the inspector that the trees in this location gave no cause for immediate concern or urgent action. It was therefore agreed that a decision on any action to be taken would be deferred until the next meeting after full consideration of the inspection report. Re Mr Riley's concerns: it was noted that he had agreed to pay for the removal of the trees in question. However, although there was no objection to the proposed work, it was felt that a risk assessment should be undertaken to determine the proximity of the trees to the highway, and consequently whether it should be specified that any works should be undertaken by an appropriately qualified/approved contractor with public liability insurance. Cllrs S Carman and A Davies agreed to undertake this risk assessment.
- c) Registration of parish land: Cllr B Mansbridge advised that she had requested a search of the Common Land Register in respect of the land at Crooked Gate. Solicitor's advice had been received to register a caution on the land adjacent to Syke House near the Watering Place but also to seek clarification on whether the Levens Hall Estate had any claim to ownership. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Levens Hall Estate regarding this matter.
- d) There were no other matters regarding parish land.

84/15 Highways/Footpaths

- a) It was agreed that matters raised in correspondence received from Mr A Clifford regarding Low Lane had been addressed in Public Participation.
- b) It was noted that the poor condition of the road to Helsington Church had been reported to Cumbria Highways and it was reported that repairs to the road had recently been undertaken. It was further noted that the finger post indicating the bridleway from the road end at Briggs House Farm to the Church had been added to the list for replacement by the Countryside Access Team.
- c) Concern was expressed about the condition of the road to Kendal as drains/gullies were blocked which caused flooding after any amount of rain. It was noted that Cumbria Highways had requested all drainage points to be identified in parishes. It was agreed that a working party comprising Cllrs A Davies and J Seddon would compile information on drains and gullies in the parish.

85/15 Reports

- a. Meetings attended: Cllr B Mansbridge advised she had attended the meeting of the South Westmorland LAP in March.
- b. Correspondence and a copy of the Housing Allocation Policy had been received from Helsington Community Land Trust Ltd (circulated previously). It was noted that HCLT had been involved in negotiations with the Forestry Commission over the land value and SLDC over the Allocation Policy, and that test activities were planned for the site next to the Village Hall over the next few months. Public meetings would be held, and a register of interest had been started. It was agreed that the subject would be included on future Council agendas.
- c. Correspondence had been received regarding proposals for Helsington & Brigsteer Village Hall car park (letter circulated previously). It was noted that the proposed improvements, to be undertaken this summer, would include guttering and low level lighting.
- d. District Cllr A Rawlinson:
 - (i) LIPs funding provided £3,500 grant for Village Hall car park improvements.
 - (ii) New SLDC Equality scheme - Handy Person Scheme to help elderly or vulnerable people get essential work done on their homes; support projects for those affected by domestic violence.

(iii) Still working on report on proposed Internal Drainage Board for June Cabinet meeting, and receptive to further comments. Report would be submitted even if no longer in office after election. Cllr Rawlinson agreed to suggest to David Sykes at SLDC that Cabinet consideration of the issue may need to be deferred if further consultation takes place.

- e. County Cllr J Bland advised meetings and discussions re proposed IDB were ongoing.

86/15 Queen's 90th Birthday Beacon event

A report was received from Cllr S Carman on arrangements for this event which would take place at Lumley Fee on 21 April 2016. The proposal for a gas beacon had been rejected as the effect was 'underwhelming', so a bonfire beacon was planned instead. Cllr Carman was working on the event alongside Nicki Roberts of the Wheatsheaf (barbecue planned at Lumley Fee) and a number of volunteers. Risk assessments for the event were being undertaken, and the input of Andy Clifford on these was appreciated.

It was resolved to approve a budget of up to £100 to cover some of the costs of the event, including first aid and burns kits and hi-vis jackets. It was further resolved that the Council would fund the additional insurance costs of the event.

87/15 South Lakeland District Council Parish Remuneration Panel Report 2016/17

Clarification regarding the report and recommendations of the PRP (circulated previously) was given, specifically that members may claim Travel and Subsistence Expenses without the need to claim a Basic Parish Allowance. It was subsequently resolved that members of Helsington Parish Council would not claim the Basic Parish Allowance or the Chairman's Allowance, but would claim Travel and Subsistence expenses as appropriate.

88/15 Clerk's Report and Correspondence

It was noted that the new Council website went live on 22 February 2016, with the net cost of £390 having been covered in full by Cllr Annie Rawlinson's Locality Budget grant, and the cost of the Clerk's time on the project covered by Transparency Funding previously awarded.

The following correspondence, some of which had previously been circulated to members by email or post, was received and noted:

1. CALC Circulars March 2016 and April 2016 (circulated previously)
2. Clerks and Councils Direct
3. Minutes of SW LAP meeting held on 2 March 2016 (circulated previously)
4. Email re littering at entrance to Low Plantation wood (circulated previously)
5. Connecting Cumbria newsletter and info re digital inclusion programme (circulated previously)
6. CCC request for information on post flooding sludge/gravel deposits on non-agricultural land (circulated previously)
7. CCC Highways' request for a meeting with a representative of the parish to discuss on site a suitable location for a SID (speed indicator device). It was resolved that Cllr B Mansbridge would represent the parish at this meeting.
8. Request from Brigsteer and Underbarrow Christmas Party Committee for donation for 2016 children's Christmas party. The request had been acknowledged, and would be considered at the next meeting.

It was noted that Close of nominations for the Parish elections was 4pm on the following day (7 April 2016), and that election information was posted on the Council website.

89/15 Clerk's Contract of Employment

It was resolved to increase the contracted hours worked by the Clerk to the Council from 5 per week to 6 per week with effect from 1 April 2016, in accordance with the

budget agreed for the Clerk's salary for 2016/17. This would reflect the hours actually worked by the Clerk and currently paid for as additional hours. It was further resolved to amend the existing monthly standing order payment amount accordingly (from £228.09 to £273.70).

90/15 Finance

- a) The award of £390 from Cllr A Rawlinson's Locality Budget towards the cost of the new website was noted and Cllr Rawlinson was thanked for her contribution.
- b) The following payments were approved:
Jane Saunders (Clerk's salary, 17 additional hours 1 Feb - 31 Mar 2016) £178.96
Jane Saunders (Clerk's expenses, 1 Feb - 31 Mar 2016) £58.07
In addition and as noted above, payment of the Clerk by amended monthly standing order of £273.70 with effect from April 2016 and payment of the additional insurance costs of the Queen's 90th Birthday Beacon event (subsequently confirmed as £54.75) were also approved.

91/15 Future meetings

It was confirmed that the next scheduled meeting of Helsington Parish Council would be Wednesday 18 May 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Helsington and Brigsteer Village Hall. It was noted that the next meeting would be the Annual Meeting and the first meeting of the newly elected Council.

The meeting closed at 19.57 pm

Signed:
(Chairman)
Date: 18 May 2016