

Lindal and Marton Parish Council

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Councillors:-
Mr A Waite (462922); Mr R Lord (464034); Mrs D Morgan (462299); Ms S Rainbow (462383); Ms M Richards (588699)

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 1st December 2005, at 7.30 pm in the Buccleuch Hall, Lindal.

Present:- Councillors A Waite (Chairman); R Lord; Ms S Rainbow; Ms M Richards

In attendance:- PC Tony Howson, Cumbria Constabulary.

Also present:- 4 members of the public.

132/05 Disclosure of Interests.

None.

133/05 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 3rd November, 2005.

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 3rd November, 2005, were taken as read and APPROVED.

PROPOSED:- Councillor A Waite.

SECONDED:- Councillor Ms S Rainbow.

Carried unanimously.

134/05 Matters arising.

- a) 121/05 (a) The Clerk confirmed that he had been advised by the County Highways Engineers that an order had been placed for a length of barrier to be placed on the kerb-line outside the entrance to Marton park. However, they had decided that the installation of double yellow lines would not be appropriate. NOTED. They had also referred to the lack of off-road parking for the newly-constructed house opposite the park; there were doubts as to what had been approved by the planning department but it was AGREED that this matter would not be pursued. Insofar as the grass verges were concerned , the Clerk undertook to check if any clearance had yet taken place.
- b) 125/05 The Chairman queried the situation regarding a Christmas tree for Marton park and *from the floor* the Residents Association reported that, whilst nothing would happen in the park this year, no decisions had yet been taken as to whether a tree could be erected outside the New Inn, as happened last year.

135/05 Attendance of Officer from Cumbria Constabulary.

The Chairman welcomed PC Tony Howson, from Cumbria Constabulary who commented on a recent episode of vandalism to cars parked adjacent to The Green. Unfortunately, the culprits had not yet been identified.

He also referred to another break-in at the Bowling Club but was able to say that this time, the culprits had been apprehended.

Reference was made to the legal position regarding traffic warning signs being obscured by foliage and it was suggested that such a situation might be a good defence where drivers were prosecuted for ignoring the "No HGVs" signs. Councillor Lord undertook to assess the situation for the next meeting.

136/05 Report of School Governors. Submission of minutes – if any.

The minutes of the School Governors of 3rd October, 2005, were NOTED.

137/05 Lindal Village Green.

The Clerk reported that he had now been notified that it was hoped that contracts would be let before Christmas for the installation of the new railings. A meeting was anticipated early in the New Year to discuss the programme.

From the floor came a suggestion that the recent refurbishment of the Lindal War Memorial seems to have left it looking rather grubby and it was AGREED that this would be added to the items to be discussed at the aforementioned meeting.

138/05 District Planning Process. Revision of arrangements

Reference was made to correspondence from Barrow Borough Council and their need to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement as part of its new Local Development Framework. The Framework system had been introduced as a replacement for the old Local Plans and the Borough were now asking for comments as to how Parishes and other organisations could become involved in the planning system, both in the preparation of planning policy documents and in the determination of planning applications.

After considerable discussion it was PROPOSED by Councillor Lord and SECONDED by Councillor Ms Richards that the Borough Council be advised that the Parish Council

- supports the idea that Parish Councils be involved in the preparation of planning policy documents;
- looks for more information as to how this might be achieved;
- is of the opinion that the community generally should be consulted more widely on these matters;
- would welcome more information as to the meaning of "spatial planning policies"
- is most concerned at the limited time-scales currently in place for responding to planning applications.

Carried unanimously.

139/05 Planning applications relating to the Parish.

55/2005/1698 *Extension to existing Waste Water Treatment Plant with the addition of additional filters, buildings and process units, together with temporary construction access, Poaka Beck, Marton.*

During discussions *with the floor* it became apparent that there were some discrepancies inherent in the planning process surrounding this application, not the least of which being a public notice, on the site, indicating that interested parties had until 30th November to comment on the application, whereas the Planning Committee deliberated on the application at its meeting on 29th November. (It was understood that a decision on the application was deferred until the next meeting.)

Some disquiet was expressed at the problems identified but it was PROPOSED by Councillor Lord and SECONDED by Councillor Ms Rainbow that the Parish Council should not object to the development *per se* but should emphasise its particular concerns to the Borough Council in that the Planning Officer's recommendations to the Planning Committee, for the granting of planning permission,

- did not identify, as a condition, the need for restrictions on the movements of contractors' vehicles to and from the site and
- should have been much more specific in referring to (condition 3) a scheme of landscaping, in order to extend and enhance the applicant's proposals.

In addition, the lack of any information regarding subsequent traffic movements, and the prospect of additional movement of chemicals on this narrow and winding country lane, once the development was operational, gave cause for concern.

Carried unanimously.

140/05 Correspondence.

- a) Planning applications outwith the Parish. NOTED.
- b) Cumbria County Council. Highways magazine. NOTED.
- c) Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership minutes. NOTED.

141/05 Finance.

- a) Cash balances :- Current account:- £167.94. Reserve account:- £1001.59.
- b) The Clerk reported that the annual request from the Borough's Director of Finance had been received regarding the Parish Council's precept for 2006/07. It was pointed out that the precept had been £1800 for five years and that a surplus of around £400 - £450 was predicted for the end of the current financial year. However, reference was made to the Parish Council elections which were due in 2007 (together with any unforeseen by-elections) and it was, therefore, PROPOSED by Councillor Lord and SECONDED by Councillor Ms Rainbow that the precept for the year 2006/07 be £2000 in order to help cope with the anticipated electoral expenses. Carried unanimously.

c) The Clerk reported that a request for financial assistance had been received from the Great North Air Ambulance Service (not the North West Air Ambulance, as mistakenly mentioned on the Agenda). In the ensuing discussion, the merits and demerits of charitable donations made by the Council were discussed and it was AGREED that the subject of charitable donations be made an Agenda item for the next meeting and that this particular request be deferred until that time.

142/05 Any Other Business.

- a) Councillor Ms Richards commented on the problems surrounding the circulation of documents, between Councillors and between meetings, and it was AGREED that the circulation folder incorporate the date when individual Councillors received the folder.
- b) Councillor Ms Richards asked whether the Clerk could let Councillors have copies of letters he might send on behalf of the Council in order that they might be familiar with the business of the Council. (Email or paper copies.) This was AGREED.
- c) The Clerk reported that he had received the “Cumbria Countryside Access Strategy” which invited comments, if appropriate. It was AGREED that this should be circulated to all Councillors and be an Agenda item for the next meeting.
- d) Councillor Ms Rainbow made reference to the Residents Association Buffet Dance, to be held in the Buccleuch Hall on Friday, 2nd December.

143/05 Date and Time of Next Meeting.

The next meeting was AGREED as Thursday, 5th January, 2006, at 7.30 pm in the Buccleuch Hall, Lindal.