

HELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5 April 2017 in the Helsington and Brigsteer Village Hall at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs A Davies, (Chairman), B Mansbridge, S Carman, R Park, S Savasi and J Seddon.

Also present were County Cllr J Bland, Ms J Saunders (Clerk) and 7 members of the public.

93/16 Apologies

Apologies with reasons given from Cllr K Ritchie were noted and accepted. Apologies were also received from District Cllr A Rawlinson.

94/16 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests

Cllr S Savasi declared an interest in agenda item 6d) re the Parish Road due to her property being accessed over the lane.

Cllr R Park declared an interest in planning application SL/2017/0028 re Growing Well, Low Sizergh Farm, Low Lane, Sizergh, but it was noted that this agenda item was for information only and required no discussion or decision.

95/16 Minutes

It was resolved for the Chairman to sign the minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 1 February 2017 as a true record, subject to the amendment of the numbering of Finance minute 91 to read 91/16.

96/16 Public Participation

Andy Clifford expressed concern about damage to the road leading down to Brigsteer Causeway. The tyres of large vehicles using the road overhang the carriageway and cause damage, a gully had appeared in the road and the road surface had been scoured out.

Shelley Savasi expressed thanks to Howard Robinson for his repairs to the Parish Road, but advised that she opposed the proposal for a swathe of concrete on the lane, preferring instead two strips of concrete. She expressed concern about the impact on drainage if the lane were to be completely concreted. She added that she had no comments regarding the proposed installation of poles on the land.

Mike Whorwood stated that sediment from the Village Hall car park was running down the hill and causing problems, and that he understood from the contractor who had surfaced the car park that a gully should have been installed. Cllr S Carman advised that the work had been done with planning and building control approval, and that there were other issues which meant that it was not advisable to put in a gully. He offered to meet with Mr Whorwood and the contractor to discuss the matter further.

97/16 Planning

The following planning decisions and updates were received and noted:

Lake District National Park Authority

(LDNPA applications, responses and decisions may be viewed online at <http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/swiftlg/apas/run/wphappcriteria.display>)

- i. 7/2017/5061 - Field adjacent to Helsington Pool Bridge, Brigsteer, Kendal - Construction of field shelter.

It was noted that following email consultation the Clerk had responded on behalf of members under delegated powers: **Helsington Parish Council has no objections to the above proposal, but wishes to query the nature of the “hobby activities” to be carried out on the site.**

Decision - Grant with conditions.

It was noted that LDNPA had requested additional information about the proposed intended use of the building, and that the applicant had advised that the surrounding land would be used to plant an orchard, keep bees, graze sheep and grow vegetables, and that the shelter would be used to store the equipment associated with the planting and maintenance of the fruit trees, grass cutting and maintenance of the land, including boundary ditches and the storing of wood. The shelter would also provide a cover for sheep during lambing time and space to gather fruit in autumn.

- ii. 7/2017/5122 - Brantholme, Brigsteer, Kendal, LA8 8AN - Re-roofing, overcladding, replacement windows and extension under existing balcony. (Extension for comments granted until 6 April 2017). **No comments or observations.**
- iii. 7/2016/5513 - Briggs House Farm, Helsington, Kendal, LA8 8AG - Conversion of barn into 5 dwellings.

Decision - Grant with conditions (committee delegated). The conditions attached to the development were noted.

South Lakeland District Council

(SLDC applications, responses and decisions may be viewed online at <http://applications.southlakeland.gov.uk/planningapplications/welcome.asp>):

- i. SL/2017/0028 - Growing Well, Low Sizergh Farm, Low Lane, Sizergh - Erection of building for storage and machinery, catering unit, composting facilities, 1 new poly tunnel, car parking, external works to existing portacabins and associated landscaping.

Decision - Grant with conditions.

98/16 Parish Land

a) Registration of land at Crooked Gate:

It was noted that legal advice was needed if the Council wished to pursue the registration of this land, but this had cost implications. There were differing opinions on whether the land was potentially an asset (development as parking area/source of rental income, which could be done without registration) or a liability (Japanese knotweed and trees). It was acknowledged that parish records suggested that the land was owned by the parish. It was suggested that the Council should use best endeavours to establish its ownership or otherwise, and this necessitated obtaining legal advice. **It was resolved that Cllr S Savasi would obtain a quote for the legal work involved.**

b) Parish land adjacent to Syke House near the Watering Place, Brigsteer:

It was noted that evidence suggested that the Levens Estate owns the land but the Parish Council administers it. The land is currently used by two properties for parking, and maintained by them. Clerk reported that she had advised Levens Estate land agent that the Council was not proceeding with registration of a caution on this land at present due to advice received.

It was resolved to take no further action regarding this land at present.

c) Parish land lying to the south west of Low Barrow House, Low Lane, Brigsteer: Cllr S Savasi had established that the new owner of Lane House Barn had also bought the lane. **It was resolved to apply for a right of access by prescription over the lane, and authority was delegated to a group comprising Cllrs A Davies, B Mansbridge and S Savasi to undertake work on this.**

d) Parish Road

- It was noted that all wayleave payments due for access over the Parish Road had been received.
- (Cllr S Savasi left the room and took no part in the discussion on the rest of agenda item 6d). A request from BT Openreach for a wayleave agreement in respect of the installation of 2 poles with attached wires and fittings was received and considered. It was felt that the £300 one off payment offered was reasonable. **It was resolved to approve and sign the wayleave agreement.**
- A request from Mr Howard Robinson of Kerswell for permission to concrete the lane was received and considered. Concern was expressed about the proposed concrete surface, due to its appearance and run-off issues. **It was resolved to delegate authority to Cllr S Carman to discuss the possibility of alternative surfacing materials, cambering and run-off issues with Mr Robinson, and to request that an additional section of the Parish Road is included in the resurfacing (at the Council's expense).**
 - e) A complaint had been received from Mr Wright about the removal of trees from parish land at Helsington Moss Road. The Council had given a local resident permission to remove the trees in 2016. Mr Wright had advised that the trees concerned had been planted by the Parish Council with grant funding of about £200 around 12 years ago (when he was a councillor). He had been disappointed and upset that trees planted by the Council, about 5 or 6 including oak, cherry and lime, had been cut down. Councillors had no knowledge or recollection of the planting of the trees. **It was resolved to write a letter of apology to Mr Wright.**

99/16 Highways/Footpaths

- i. A report was received from Cllr A Davies regarding work he had undertaken mapping drains and gullies in the parish. It was noted that days after submitting the report contractors had appeared to clean gullies and clear blockages!
 - ii. Concerns expressed about the state of the road descending to Brigsteer Causeway were noted, and it was agreed that the road needed resurfacing. Cllr J Bland reported that he would be undertaking site visits with a Highways engineer to consider current issues on the following day. These would include 'reduce speed now' signage on the hill down to Brigsteer and the aforementioned road surface. It was noted that 'Unsuitable for HGVs' signs had been installed on Low Lane.
 - iii. Cllr J Bland advised that there are no Traffic Regulation Orders (traffic restrictions) in place in Brigsteer, and that the width restriction in place is not a TRO. Cllr J Seddon advised that the width restriction applied to the main road through the village, not Low Lane, and that any exemptions are not documented.
 - iv. Cllr Jim Bland confirmed he would be discussing the provision and siting of the speed indicator device on the hill at his meeting the following day.
 - v. Following the report at the previous meeting regarding damage to the bridge at Mill Ghyll, Low Lane, Brigsteer, Clerk reported that Cllr A Davies had subsequently visited the site and taken photos which had been sent to Peter Hosking, Highway Network Manager, but there had been no response. Cllr A Davies disputed the suggestion that the damage was to a boundary wall rather than to the parapet. Cllr J Bland advised that this matter would not be a priority job but he would take it up with Highways.
- Clerk reported that carriageway defects at Crooked Gate and Whetstone Lane had been reported, and that the potholes on Whetstone Lane had recently been repaired. Cllr J Bland had been advised about the state of the road surface at Crooked Gate and agreed to include this in his site visits the following day. Clerk also reported on Cumbria County Council's updated Highways Information Management System, via which highways faults such as carriageway defects, potholes, streetlights, road signs, blocked drains etc) may be reported and tracked online. Information had been circulated to councillors. Clerk advised she could

report faults on behalf of residents or councillors, but anyone could use the system.

- vi. There was no other information or updates regarding highways.

100/16 Public Rights of Way

A report was received from Cllr A Davies on a useful and constructive meeting of parish representatives with Graham Standring, LDNPA Area Ranger, on 2 March 2017. Cllr Davies advised that LDNPA was taking over responsibility for Public Rights of Way with effect from early April 2017 and would be undertaking maintenance and improvement work, including a proposal to turn forest track into PROW.

101/16 Election of Parish Member to Lake District National Park Authority

Notice of Election and Nomination Papers were received and considered. **It was resolved not to make a nomination.**

102/16 Reports

a) Cllr A Davies reported on the launch of the Brigsteer defibrillator. Thanks were expressed to those people who drove the project, including Alan and Elspeth Platts, Graham and Pip Riley and Elizabeth Bradshaw; to the Wheatsheaf on whose premises the defibrillator is located, and to District Cllr Annie Rawlinson who had made a donation from her Locality Budget.

Cllrs S Savasi reported on SLDC Community Led Housing Fund Conference on 16 March 2017, attended by her and Cllr S Carman. SLDC has funding to spend on affordable housing and is taking a flexible approach. It needs to find projects so is inviting plans and suggestions. Martin Hoggard of HCLT had given a presentation at the event.

b) Helsington Community Land Trust Ltd. Cllr Savasi advised that she had discussed the division in the community and communication between parish and HCLT with Martin Hoggard, who had responded positively to her suggestion that a parish councillor could attend HCLT meetings, not as a member but with the aim of improving communication. **It was resolved to support this suggestion, and to follow it up with HCLT if nothing was heard from them within a month.**

Clerk reported that Mike Whelan of HCLT had advised that the Trust's project manager had applied for grant funding from the Community Housing Fund.

c) Helsington & Brigsteer Village Hall. Cllr S Carman reported that a meeting would be held the following week and the AGM in May.

d) Battle's Over - A Nation's Tribute & WW1 Beacons of Light 11 November 2018. Cllr S Carman reported that the original deadline for inclusion in publicity about this event had been missed, but the Wheatsheaf was keen to support the event and involvement was still possible. It was resolved to support the event and that Cllr S Carman would progress plans for the event in collaboration with the Wheatsheaf, and hopefully the farming community as had happened with the Queen's 90th Birthday celebration.

e) District Councillor A Rawlinson was not in attendance but had conveyed information earlier that evening regarding SLDC Customer Connect, a Recycling Update and her involvement in the WLMG representing the non-farming section of community.

f) County Councillor J Bland had nothing to report other than his forthcoming highways site visits.

103/16 Community Resilience Support

Information on Community Resilience and Emergency Planning from ACT was received and considered. **It was resolved that these issues would be incorporated into the Community Led Plan.**

104/16 Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan Main Modifications Consultation

The consultation was received and noted. **It was resolved to make no comments in response to the consultation as it was not felt to be relevant to the parish.**

105/16 Clerk's Report and Correspondence

A number of items of correspondence had previously been circulated to members by email. The following items were also received and noted.

- i. HMRC information for employers re finishing old and starting new tax years (Clerk to undertake necessary work);
- ii. Transparency Code for smaller authorities, and the need to comply with requirements to publish specific information online, including agenda and meeting papers. It was noted that it seems unfair that larger councils are not required to publish meeting papers, and that guidance had been requested from CALC on how long documents should be left online;
- iii. Request for an expression of support for the Farmers Flood Group. **It was resolved to request more information about the work of this group.**

106/16 Finance

- a) It was resolved to approve the amendment of the existing monthly standing order re Clerk's salary to £325.75 with effect from April 2017;
- b) The following payments were noted and authorised:
 - i. Jane Saunders (Clerk's salary, April 2017, by standing order) £325.75
 - ii. Jane Saunders (Clerk's salary: additional hours 01/02/17 - 31/03/17) £95.69
 - iii. Jane Saunders (Clerk's expenses, 01/02/17 - 31/03/17) £49.50
- c) CALC had confirmed that the Clerk should not be on the bank mandate, but should be able to obtain authorisation to access account information. As the latter had failed with Barclays, it was decided to act on the previous resolution to open an account elsewhere (but also to retain the Barclays accounts for the time being);
- d) A request for funding from Cumbria Dyslexia Project was received and considered. Clerk reported additional information obtained from South Cumbria Dyslexia Association regarding Susie Ramsden's project. It was resolved not to make a donation to the project as the relevance to the parish was uncertain, and it was felt that such a request would be better coming from a recognized organization or charity rather than an individual.

107/16 Future meetings

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 3 May 2017 and it was noted that this would be the Annual Meeting.

The meeting closed at 20.16 pm.

Signed:
(Chairman)
Date: 3 May 2017