

Lindal and Marton Parish Council

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

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

Also present:- 9 members of the public.

In attendance:- Inspector R Vernon, Cumbria Constabulary.
Mr P Rogers, Cumbria Association of Local Councils.

90/05 Disclosure of Interests.

None.

91/05 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 4th August 2005.

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 4th August 2005, were taken as read and APPROVED.

PROPOSED:- Councillor Lord.

SECONDED:- Councillor Ms Rainbow.

Carried unanimously.

92/05 Matters arising.

- a) 80/05 (b) Reference was made to discussions between the Parish Council and the Residents Association, on the subject of the Marton Christmas Tree, which had taken place after the last meeting, and which had resulted in the Clerk contacting Barrow Borough Council with a request that one of their officers contact the Clerk in order to discuss practical issues re power supplies etc. A reply was still awaited. NOTED.
- b) 88/05 (c) The Chairman enquired as to the current situation regarding the mirror at the foot of Snipe Ghyll. Councillor Richards confirmed that the matter had been discussed with the house owner concerned who indicated that consideration would be given to re-positioning the mirror, although it was pointed out that the foliage which was obscuring the mirror would soon die down.

93/05 Attendance of Officer from Cumbria Constabulary.

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Richard Vernon who gave a brief outline of the levels of crime in Lindal and Marton being reported to the Police (32 crimes reported since 1/1/05). He indicated that two constables were allocated as Community Police Officers for the Dalton North Ward, with WPC Karen Harris normally responsible for Lindal and Marton. He emphasised that, despite police numbers having increased, much more was expected of the Police, creating difficulties in providing the levels of local policing which people expected. He took note of local concerns, particularly an apparent lack of feed-back to many who had reported incidents within the Parish and promised to ensure that this problem was addressed.

94/05 Report of School Governors. Submission of minutes – if any.

There were no minutes for consideration.

95/05 Lindal Village Green.

The Clerk reported that he had been advised by the Director of Regeneration that SLDC had been instructed to finalize design details for the Green improvements. He would invite the Parish Council and the Residents Association to a meeting to discuss the programme once all such details were to hand. NOTED.

95/05 Cumbria Association of Local Councils. Quality development.

The Chairman introduced Mr Paul Rogers from the Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) who had been invited to discuss the concept of Quality Parish status. Mr Rogers outlined four major reasons why the attainment of Quality Parish status was to be commended:

- It would enhance the credibility of the parish in its dealings with other organisations.
- It would enable certain services to be devolved to the Parish Council from the Borough Council, if this was desired, such as responsibility for street lights, parking arrangements, attending to verges etc.
- The Parish could expect to be given more responsibility, and to be consulted more widely, in respect of all planning and development matters and would have more say in the prioritisation of road repairs.
- There would be freedom to apply for capital grants, up to a level of £10,000, for individual projects within the Parish.

A particular requirement in respect of Quality Status was highlighted, namely, the need for Parish Clerks to be in possession of a specific professional qualification. The Clerk commented on his reluctance to undertake further studies in order to achieve such qualification.

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Lord and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Morgan that further consideration of this matter be deferred for twelve months (unless further advice/information was received in the meantime.) Carried unanimously.

Mr Rogers also spoke on the subject of Charters between Principal Authorities and Town and Parish Councils. He suggested that such authorities were expected to approach parishes with a view to creating Charters, the intention being to clarify the way in which authorities such as Barrow Borough Council related to their respective Town and Parish Councils. NOTED.

96/05 Cumbria Local Democracy Commission.

Reference was made to a letter from the Chairman of the Cumbria Democracy Commission in which comment was invited as to how the democratic processes in Cumbria might be improved. It was noted that one of the questions posed by the Commission was whether the County Council's present methods of engagement with local communities were appropriate. However, bearing in mind that a reply was requested by 12th September, with the correspondence only being received on 11th August, i.e. the middle of the holiday season, with the Parish Council only meeting once in that period, it was considered that there were major failings in the Democracy Commission's own approach to communications.

It was, therefore, PROPOSED by Councillor Ms Richards and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Morgan that the Clerk respond to the Democracy Commission indicating that a considered response was not possible due to the limited time available and that the Commission should reflect on its own shortcomings in relation to communications. Carried unanimously.

97/05 Cumbria County Council. Rural Support Programme.

The Clerk introduced correspondence from CCC regarding the availability of grants to support community activities such as shops, pubs, childcare facilities etc.

It was AGREED that arrangements be made to advertise the subject in "Aspects" with a request that anyone interested in pursuing the matter contact either the Parish Council or the Residents Association.

98/05 Campaign for the "Sustainable Communities Bill".

The Clerk referred to proposals within Parliament for the enacting of a Bill to ensure that District Councils took active steps to promote the well-being and commercial activities of grass-roots communities – small towns and parishes.

It was AGREED that the correspondence be circulated to all councillors with a view to the matter being debated at the October meeting.

99/05 Planning applications relating to the Parish.

6/05/1282 Listed Building Consent. Demolish lean-to at rear of property and erection of replacement. 32, The Green, Lindal.

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Lord and SECONDED by Councillor Ms Richards that the Council offer no objection to this proposal. Carried unanimously.

100/05 Correspondence.

- a) Planning applications outwith the Parish. NOTED.
- b) Cumbria County Council. Modifications to Joint Structure Plan. NOTED.

- c) Barrow Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership minutes. NOTED.
- d) Barrow Borough Council. "Heart of Barrow" annual report. NOTED.
- e) "Ormonde" wind farm project. Environmental Impact Assessment. NOTED.

101/05 Finance.

- a) The cash balances were:-

Current account:- £509.09

Reserve account:- £1286.33.

- b) The Clerk requested payment of the first part of his remuneration for 2005/06 in the sum of £275. It was PROPOSED by Councillor Mrs Morgan and SECONDED by Councillor Lord that this be approved and a cheque duly signed. Carried unanimously.

102/05 Any Other Business.

- a) The Clerk reported that he had received further correspondence in relation to the Ward Boundary Review, whereby the size of the electoral wards in Barrow Borough Council's district were to be assessed because of population changes. Barrow Borough Council would be making their own recommendations in the near future and it was AGREED that such information be awaited before the Parish Council made its own assessment of the matter.
- b) Councillor Mrs Morgan reported that, in respect of the solar-powered speed warning signs in Kirkby, and the need for information, the Traffic Management officer for Cumbria Constabulary would be approaching the Parish Council in due course.
- c) The Chairman indicated that there were suggestions that underground power cables were to be placed in Marton, possibly running through the park, and that if this were to be the case then it might be possible to arrange for a power supply for the proposed Christmas Tree for Marton park. It was AGREED that the Clerk would make appropriate enquiries.
- d) *From the floor* came a suggestion that some of the saplings planted on the A590 as part of the Borough Council's Millennium celebrations had died or were otherwise in need of attention. The Clerk undertook to investigate.

103/05 Date and Time of Next Meeting.

The next meeting was AGREED as Thursday, 6th October 2005, at 7.30 pm in the Buccleuch Hall, Lindal.