

HELSEINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 01 September 2021 at 7.30 p.m. in Brigsteer Village Hall

Present: Cllrs S Carman (Chairman), G Riley, K Ritchie, J Sunderland.
Also present were County Cllr. J Bland, Clerk: M R Curry (from Item 37/21) and 3 members of the public.

35/21 Apologies

Cllr. J Cooper, District Cllr. K Holmes.

36/21 Declarations of Interest / Dispensation Requests

None.

37/21 Appointment of new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

The Chairman introduced Mr Martin Curry who had indicated a willingness to accept the post of Clerk and RFO if offered. The Chairman advised Councillors that Martin was already Clerk to Levens Parish Council and proposed that he should be appointed. It was **Resolved** unanimously to confirm the appointment. A draft contract of employment (based on the existing template amended as appropriate) had been circulated and this was **Approved** for signature by the Chairman and the new Clerk.

38/21 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 07 July in Brigsteer Village Hall were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

39/21 Public Participation

Mr Howard Robinson drew attention to flooding issues on his drive on the Parish Road opposite the Wheatsheaf which he believed emanated from land owned by the Parish Council and which had become significantly worse since works to improve access to a neighbouring property had been completed. It was **Agreed** that a fact-finding visit should be made and this was set for Saturday 11 September at 10.00 a.m. to be attended by Mr Robinson and as many Councillors as were available on the day. The Chairman undertook to write a courtesy note to the owners of the neighbouring property to advise that the Parish Council would be looking at the site for information gathering purposes. The Parish Council acknowledged the more general question of flooding off Scout Scar but these were observational comments only.

40/21 Planning

View applications, responses and decisions online at:

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

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

a) Lake District National Park Authority

- i. **7/2021/5438 - Ivy Cottage, Brigsteer:** detached, single garage: Granted with conditions 09/07/21
- ii. **7/2021/5493 - Kell Side House, Brigsteer:** roof extension etc: Granted with conditions 26/08/21

- iii. **7/2021/5537 - 1, Moss View, Brigsteer:** Loft gable window enlargement: No comments - letter submitted by PC on 30 July. Decision pending.
- iv. **7/2021/5485 - Brigg House Barn, Helsington:** Erection of garages: Letter with observations on cladding and recommendations on restrictions for future conversion submitted by PC on 30 July. Decision pending.
- v. **7/2021/5597 - Mill Ghyll, Low Lane, Brigsteer:** To vary condition on use of local slate: Letter from PC not objecting to use of Welsh slate if local slate not available within a reasonable timeframe: submitted 11 August 2021. Decision pending.

b) South Lakeland District Council

View applications, responses and decisions online at:

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

- i. **SL/2021/0660 - The Water Mill, Helsington:** Restoration and repair of water mill: The Clerk confirmed that following email correspondence Councillors had confirmed their support for the application and this comment had been submitted.
- ii. **SL/2021/0775 - Land South of Prizet Filling Station (southbound):** The Parish Council is happy to support this application, but wishes to see the same number of trees planted as those that are to be removed as part of the development.

41/21 South Lakeland Local Plan Review

Councillors noted the ongoing process and the current Issues and Options Consultation.

42/21 Parish Land

- i. **Lease of Land Opposite the Village Hall:** The registration of this land leased to the Village Hall is currently awaiting attention at HM Land Registry.
- ii. **Quote for work on Parish trees:** The quote from the tree surgeon for work on diseased ash trees had been circulated by the Chairman. It was noted that, whilst the Parish has reserves, the overall cost of work required amounts to a significant sum, with possible impact on the Precept. Councillors however noted the health and safety imperative of addressing urgent work. The arboriculturalist has ranked the work according to priority and the Chairman proposed that the two highest priority areas should be commenced this winter. Following discussion, it was **Resolved** to instruct Mark Sigrist of Aspen Tree Management to commence work on the two top priority areas identified. It was noted that traffic management might need to be implemented and also that the Forestry Commission offers grants for ash dieback work subject to meeting necessary criteria. It was **Agreed** to ask MS to investigate both these observations.
On the wider question of ash dieback, the situation at Crooked Gate was raised. Ownership of this land is unclear and whilst the Parish Council does not have title to it there appears to be work required. It was **Agreed** that the Clerk should write to CCC Highways requesting them to accept ownership of the land and to address the tree management requirements.
- iii. **Drainage issues on land opposite the Wheatsheaf:** This had been discussed earlier (Minute 39/21).

- iv. **Land Registry – Address for Service:** The Clerk will put in hand arrangements to change the address for service.
- v. **Upgrade of Title:** It was noted that land at Plum Tree Farm, Low Lane and land adjacent to The Old Barn is now eligible for upgrade from possessory to absolute title. It was **Resolved** that the Clerk should commence the registration process with HMLR. It was also noted that this process will not affect existing tenancies on the properties.

43/21 Highways

- i. **Helsington Moss Bridge:** Cllr Bland reported that contractors had been appointed but that work was currently delayed whilst unstable ground conditions were fully investigated before design and build could commence.
- ii. **Drainage and re-surfacing matters on Brigsteer Brow and around the Wheatsheaf:** The Chairman commented that flooding on Brigsteer Brow remains a constant and deteriorating problem which needs to be addressed. Cllr Bland acknowledged the problem but referred to resource pressures and competing priorities. He did, however, welcome the existence of a video of the problem which he will view and use to try to move forward with a solution. Speeding issues on Brigsteer Brow were also discussed and the option to purchase and install an interactive Speed Indicator Device (SID) was discussed. Though likely to be expensive, it was **Agreed** to explore options and costs. Subject to funds available, Cllr Bland offered a contribution towards costs if the Parish Council can come up with a proposal and costs. Cllr. Riley referred to the big drop off the carriageway on Low Lane after the last resurfacing work. Cllr Bland agreed that reflective posts could be an option, but any physical work would require the raising of the gate along the stretch in question. There was also a question from the floor about the potholes at the top of Crooked Gate Lane which Cllr Bland confirmed were on the schedule for attention. Following these observations, it was **Agreed** that a list of all highway related matters, including areas needing re-surfacing, should be prepared and brought as an Agenda item to the next meeting.

44/21 Reports

- a) **Chairman and Councillors:** The Chairman reported that funding for a new bench outside the Village Hall had been secured and the location agreed. A hard standing / concrete base would be required which will incur additional costs yet to be determined. The existence of a mains electricity cable in the vicinity was noted. The intention was to appoint Logan to undertake the work to be commenced in the Spring.
- b) **Helsington and Brigsteer Village Hall:** Cllr. Ritchie reported that the Village Hall AGM would be held on 14 September.
- c) **Local Police Team:** No report for this meeting.
- d) **District Councillor:** Cllr Holmes' apologies had been tendered, but on his behalf Cllr. Bland confirmed that there was no additional information to report.
- e) **County Councillor:** Cllr. Bland had no additional report to make beyond comments already made.

45/21 Finance

- a) **To authorise the following payments:** No payments were required.
- b) **Bank Mandate:** The Chairman confirmed that the forms had been signed by all mandate holders except Alan Davies and the new Clerk. He undertook to get

these signatures before forwarding the completed forms to the bank. The Clerk will advise the bank of change in Clerkship, though bank statements will continue to be sent to the Chairman for the time being.

46/21 Co-option of New Councillors

Two new Councillors are required to fill vacancies. It was hoped to extend the geographical representation to other parts of the Parish. A leaflet drop to every household was planned. Cllr. Riley will deliver 400 leaflets to the Chairman and the distribution will then be arranged. Cllr. Ritchie offered to cover Prizet.

47/21 Community Led Plan

It was noted that the current Community Led Plan was 5 years old and needs to be revised to be more dynamic. Cllr. Bland advised that the Plan should be updated rather than re-written. Cllr. Ritchie confirmed that she had done a draft Emergency Plan and the Clerk was asked to confirm that this is on file.

On a separate issue, Councillors applauded the floral display at Park End Cottage which enhances Brigsteer village and is becoming an attraction in its own right. It was **Agreed** to Minute the Parish Council's thanks to Andrew Barker for the effort and results of his work.

48/21 Future Meetings

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 03 November 2021 at 7.30 p.m. in Helsington and Brigsteer Village Hall. Agenda items will include:

- Highway related matters
- Budget setting for 2022/23

The meeting closed at 8.41 p.m.

Signed:(Chair)

Date: