

HELINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 03 November 2021 at 7.30 p.m. in Brigsteer Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. S. Carman (Chairman), J. Cooper, G. Riley, K. Ritchie, J. Sunderland, M. R. Curry (Clerk) and 1 member of the public (part).

49/21 Apologies: County Cllr. J. Bland, District Cllr. K. Holmes.

50/21 Declarations of Interest / Requests for dispensation: None.

51/21 Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 01 September in Brigsteer Village Hall were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

52/21 Public Participation: There were no items raised by members of the public.

53/21 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. **7/2021/5537: 1, Moss View, Brigsteer** (Loft gable window - No Objection submitted). **Not yet determined.**
- ii. **7/2021/5485: Brigg House Barn, Helington** (Erection of garages - No Objection, but with recommendations). **Approved with conditions 06/09/2021.** The Council's response had been reflected in the Decision Notice.
- iii. **7/2021/5597: Mill Ghyll, Low Lane, Brigsteer** (Variation of condition enabling use of Welsh Slate if necessary - No Objection). **Approved with conditions 08/09/2021.**
- iv. **7/2021/5720: Orchard House, Brigsteer** (External and internal alterations - details forwarded to Councillors by email on 28/09/2021. Councillors confirmed they have No Objection). **Not yet determined.**

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, Helington** (Restoration and repair works - application supported). **Not yet determined.**
- ii. **SL/2021/0775: Land south of Prizet Filling Station (southbound)** (New business building - No Objection but with recommendations that replacement trees are planted to compensate for any loss). **Not yet determined.**
- iii. **PN/2021/0095: In front of South View, Helington LA8 8AB** (Installation of 9m BT pole under Telecommunications Regulations 2017). This was the issue of a formal 28 day Notice of intent under the Regulations. The Parish Council had no comment.

54/21 South Lakeland Local Plan Review: Councillors noted that the Review is ongoing and that the consultation for the Issues and Options phase runs to the end of November. Details may be viewed at www.southlakeland.gov.uk. The Draft Plan is scheduled to be published in the Spring of 2022.

55/21 Parish Land

- a) **Land opposite the Village Hall:** Councillors noted that registration of the lease to the Village Hall for use as a car park was now finalised with HMLR though the address for the Village Hall was incorrect. Richard Bryan has undertaken to rectify this.
- b) **Tree Work on Parish Land:** The Chairman reported that following the completion of work at Strickland Gate Quarry, it had been planned start at Peat Houses. It had come to

light however that the work should have been assessed in relation to the need for a felling licence from the Forestry Commission. There had been considerable email exchanges on this including with Andy Bennett, the Woodland Officer for South Lakes and North Lancashire. On 27 October he had advised that a Felling Licence should be issued for Peat Houses and other proposed work. Costs for the hire of traffic lights at Peat Houses could be avoided as notice would be given in time, though the £80 fee would be incurred. It was **Agreed** to pause the planned work until the required licence was issued. The Clerk will set up a meeting of relevant parties to resolve this. It was also **Agreed** that Mark Sigrist (tree surgeon) would liaise with Andy Bennett about whether the single ash on the Parish land opposite the Wheatsheaf might be exempt from the need for a licence.

- c) **Drainage on the Parish Road opposite The Wheatsheaf:** The Chairman confirmed that Council representatives had met with Mr. Robinson and, more recently, with Mrs Savasi to better understand the nature of the issue. The question of who carries what responsibility for causing and rectifying any issues exacerbated by the unauthorised work to the culvert remains unclear. Both the Chairman and Cllr. Riley had been on site during the recent period of prolonged and heavy rain and were clearly of the opinion that the Environment Agency must be involved in any decision-making regarding this matter. The Clerk had written to the EA requesting a site visit and though the communication had been acknowledged no detailed reply had yet been received. This is to be awaited before any next steps are agreed. As part of recent discussions, Mrs Savasi had offered to take up the conifers planted on Parish land if requested.
- d) **Registrations of Title:** The Clerk confirmed that, in order to fully understand the requirement, he had reviewed the property locations and the actions needed and would proceed with the upgrade of titles. Concern was raised about the status of the Well, as it was thought that the stone trough had gone missing. There used to be a sign indicating that the area was owned by the Parish Council and there is an historic rent of 50p per year payable by the adjoining owners. Councillors were unsure whether the current owners of the neighbouring property were aware of this arrangement and it was **Agreed** to investigate.

56/21 Highways:

- a) The Chairman presented the draft Schedule of Highway Defects prepared by the Clerk and ask Councillors to review it in relation to any omissions or updates of which they were aware. Once reviewed, a Master Copy would be produced when a decision would be made whether to log all outstanding issues with County Highways via HIAMS.
- b) Cllr. Riley reported that aggregate had been supplied for use in stabilising the edges of Low Lane following recent re-surfacing work.
- c) The heavily pot-holed and poor condition of Whetstone Lane was noted to be kept under review.

57/21 Reports

- a) **Chairman and Parish Councillors:**
- i. The Chairman referred to the earlier discussion on drainage opposite the Wheatsheaf.
 - ii. Cllrs. Cooper and Ritchie reported their attendance at a recent Funding Fair hosted by SLDC to explore funding sources for a Speed Indicator Device (SID), the potential cost of which could be up to £4,000. Cumbria County Council has a Community Fund offering up to £1,500, with match funding to be provided. It was also noted that County Cllr. Bland had offered support for this initiative. Cost against other priorities was acknowledged and the possibility of local contributions was discussed. Cllr. Cooper undertook to report back with further information on cost options and potential funding sources.
- b) **Helsington and Brigsteer Village Hall:**
- i. Cllr. Ritchie reported that the Village Hall was currently operating at about 60% of capacity and is working to regain pre-Covid levels of use. It is planned to upgrade the current sound system and Cllr. Riley offered to give advice if that would be helpful.

- ii. The Chairman reported on a request from the Village Hall Trustees for an annual grant of £1,325 for the coming year, that being in line with the sum previously awarded. The application contained information on the negative impact of Covid on current activity, but also on plans to rejuvenate use and activity. Cllr. Carman asked Councillors to consider this request carefully given the current strain on the PC budget as a result of important commitments to dealing with ash die-back. He felt that the grant should not become an automatic payment at the same or higher rate than in previous years and asked Councillors to consider whether a reduction in the grant requested might be appropriate this year. Cllr Ritchie acknowledged that the Hall had received income from the Government's Covid support schemes, but that it was nonetheless important for its future to secure its income streams from existing sources. She also stressed that the grant represented an important principle by demonstrating that the Parish Council supports the Village Hall as the hub of the community. Councillors were generally in favour of maintaining the grant, but agreed to await discussion on the 2022-23 budget before making a firm commitment.
- c) **Local Police Team:** The Clerk confirmed that the October edition of the South Lakes Focus Newsletter had been received. There were no items with direct relevance to the Parish Council. Following an observation from Mr Alan Davies, it was **Agreed** to report damage to the bench on the Helsington Road as probable vandalism.
- d) **District Cllr K. Holmes:** Cllr. Holmes had submitted a written report which the Clerk read. It covered the following items:
 - i. The Government's planning review has been paused;
 - ii. Cllr. Holmes had received a letter from a parishioner about the ongoing closure of the Moss Road pending repairs to the bridge. This had been passed on to Cllr. Bland;
 - iii. Arrangements for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) continue. Elections are likely to be held on 05 May 2022 with elected members forming a shadow authority until inception day on 01 April 2023. The LGR initiative is recruiting a Programme Director to manage the process until May 2023. The Chief Executive of Cumbria County Council is stepping down in November and will be replaced by the Deputy Chief Executive.
 - iv. Councillors noted the grant of £500 from Cllr. Holmes as a contribution towards the costs of managing ash die-back and expressed their thanks to him.
- e) **County Cllr J. Bland:** Cllr. Bland had confirmed by phone that planning work on the Moss Road Bridge continued, but no physical work was possible in the wet conditions.

58/21 Finance

- a) **Payments:** There were no invoices to hand requiring payment. An invoice from Mark Sigrist for felling work completed was expected. It was **Agreed** to pay this subject to it being in line with the quote and confirmation that all the required work had been done.
- b) **Bank Mandate:** The Chairman asked all Councillors to check that they have access to the on-line banking system.
- c) **Draft Budget 2022-23:** In the light of funds required to complete the work on ash die-back, there was considerable discussion about the draft budget circulated by the Clerk. Despite the uncertainty of when work on the rest of the sites will resume it was agreed that it must go ahead and that the work require will an inevitable increase in expenditure. Councillors agreed that the draft budget had attempted to minimise the impact of this on the Precept, but even with the prudent use of Reserves to fund most of the necessary work, some increase in the Precept (from £9,018 in 2021-22 to £9,631 for 2022-23) was inevitable. On this basis, and acknowledging the impact on both Precept and Reserves, it was **Agreed** to accept the draft budget and apply for Precept accordingly.

59/21 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee - 02 June 2022: Cllr. Ritchie reported that the Village Hall Committee was interested to know whether the Parish Council has plans to celebrate the event. Councillors agreed that the Jubilee should be marked in an appropriate way, but that the arrangements should be a joint community effort rather than being led and organised by the Parish Council. It was felt that a Street Party was a good way of bringing the community together to celebrate the event. Given the time of year with a very late dusk, the remote location of the site at Helsington and its proximity to a residential property, the Parish Council did not favour promoting a bonfire or beacon for this occasion.

60/21 Co-option of New Councillors: The flyer was printed and ready for distribution. Cllr Ritchie undertook to distribute around Prizet. Other Councillors would cover the rest of the Parish jointly on a date to be agreed. The vacancies will also be promoted on the website and in the Parish Magazine.

61/21 Community Led Plan: It was agreed to discuss this in the New Year.

62/21 Future Meetings: The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 02 February in Brigsteer Village Hall. Current Agenda items, including The Community Led Plan will be on the Agenda for that meeting.

The Meeting closed at 9.41 p.m.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date.....