

HELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Helington Parish Council held on
Wednesday 6 November 2019 at 7.30pm in the Helington & Brigsteer Village Hall

Present: Cllrs S Carman, K Ritchie, R Caddick, M Cheesbrough, A Davies, S Savasi and E Templeton (arrived during item 5).

Also present were Clerk J Saunders and 2 members of the public.

56/19 Apologies

Apologies were received from District Cllr K Holmes and County Cllr J Bland.
Cllr E Templeton conveyed apologies for late arrival.

57/19 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests

- Cllr S Savasi declared an interest in agenda item 10d as she is a resident with a wayleave over the parish road.
- There were no dispensation requests.

58/19 Minutes

The minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 4 September 2019 were approved.

59/19 Public Participation

A member of the public asked for clarification on the location of the Parish Road and it was explained that Parish Road was parish land opposite the Wheatsheaf over which neighbouring properties have wayleaves for access.

60/19 Planning

Lake District National Park Authority

(view applications, responses and decisions online at

<http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/swiftlg/apas/run/wphappcriteria.display>):

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

Approved with conditions 30 March 2017.

Concerns were raised that the development on this site is not in accordance with planning consent. It was suggested that the building is larger than that for which consent has been obtained and that it is being used to operate a logging business rather than for hobbies. It was resolved that the Clerk would refer this matter to Planning enforcement.

South Lakeland District Council

(view applications, responses and decisions online at

<http://applications.southlakeland.gov.uk/planningapplications/welcome.asp>):

SL/2019/0694 - Prizet Filling Station Northbound, Helington - Extension of Prizet Service Station to include drive-thru Costa restaurant, offices, car parking with electric charging points and associated site works.

No objections to the above application. However, some concerns have been raised regarding highways safety (particularly visibility on egress from the site) and pedestrian access (there is no footway to the bus stop on the northbound carriageway) and the Council therefore requests that further consideration is given to addressing these matters.

Response submitted by Clerk under delegated powers following email consultation.

No decision. It was noted that Cumbria County Council had recommended that the application is not approved due to concerns about traffic impact and drainage.

61/19 Highways

The following reports and updates on highways issues were received and considered:

- i. Use of the speed indicator device (SID) on Brigsteer Brow and a request for a contribution of £33.75 towards a repair to the lighting board and a new battery;
Cllr S Carman reported that the SID had been delivered a week late and as the usage period was only 2 weeks there had been insufficient time to recharge, set up, take down and deliver the device to the next parish. It was agreed that Cllr Carman would liaise with other parishes re changing the rota to allow for a 3 or 4 week period of use. It was further agreed to contribute towards the cost of the repair as requested.

- ii. Works to collapsed paving slabs over the beck under the highway outside the Village Hall; Cllr A Davies reported that work to tidy up the banks of the beck near the road and to cover with slabs had been completed.
- iii. Drainage works between Syke House and Honeybee House, Brigsteer; It was reported that works to upgrade the surface drains had been undertaken in October. Larger pipes and sump had been installed but not yet tested by heavy rain. It was agreed that drainage concerns affecting the lower road would be monitored.
- iv. Drainage issues at Orchard House, Brigsteer; It had been reported that, following the new sewer connection to Orchard House, water had been issuing onto the highway. Concerns had been expressed that this could cause problems in icy conditions and with flooding. It was suggested that the issue appeared to have resolved itself, perhaps because the water was just residual. It was agreed that the situation would be monitored, particularly during heavy rain. Highways had been made aware of the matter and had advised that any problems would be the responsibility of the householder.
- v. Works to Cumbria Highways area of Parish Road adjoining highway, Brigsteer; Cllr A Davies summarised the discussions which had taken place with Cumbria Highways during a site visit in July. It was agreed that no further action could be taken regarding resurfacing work to Cumbria Highways area of Parish Road (section adjoining the carriageway) until work to the Parish Council's section was complete. It was noted that new white lines had been painted at the edge and in the centre of the carriageway at this location as agreed but that the "double bend" sign below the Wheatsheaf had not yet been replaced. Parking problems in the vicinity of the Wheatsheaf were also noted.
- vi. Road markings on Kendal Road; It was noted that central white lines had been painted on the Kendal road approaching the junction with the road to the church.

62/19 Community Led Plan

Theme 1 - Housing. Cllrs S Savasi and M Cheesbrough advised that they had received a copy of the report regarding the Rural Housing Needs survey tool commissioned by SLDC. The tool was more complex than anticipated and designated for internal SLDC internal use only, but it had been agreed that Helsington could be involved in a trial. Cllrs Savasi and Cheesbrough would be studying the report which they would circulate. Other councillors were invited to be involved and it was agreed that this would be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Theme 2 - Road Safety. Actions completed.

Theme 3 - Sustainable Environment. Nothing to report.

Theme 4 - Vibrant Communities. Nothing to report.

63/19 Reports

a) Chairman and Parish Councillors (meetings, events etc);

Cllr S Savasi had attended the CAfS Cumbria Climate Emergency Action Summit in September. She noted that tree planting was action which could be taken by a parish to address climate change. She also reported on CAfS Cold to Cosy Homes scheme which offers a free home visit (wide eligibility criteria) to give advice, provide equipment and recommend property improvements. Clerk agreed to post a link to the scheme on the website.

Chairman reported that the Clerk's appraisal was scheduled for 9 December 2019.

b) No report from Helsington Community Land Trust Ltd.

c) Helsington & Brigsteer Village Hall; Cllr S Savasi reported on the involvement of the trustees in running the Hall and the need for more volunteers to help clean and prepare the Hall. Work was underway on inclusivity; a recent joint fundraising event with the Crook Young Farmers was a success. Events planned included the Brigsteer Band and New Year's Eve Ceilidh.

d) No report from the Local Police Team.

e) District Cllr K Holmes was not in attendance but his offer of £300 towards fencing for the proposed trees under SLDC's Tree Planting Scheme was received and noted.

f) County Cllr J Bland was not in attendance, but Highways matters had been reported by Cllr A Davies.

64/19 Clerk's Report and Correspondence

Email correspondence had been circulated as usual. Clerk drew attention to CALC's developing your skills training courses running this autumn/winter, including Managing Trees course on Thursday 12 December 2019 at Penrith Fire & Rescue HQ. Cllr A Davies and S Savasi expressed an interest in

attending this course, subject to the Clerk confirming that it was running.
CALC Annual Report 2019 and invitation/papers for CALC AGM on Saturday 9 November 2019 at Wigton (hard copies available) were also received and noted.
Members were reminded that Clerk would be on annual leave from 14 November - 5 December 2019.

65/19 Parish Land

a) Cllr S Savasi had obtained free legal advice from Wellers Hedleys solicitors (via CALC) regarding the possible use of the Open Spaces Act 1906 to acquire the land at Crooked Gate. Parish Councils may acquire land under the Act but the land has to be maintained as an open and accessible space for the enjoyment of public (and for no other purpose such as the provision of car parking spaces for individuals). It was suggested that it could be used as a location for public compost bins, but the liabilities arising from trees were also noted. No further action was proposed regarding this land.

b) Cllr A Davies reported on the proposed planting of trees at Dobdale Hill Quarry under SLDC's Tree Planting Scheme. Following a meeting with Graham Nicholson (SLDC Arboriculturist) and Francis Wright (tenant farmer) at Dobdale Hill Quarry, it had been agreed that 4 oak trees could be planted on the north side of the hill (which is sheltered from the prevailing wind). Mr Nicholson had advised that, although SLDC would provide and plant the trees and provide 12 months of aftercare, the Parish Council would need to provide stock-proof fences around each tree and be responsible for ongoing maintenance and weeding. Cllr Davies had obtained a quote of £565.00 + VAT for fencing for the proposed trees. Following email consultation, Clerk had applied to the Lake District Foundation small grants fund for the cost of stock-proof fencing for 4 trees and District Cllr Kevin Holmes had subsequently confirmed an offer of £300 from his Member's Allowance towards the cost of the fencing.

Following discussions re concerns over access, use of public money, the lack of amenity value of the proposed trees, the need to tackle climate change and the loss of trees to ash dieback, and a subsequent vote, it was resolved to proceed with the proposed tree planting at Dobdale Hill Quarry. It was further resolved to accept the quote for fencing, subject to the Clerk checking whether Financial Regulations required three quotes to be obtained. It was agreed that Cllr Davies would contact Graham Nicholson to confirm the Council's decision to proceed with the tree planting and to ask him to mark the positions of the trees as the fencing needed to be in place before the trees were planted.

c) Cllr A Davies reported signs of ash dieback on trees on parish land at Peat Houses and the Toll Bar (Helsington Moss) road and that some of these trees overhang the highway. Cllr Davies had discussed the matter with Graham Nicholson who recommended that the Council should have a professional tree inspection as soon as possible, and that this should be repeated at no more than three year intervals, ideally at different times of the year. It was noted that the last professional tree inspection by Luke Steer had been undertaken in 2016, followed up by inspections by parish councillors in 2018 and 2019. It was resolved that the Clerk would contact Luke Steer regarding a quote for an inspection of all trees on parish land, and to inquire about the best time of year to undertake such an inspection. Clerk would also check whether Financial Regulations required three quotes to be obtained, but the advantage of using Luke Steer who was already familiar with the sites was noted. Cllr Davies agreed that his contact details could be passed to Luke Steer if appropriate.

d) (Cllr S Savasi left the room during this item and took no part in the discussion or the decision). Correspondence from one of the wayleave holders regarding the condition of the Parish Road had been received and circulated. Clerk had acknowledged the correspondence and updated the resident regarding recent discussions with Cumbria Highways regarding remedial works to Highways' section of the lane.

It was noted that examination of the wayleaves had confirmed that four households had an obligation to contribute proportionally to the cost of maintaining the Parish Council's section of the road. It was understood that the four households had all agreed to contribute their share in accordance with their obligations. It was re-iterated that it was for the households concerned to resolve the issue, but that an offer from Cllr S Carman to chair a meeting of the residents should be renewed. It was further noted that the maintenance works as currently proposed related to part but not all of the Parish Council's section of the road (ie the area covered by the wayleaves) and that maintenance of the remaining section of the parish land also needed addressing. It had been agreed that no further action could be taken regarding resurfacing work to Cumbria Highways' area of the Parish Road (section adjoining the carriageway) until work to the Parish Council's section was complete. It was resolved to write to the four households involved to convey this information.

A further request to consider the provision of large wooden planters on this parish land to make the area more attractive and deter unneighbourly parking was noted, but it was agreed that the Council could not currently commit to this expenditure and ongoing maintenance. However, it was agreed that the issue of parking in the vicinity of the Wheatsheaf would be an agenda item at the next meeting in February. It was resolved to write separately to the wayleave holder in response to this particular request.

66/19 VE Day 75

Cllr S Carman advised that he was arranging a meeting with representatives from Village Hall and Wheatsheaf to consider a programme for the VE Day 75 anniversary event taking place in May 2020. He confirmed that the Village Hall was available for on Friday 8 May 2020 (Bank Holiday) and that the Wheatsheaf would also possibly be involved. Other ideas included a street party, 1940s dance, ringing the church bells and the last post. It was agreed that this would be an agenda item at the next meeting.

67/19 Finance

a) Grants 2019/20:

- i. It was resolved to confirm payment of the grant of £1,325.00 to Helsington and Brigsteer Village Hall (as allocated in 2019/20 Budget).
- ii. It was noted that a poppy wreath had not been ordered as there was no remembrance service at Helsington Church this year, but it was resolved to donate £30.00 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.
- iii. It was noted that no further requests for grants/donations have been received.

b) Grants 2020/21:

A grant request from the Village Hall for £1325.00 was received, considered and approved.

c) Arrangements for Hutton Roof Parish Council's continued use of Helsington's printer (01/11/19 - 31/10/20) at a cost of £60 were confirmed.

d) A **Financial Report** comprising Bank Reconciliation 15 October 2019 and Budget Monitoring Report 2019/20 was received and noted.

e) The draft **Budget for 2020/21** was received and considered. It was resolved unanimously to approve the Budget as drafted (subject to confirmation of the SLDC grant) and to authorise the Clerk to send the precept request to SLDC.

f) The following payments were authorised (in addition to grants/expenditure approved above):

i. Jane Saunders (Clerk's expenses, 1 July - 31 Oct 2019)	£76.50
ii. Helsington and Brigsteer Village Hall (room hire 2019)	£117.00
iii. Viking (ink cartridges, stamps, stationery)	£98.44
iv. Crook Parish Council (repair to SID)	£33.75
v. Jane Saunders (renewal of Office 365 software for Council)	£59.99

68/19 Future meetings

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday 5 February 2020.

Chairman noted that this would be the penultimate meeting of the current council before parish elections in May. Members were encouraged to consider whether they would be standing again and to encourage interest in the Parish Council. Chairman announced that he did not intend to stand again.

February agenda items would include the Rural Housing Needs Survey, parking issues in the vicinity of the Wheatsheaf, tree inspection and VE Day 75.

The meeting closed at 21.00pm.

Signed: (Chairman)

Date: 5 February 2020