

Lindal and Marton Parish Council

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Councillors:-
Mr A Waite (462922); Mr R Lord (464034). Ms S Rainbow (462383.) Mr D Howarth (463304) Mrs S Kelly (465343)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 1st May 2008 at 7.30 pm in St Peter's Church, Lindal.

Present:- Councillors A Waite (Chairman); R Lord; D Howarth; Mrs S Kelly.

Apologies:- Councillor Ms Rainbow..

Also present:- 10 members of the public.

In attendance:-

Police Community Support Officer, John McVea, from Cumbria Constabulary.
Mr Keith Johnson, The Keswick-to-Barrow Walk Committee.

Apologies from District Councillors Jill Heath and Kath Unwin.

45/08 Election of Chairman.

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Howarth and SECONDED by Councillor Lord that Councillor Waite be Chairman for the coming year. Carried unanimously.

46/08 Urgent business. Items normally needing to be publicised but received too late for the agenda. (Section 100B (4) (b) Local Government Act 1972)

The Clerk referred to correspondence recently received regarding a planning application in respect of 1, The Green, Lindal. The Chairman decreed that this could be discussed under agenda item 13, Planning Applications relating to the Parish.

47/08 Disclosure of Interests.

Councillor Lord declared an interest in Agenda Item 13 (a) in that the Scoping Document referred to the possibility of a joint venture by the wind farm developers with the wind farm on the adjoining site, at Harlock Hill. Councillor Lord's wife was a shareholder in the latter company. (NB It was recognized that the Scoping Document was not a planning application.)

48/08 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 6th March, 2008.

The minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 6th March, 2008 were taken as read and APPROVED.

PROPOSED:- Councillor Howarth

SECONDED:- Councillor Lord. Carried unanimously.

49/08 Matters arising.

None.

50/08 Minutes of the special meeting held on Thursday, 17th April 2008.

The minutes of the special meeting held on Thursday, 17th April 2008, were taken as read and APPROVED.

PROPOSED:- Councillor Howarth

SECONDED:- Councillor Lord.

Carried unanimously.

51/08 Matters arising.

42/08 (d) The Clerk reported that he had asked Robinson's Brewery to confirm their intentions regarding the New Inn, Marton. He had received a reply confirming that the premises were in the hands of a local estate agent, being offered for sale as a public house. The Brewery regretted that they were having to take such a step but indicated that, given the lack of support from local residents, it was not economically viable to keep the establishment open. It was AGREED that the Clerk should prepare an extract from Robinson's reply for inclusion in "Aspects".

52/08 Keswick-to-Barrow Walk

Mr Keith Johnson, from the Keswick-to-Barrow Walk Committee, reported that there had been further discussions involving himself, the Police and the Highways authorities (*vide minute 140/07 – November 2007*) on the subject of improving the arrangements relating to the Walk and the attendant traffic problems in Marton. It had been decided to place the check-point at the foot of Snipe Ghyll, with the field to the eastern side of the T-junction being used for official vehicles and support vehicles. NOTED. NB Councillor Mrs Kelly undertook to display some sketches of the proposals in her hairdressing salon in Lindal.

53/08 Attendance of Officer from Cumbria Constabulary.

Police Community Support Officer John McVea reported that he was not aware of any recent incidents involving anti-social or criminal activity in either Lindal or Marton. He had passed over to his traffic colleagues the question of speeding vehicles in Marton but no further reports of similar incidents had been received. He was also unaware of any progress regarding the burnt-out vehicle on Snipe Ghyll.

From the floor it was pointed out that there seemed to be many instances of speeding vehicles on the A590 as it passed through the 40 mph limit within Lindal. PCSO McVea confirmed that he would inform his colleagues of this problem and he would also enquire as to the arrangements for routine speed-checks in villages such as Lindal, particularly on the A590.

54/08 Report of School Governors. Submission of minutes – if any.

The minutes of the Governors' meeting of 19th November 2007, and 28th January 2008, were NOTED. The Clerk to the Governors had also written to highlight:-

- a) The Governors' concerns at lack of action in having the school-warning markings re-painted on the road outside the school.
- b) The desirability of having the 20 mph limit in Marton extended to go past the school and down into Lindal.
- c) The need for discussions on the possible impact of HGV traffic passing the school as and when the new wind farm was developed.

It was AGREED that the Clerk would write to the Governors to confirm that the Council was pursuing all the matters raised.

55/08 Lindal Village Green.

The Clerk reported that Capita had now been officially asked by Barrow Borough Council to assess the requirement for kerbs down the western side of the Green with a view to providing a quotation for this work. *From the floor* came a reminder for the need for dropped kerbs in the vicinity of the A590/The Green crossroads to facilitate the passage of wheelchairs. The Clerk undertook to follow up this matter.

56/08 Planning applications relating to the Parish.

a) 6/08/340 *Scoping Opinion, proposed wind farm, Standish Cote.*

The Clerk pointed out that the document was not a planning application but was a summary of environmental considerations which would be addressed as and when the planning application for the wind farm was submitted, with consultees being given the opportunity, now, to comment in advance on the scope of any environmental report. After discussions *involving the floor* it was PROPOSED by Councillor Waite and SECONDED by Councillor Howarth that the Council offer Barrow Borough Council the following observations on the Scoping Opinion, viz:-

- Despite the document referring to “National Objectives” in its Statement of Needs (page 2) there is no reference to base-load energy requirements i.e., the need for power generation when climatic considerations are unfavourable – (when the wind isn't blowing).
- It is disingenuous of Infinergy, the developers, to suggest that the site can revert back to farm land at the end of its operational life (20 years) in its booklet accompanying the Scoping Opinion, when taking into account the fact that energy needs will probably be no less at that time, requiring similar energy production. (Another wind farm?)
- It is insufficient to say that traffic and access problems will be assessed “in close liaison with the Planning Authority and local Highways Authority” (page 36). It should be a specific requirement to include the Parish Council (s) involved.
- Whilst a detailed assessment will take place to determine the visual impact which the wind farm will have on the landscape (page 28) and whilst many reasons will be offered as to why such impact will be tolerable, the fact remains that, by definition, the installation of such monstrous structures as the proposed turbines will have a detrimental effect on the landscape, notwithstanding the presence already of the turbines at Harlock Hill.

- The document refers to the re-powering of the Harlock Hill site with three 2.3 MW turbines. It is assumed that this means that they will be in place of, and not in addition to, the existing 5, smaller, turbines but this needs to be made absolutely clear.
- Barrow Borough Council needs to specify what noise levels (page 37) will be judged to be acceptable from any new wind farm and this should be established in conjunction with those living in the vicinity who might be affected.
- It is clear that there will be a need for a connection of the new wind farm to the National Grid, either of 2 KM length or 4 Km length. (page7) As this is an integral part of the development it should form part of a composite planning application in order to assess the total impact of the development.

Carried unanimously.

b) *6/08/481. Erection of agricultural building, Church Farm, Lindal.*

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Lord and SECONDED by Councillor Howarth that the Council make no comment on this application. Carried unanimously.

c) *06/08/461 Erection of conservatory, Roundhills, Marton.* It was PROPOSED by Councillor Lord and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Kelly that the Council make no comment on this application. Carried unanimously.

d) See agenda item 3 (minute 45/08) *Erection of additional bedroom over existing garage: conversion of garage to kitchen; erection of new garage to rear of property. (re-submission of application in 2007, subsequently withdrawn)* Reference was made to the previous application, discussed by the Council on 2nd August 2007, when the Council objected to the applicant's intention to remove a mature tree from the front garden and when criticism was levelled at the apparent stark and unappealing design of the proposals. It was noted that this application had subsequently withdrawn. The current application was discussed and it was noted that the application form appeared to have been inaccurately completed in that the applicant had indicated "no" to the question of whether the property had a tree within falling distance of the boundary.

Nonetheless, it was also noted that firstly, there had been a declaration that no trees would be removed and secondly, the exterior design appeared to have been amended and enhanced by the suggested use of stone cladding. Accordingly, and only on the basis of such changes, it was PROPOSED by Councillor Mrs Kelly and SECONDED by Councillor Howarth that the Council offer no objection to the proposals. Carried unanimously.

57/08 Correspondence.

- a) Planning applications outwith the Parish. NOTED.
- b) "Friends of the Lake District". Newsletter and Annual Report. NOTED.
- c) Cumbria Community Foundation. Newsletter. NOTED.
- d) Resource Cumbria (waste recycling) Newsletter. NOTED.
- e) Barrow Borough Council Minutes. 22/1/08 – to 21/4/08. NOTED.
- f) South Lakeland Council. Local Development Framework. NOTED.
- g) Open Green Spaces. A guide to management issues. NOTED.
- h) Cumbria Village of the Year competition. NOTED.
- i) Cumbria CC. Minerals and Waste Development Framework. NOTED.
- j) Barrow Borough Council. New members induction day - 8/5/08. NOTED
- k) Barrow Borough Council. Dog Control Orders. The inclusion of Lindal village green within the scope of the Control Order was NOTED.

58/08 Finance.

- a) Cash balances :- Current account £50 Reserve account:- £658.79
- b) The Clerk reported that the insurance quotation this year from Allianz Insurance was £245.26. Rent was also due for the Council's use of St Peter's Church, on two occasions, in the sum of £24. It was PROPOSED by Councillor Waite and SECONDED by Councillor Lord that these two amounts be duly authorised and cheques signed accordingly. Carried unanimously.
- c) The Clerk referred to the Annual Audit Return, summarising the Council's financial situation for the year 2007/08, and requiring authorisation by the Council before being submitted to the Audit Commission. Copies of the Return had previously been circulated to Council members and it was PROPOSED by Councillor Howarth and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Kelly that:-
 - Section 1, the Statement of Accounts, be APPROVED:
 - Section 2, the Annual Governance Statement, be COMPLETED and APPROVED:
 - Section 4, the Annual Internal Audit Report, be APPROVED.

Carried unanimously.

59/08 Any Other Business.

- a) The Clerk reported that he had received correspondence from Cumbria County Council indicating that they were proposing to introduce "Highway Stewards" to assist with the routine maintenance of the roads network. The Stewards would be individuals supplied with a vehicle and appropriate equipment to enable them to take responsibility for minor repairs and maintenance for a linked group of local parishes. Further information would follow.
- b) Councillor Howarth drew attention to the public telephone kiosk at the end of the Green and the fact that its door was now missing. The Clerk indicated that damage to the door had already been reported and that BT might have removed it to effect repairs.
- c) Councillor Mrs Kelly enquired as to whether anything further had been heard about the alleged unauthorised development at Whitriggs (near Tytup and Primrose). The Clerk undertook to make enquiries.
- d) Councillor Mrs Kelly reported that she had been visited by a highways official to discuss the problem of traffic/white lines outside her salon in Lindal and it was hoped that some re-arrangement of the white lines would ease the traffic problem. The official also noticed the congestion at the main A590/The Green crossroads in relation to parked vehicles and the restricted length of double yellow lines in that area and suggested that it might be appropriate for the highways department to make an official assessment of parking arrangements.
- e) *From the floor* a question was raised as to the attendance of District Councillors at Parish Council meetings. The Clerk confirmed that attendance was spasmodic but he usually received apologies if such councillors were unable to attend.
- f) *From the floor* came an enquiry as to whether anything further had been heard from the energy company Infinergy, the proposed developers of the wind farm at Standish Cote, on the subject of attending the Parish Council and also the establishment of a liaison committee. The Clerk explained that he had received another telephone call regarding the company's willingness to visit the Council but this had not yet been confirmed in writing and neither had he heard anything further about a liaison committee, although it was understood that a meeting of such a committee had already taken place.

60/08 Date and Time of Next Meeting.

It was AGREED that the next meeting would be on Thursday 5th June 2008, at 7.30 pm in the Buccleuch Hall, Lindal. *(All residents of the Parish are reminded that the Council meetings are open to the public and that all are welcome to attend.)*