

HELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held virtually on Wednesday 2 September 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr S Carman (Chairman), K Ritchie, R Caddick, A Davies and E Templeton. Graham Riley and Jane Cooper were in attendance and, following their co-option under agenda item 6, they participated thereafter as councillors. Also present was District Cllr Kevin Holmes and, for part of the meeting, 3 members of the public.

21/20 Apologies

None.

22/20 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests

Cllr E Templeton again declared an interest in planning application 7/2020/5342 in respect of Mill Ghyll, Low Lane, Brigsteer as her husband undertakes occasional work for the agent. As this agenda item was for information only, it was agreed that there would be no need for Cllr Templeton to leave the meeting.

23/20 Minutes

The minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 1 July 2020 were approved (Chair to sign when possible).

24/20 Public Participation

The applicant and agent advised that they were available to answer any questions regarding planning application 7/2020/5486 and their proposed replacement stable.

25/20 Resignation of Marion Cheesbrough

Marion Cheesbrough's resignation as a parish councillor was received and noted. The Council wished to place on record its appreciation for the contributions made by both Marion Cheesbrough and Shelley Savasi to the work of the Council.

26/20 Co-option

It was noted that as an election had not been requested the Council was proceeding to co-option to fill the two vacancies. The vacancies had been advertised and three applications had been received. It was noted that whilst all the applicants would have been welcome additions to the Council, only two could be co-opted, placing the Council and the applicants in a difficult position. However, it was further noted that there would be another opportunity for candidates to stand in the parish elections in May 2021. The voting process was explained and votes were held for each vacancy in turn (during which the candidates in attendance left the meeting). In accordance with the votes, Graham Riley and Jane Cooper were co-opted and both signed Declarations of Acceptance of Office before those present. Chairman advised he would contact the unsuccessful candidate and offer encouragement to stand for election next May.

27/20 Planning

a) Lake District National Park Authority

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

- i. 7/2020/5486 - Site at Junction of Brigsteer causeway, adjacent to Willow Tree Barn, Brigsteer - Demolition of existing stable and erection of replacement stable.
The Council had received prior notification as landowner of the applicant's intention to apply for planning permission. There were no objections to the planning application as the proposed replacement stable would improve the site and have a similar footprint to the existing building. It was agreed that the Council would declare its interest as owner of the land in its response.
- ii. 7/2020/5324 - Brigg House Farm, Helington - Amendment to design, condition 2 on planning permission 7/2016/5513 for conversion of barn into 5 dwellings.
Decision - Granted with conditions.
- iii. 7/2020/5342 - Mill Ghyll, Low Lane, Brigsteer - Demolition and replacement of a single residential dwelling. **No decision.**

b) South Lakeland District Council

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

- i. SL/2020/0195 - Prizet Filling Station Northbound, Helsington - Extension of Prizet Service Station to include drive-thru Costa restaurant, offices, car parking with electric charging points and associated site works.
Decision - Refused.
- ii. SL/2020/0579 - Prizet Filling Station Northbound, Helsington - Expansion of roadside services, including drive-through coffee shop (Class A3/ A5), 8 no. high-speed electrical vehicle charging points, car parking, landscaping and associated infrastructure (Resubmission of SL/2020/0195).
It was agreed to support this planning application following the removal of offices from the scheme.

28/20 South Lakeland Local Plan Review

The early engagement documents at <https://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/planning-and-building/south-lakeland-local-plan/local-plan-review/>, the Call For Sites for Housing and Employment and the deadline for responses of 18 September 2020 were noted. It was noted that the Local Plan Review applies only to the part of the parish outside the Lake District National Park. District Cllr K Holmes pointed out that the Scroggs Wood development site is currently within Helsington parish.

29/20 Planning For The Future

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907647/MHCLG-Planning-Consultation.pdf

The publication of the government's planning white paper and current consultation on proposals for the reform of the planning system in England (deadline for responses of 29 October 2020) were noted. Councillors and residents were encouraged to read the document as the changes proposed were fundamental and the role of parish councils in the planning process would change. It was suggested that the model may be that of a Neighbourhood Plan, with opportunities to respond to individual planning applications removed once a local policy was agreed. Concerns were expressed about this model but possible benefits were also suggested. It was agreed that a collective response to the consultation would not be submitted but that those interested could respond in an individual capacity.

Cllr K Holmes advised that SLDC had recently voted to reduce the size of its Planning Committee from 18 to 14, with 3 non-voting reserves from the 3 political parties.

30/20 Parish Land

- a) It was noted that one tree was still to be removed by James Park as previously agreed. With regard to a professional inspection of trees on parish land, Clerk reported that CALC had advised that ideally councils should use an arboriculturist on the Arboricultural Association's list of approved inspectors because this removes the need to check an individual's qualifications. CALC had also suggested that we the advice of insurers should be sought, but Zurich had been vague and unhelpful regarding both frequency of inspections and appropriate qualifications. Graham Nicholson, SLDC Arboriculturist, had been very helpful and provided advice re appropriate qualifications and finding a suitable inspector. Clerk advised she was currently following up on this advice with two local contractors.
- b) Clerk reported that there were four pieces of parish land with possessory titles and that the council could apply to upgrade the class of title from possessory to absolute 12 years after registration, with a fee of £40.00 per title. 12 years had now elapsed since first registration of one of these titles, with the other 3 titles becoming eligible next year. It was resolved that the Clerk would proceed with the first application and the remainder as they become eligible.

31/20 Finance

- a) The following payments were authorised:
 - i. James Park (tree work - to be paid on completion) £100.00
 - ii Hutton Roof Parish Council (contribution to Zoom subs) £6.00
 - iii Jane Saunders (Salary adjustment April - August 2020 & 8 additional hours) £139.24

It was also agreed to amend the monthly Standing Order to Jane Saunders to £349.74 with immediate effect in accordance with the National Salary Award 2020/21.

- b) It was noted that, following recent resignations, there were only two serving councillors on the bank mandate. It was agreed to remove the councillors who had resigned from the mandate but not to add additional signatories until after the elections next May.

32/20 Reports

- a) Chairman and Parish Councillors; No reports.
- b) Helsington Community Land Trust Ltd; No report and not known whether still active, but to be left as a standing item on agenda.

- c) Helsington & Brigsteer Village Hall; It was reported that the Hall was still closed but a Board Meeting was planned for the following week to discuss re-opening and there were two user groups wishing to re-start their activities. Cllr R Caddick agreed to act as Village Hall representative as he is a Trustee. He advised that a risk assessment was currently being prepared and that the first meeting in the Hall would be the Board Meeting. It was further noted that maintenance work had been undertaken during the closure and the Hall has been supported by the SLDC grant of £10,000.
- d) Local Police Team; No reports until further notice.
- e) District Cllr K Holmes; Graham Nicholson had advised that the trees at Dobdale Hill would be monitored over the winter following drought conditions in the spring and that if they had not recovered by next year SLDC would re-plant. Cllr A Davies advised trees were currently looking better and that he and Shelley Savasi were also checking on them regularly. Cllr Holmes also reported on the numbers and types of visitors to the Lake District this year and the consequent safety issues, anti-social behaviour and littering. He also highlighted traffic problems caused by visitor numbers and major roadworks in the area.
- f) County Cllr J Bland was not in attendance.

33/20 Clerk’s Report and Correspondence

The following items were noted:

- Work to make website compliant with Website Accessibility Regulations instructed but not yet completed (Regulations taking effect in late September 2020);
- CALC Developing Your Skills Programme - virtual training courses including The Effective Councillor (recommended for new councillors) and Planning;
- Dark Skies and Light Pollution Talk by Jack Ellerby of Friends of the Lake District provisionally arranged for next meeting on Wednesday 4 November 2020 at 7pm but subject to prevailing situation.

34/20 Highways

- i. It was noted that the speed indicator device was not currently in use but that a volunteer had offered to assist with its operation when resumed.
- ii. Parking issues in the vicinity of the Wheatsheaf, Brigsteer. Further instances of thoughtless parking had been noted recently, particularly when the pub was busy due to Eat Out to Help Out scheme.
- iii. The poor condition of Whetstone Lane had been reported by a resident. As it had been understood that the road was due for re-surfacing, Clerk agreed to contact Cllr J Bland regarding the matter.
- iv. Toll Bar Road had been closed to all traffic including pedestrians and cyclists due to unsafe Helsington Moss Bridge; closure likely to be for a significant time.

35/20 Community Led Plan (CLP)

The need to review responsibilities in the CLP Working Group and to recruit new members was noted. It was confirmed that a physical or virtual meeting of the Group would be arranged in October to review and update the plan (Cllrs S Carman and K Ritchie to co-ordinate). It was suggested that a new focus on Community Resilience should be considered, particularly in view of the coronavirus emergency and the possibility of a second spike.

36/20 Future meetings

- (i) Future meetings dates were confirmed as Wednesday 4 November 2020 (earlier start time of 7.00pm), Wednesday 3 February 2021 and Wednesday 7 April 2021.
- (ii) It was noted that meetings would usually commence at 7.30pm and be held in the Helsington and Brigsteer Village Hall and/or remotely, as authorised by the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England & Wales) Regulations 2020.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed:(Chair)

Date:.....