

HELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held virtually
on **Wednesday 7 April 2021 at 7.00pm**

Present: Cllrs S Carman (Chairman), K Ritchie, R Caddick, J Cooper, A Davies, G Riley (agenda item 5iii onwards) and E Templeton.

Also present were District Cllr K Holmes (agenda item 7 onwards), County Cllr J Bland (agenda item 6b) onwards), Clerk J Saunders and three members of the public.

62/20 Apologies

Cllr G Riley, District Cllr K Holmes and County Cllr J Bland (late arrivals).

63/20 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests

None.

64/20 Minutes

Cllr A Davies queried minute 56/20ii re whether it was necessary to have all 5 sites inspected for ash dieback, but it was confirmed that all 5 sites with ash trees would be included in the specification. The minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 3 February 2021 were approved (to be signed when possible).

65/20 Public Participation

None.

66/20 Planning

The following applications, responses, decisions and updates were received and noted:

a) Lake District National Park Authority

(view applications, responses and decisions online at

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

- i. T/2021/0023 - Bieldgarth, Brigsteer - Crown raise, crown reduce and prune 1 yew tree.
No objections. (Response submitted by Clerk following email consultation; NB Cllr R Caddick declared an interest in the application and did not participate in the consultation).
Granted with conditions.
- ii. 7/2021/5118 - Boundary House, Brigsteer - Refurbishment and extension to existing domestic house and associated landscaping.
Helsington Parish Council has no objections to the overall scheme in the above application but is concerned about two aspects of the proposed development:
 1. The area of decking to the west elevation seems excessive. It is felt that the decking may appear overbearing when viewed from the highway (Low Lane) and be intrusive to neighbouring properties, particularly Boundary Barn. The Parish Council recommends an adjustment to the area of decking to address these concerns.
 2. The curved roof to the porch on the south elevation seems out of character with the rest of the building and the local vernacular. As it would be the most prominent feature seen from the south, it is suggested that consideration is given to a more traditional porch. (Response submitted by Clerk following email consultation).**Application withdrawn 25/03/21.**
- iii. 7/2021/5228 - Rose Lodge, Brigsteer - Extension to front elevation and conversion of integral garage to study. **It was agreed that, whilst the Council did not object to the proposal, it would request that the following matters were taken into consideration:**
 - Possible over-development of a small plot within the historic centre of the village.
 - The visual impact of a very tall, imposing building (when viewed from the public highway), due to bringing forward the existing roofline.
 - The impact of the development on neighbouring properties, due to overbearing appearance and concerns about overlooking.

b) South Lakeland District Council

(view applications, responses and decisions online at

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

- i. SL/2021/0099 - Prizet Filling Station Southbound, Helsington - To extend the hours of operation of the petrol filling station to operate 24 hours.
Request that careful consideration is given to lighting the filling station at night in such a way that unnecessary light pollution is avoided. (Response submitted by Clerk following email consultation). **Granted with conditions 26/03/21.**
- ii. SL/2021/0108 - Prizet Filling Station Northbound, Helsington - To extend the hours of operation of the petrol filling station to operate 24 hours.
Request that careful consideration is given to lighting the filling station at night in such a way that unnecessary light pollution is avoided. (Response submitted by Clerk following email consultation). **Granted with conditions 26/03/21.**
- iii. SL/2021/0119 - Prizet Filling Station Southbound, Helsington - Extension to forecourt convenience store. **No comments.** (Response submitted by Clerk following email consultation). **No decision.**

67/20 Finance

The following payments were authorised:

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| i. Information Commissioner's Office (Data Protection renewal fee) | £35.00 |
| ii Jane Saunders (Clerk's salary for additional hours, 1 Jan - 29 March 2021) | £207.54 |
| iii. Jane Saunders (Zoom subscription) | £14.39 |

b) Two quotes for a new seat to be placed outside the Village Hall were considered, with the larger Marmax seat being the preferred option. However, agreement was also required regarding the siting of the seat, the groundworks and the wording for the plaque. Cllr S Carman agreed to liaise with the Village Hall regarding the siting and groundworks and it was agreed that there would be further consultation to confirm the final plaque wording.

68/20 Parish Land

- i. Clerk advised that the Village Hall had been asked to register its lease on Land opposite the Village Hall with the Land Registry. The Village Hall Committee had been unable to locate the original lease so Clerk had supplied a copy of the Duplicate Lease. It was understood that Shelley Savasi was dealing with the registration.
- ii. Clerk advised that a copy of the Tree Safety Report had been forwarded to Cumbria Highways but no acknowledgement had been received. Clerk was still seeking a quote for an ash dieback survey of the 5 sites with ash trees.
- iii. The re-surfacing of the Parish Road (Land opposite the Wheatsheaf) up to the bus shelter was noted and Howard Robinson was thanked for the excellent work undertaken. Responses from residents regarding the drainage/flooding issue affecting the land had been received and were noted. One suggestion was that the section of plastic pipe should be removed, and it was understood that the resident who had installed the pipe accepted responsibility for its removal if required. A report and recommendations from EnviroGuard had also been received, but it was noted that the remedial works proposed would involve excavating the whole length of the culvert, with associated issues and unknown costs. Advice had also been sought from Cumbria County Council (as the Flood Defence Consenting Authority) but no response had been received. A resident in attendance at the meeting was invited to comment and he suggested that excavation work would consist of 2 hours work with a digger. It was resolved that initial action would be to contact the resident who had installed the plastic pipe to confirm willingness to remove at own cost.

69/20 Highways

- i. Cllr J Bland reported that Whetstone Lane had been patched but would need re-surfacing following culvert repairs and reiterated his unhappiness with the timescale for the replacement of Helsington Moss Bridge and the lack of access for local farmers. There had been no progress on repairs to potholes on Crooked Gate or the drop to properties on Low Lane caused

by re-surfacing works and raising of the carriageway; Cllr Bland agreed to contact the Low Lane residents concerned.

ii. No progress was reported regarding drainage issues on Brigsteer Brow, safety issues at the junction adjacent to the Wheatsheaf or re-surfacing work on the highway opposite the Wheatsheaf. The need for re-surfacing of the area adjacent to the bus stop was reiterated, now that the rest of the lane had been re-surfaced.

70/20 Reports

The following reports were received and noted:

- a) Chairman and Parish Councillors; none.
- b) Helsington Community Land Trust Ltd; none. It was agreed that this could be removed as a standing agenda item.
- c) Helsington & Brigsteer Village Hall; it was reported that it was hoped that the Hall would re-open on 17 May 2021 in line with the government roadmap.
- d) Local Police Team (no reports until further notice).
- e) District Cllr K Holmes; reported that postal voting in the forthcoming elections was being encouraged and that support was available for those experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19.
- f) County Cllr J Bland; reported that the Westmorland County Show 2021 would take place.

71/20 Clerk's Report and Correspondence

It was noted that correspondence received had been circulated to members. Clerk advised that remote meetings could not continue after 7 May 2021 but that Village Halls could not re-open until 17 May 2021 at the earliest. Councillors were encouraged to respond to an online government consultation on the continuation of remote/hybrid meetings if they had strong views on the subject.

72/20 Local Government Reorganisation in Cumbria

The consultation on proposals submitted by the principal authorities was noted. It was resolved not to submit a collective response but that members could respond as individuals (deadline 19 April 2021).

73/20 Community Led Plan (CLP)

It was noted that CLP Working Group activity was on hold, but Cllr K Ritchie reported that, following comments from members on the draft Community Emergency Plan, this would go forward to the new Council as a work in progress.

74/20 Parish Elections

It was noted that the Parish Notice of Election had been published and that, if contested, the poll would take place on Thursday 6 May 2021. It was further noted that the deadline for the delivery of nomination papers was 4pm on Thursday 8 April 2021 and that the new Council would serve a 3 year term. Cllrs R Caddick, A Davies and E Templeton confirmed that they would not be standing for election. All councillors were thanked by the Chairman for their contributions during their terms of office.

75/20 Future meetings

Clerk advised that the Annual Meeting of the new Parish Council should be held between 17 - 24 May 2021 in order to be compliant with legislation and confirmed that meetings after 7 May could no longer be held remotely. It was therefore agreed to schedule the meeting for Wednesday 19 May 2021 at 7.30pm in the Helsington and Brigsteer Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Signed:(Chair)

Date:.....