

Lindal and Marton Parish Council

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

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 4th March 2010 at 7.30 pm in the Buccleuch Hall, Lindal.

Present:- Councillors Councillor D Howarth; R Lord; Mrs S Glover; Mrs S Kelly.

Apologies:- Councillor A Waite (Chairman);

Also present:- 4 members of the public.

In attendance:- PCSO Louise Perry, Cumbria Constabulary.
Kevin McGeough and Steve Mason, Cumbria County Council (Highways)

In the Chair:- Councillor D Howarth.

28/10 Urgent business. Items normally needing to be publicised but received too late for the agenda. (Section 100B (4) (b) Local Government Act 1972)

None.

29/10 Disclosure of Interests.

Councillor Howarth declared a personal interest in item13 (b) in that he was Treasurer of the Buccleuch Hall.

30/10 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 4th February 2010.

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 4th February, 2010, were taken as read and APPROVED.

PROPOSED:- Councillor Lord.

SECONDED:- Councillor Mrs Glover. Carried unanimously.

31/10 Matters arising.

- a) 18/10 (b). Councillor Lord asked whether anything further had been heard regarding the proposed Rural Joint Committee. The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Phil Huck suggesting a proposed constitution for the Committee but this did little to clarify what such a Committee would do; what its funding arrangements might be; what the existing Rural Projects Officer was responsible for; and whether or not Town and Parish Clerks would attend the Committee, as was proposed for County and Borough officials. It was AGREED that the Clerk would contact the Rural Projects Officer, Angela Knowles, in order to seek clarification on these issues.
- b) 26/10 (b) Councillor Mrs Kelly commented on the fact that a new grit bin had been provided for Railway Terrace.

32/10 Attendance of Officer from Cumbria Constabulary.

PCSO Louise Perry stated that there were no particular crime issues affecting Lindal or Marton at present. She also reported that 20 bicycles had been security-marked during the session held outside the Buccleuch Hall recently.

From the floor, there were further references to sheep found wandering on local roads and private gardens and there were also comments about dog-fouling, particularly around the perimeter of the green, although not on the green itself. PCSO Perry agreed that the problem of straying sheep was not only a considerable nuisance for the owners of the gardens concerned but, perhaps more significantly, constituted a road-safety hazard and as a consequence she would arrange for her police colleagues to take this matter up once again with the farmer responsible for the sheep.

Insofar as dog-fouling was concerned, she would discuss this with her colleagues, and the dog-warden, to see what might be done to cope with this problem.

PCSO Perry also advised that PC Karen Harris was transferring to other duties and that the successor constable for the Dalton North area would be PC Michelle Milburn.

NB. Subsequent to PCSO Perry's departure PC Milburn joined the meeting and remained for the rest of the session.

33/10 Attendance of Kevin McGeough, Cumbria County Council.

The Clerk introduced Mr McGeough and Mr Mason from the County Council's Highways Department who were in attendance to discuss road-safety issues, with particular reference to speed limits on Pit Lane (in relation to the school) and the arrangements for gritting of roads during icy weather. *From the floor*, Mrs Katherine Humphries, representing the parent governors of the school, joined in the discussions to put forward the school's point of view.

Matters considered insofar as road-safety was concerned included a 20 mph speed limit; replacement red tarmac for the area outside the school; speed cushions; "rumble strips."

Mr McGeough referred to a traffic survey from 2008 whereby the average speed of vehicles using Pit Lane (not necessarily immediately adjacent to the School) was 26 mph, with a maximum recorded as 49 mph. However, he suggested that the lack of any accidents whatsoever would make it difficult to justify the installation of a 20 mph limit because of the need to incorporate speed cushions in the area concerned which, in turn, would require having street lamps in such a position as to illuminate the cushions. There would be significant costs associated with such a development and there would also be in all probability considerable opposition from local residents because of additional noise, pollution, and damage to vehicles passing over the cushions.

Councillor Mrs Glover mentioned the “variable speed limit” signs which she knew had been in place outside Lowick School, such signs having flashing lights to indicate the speed limit for that stretch of road and which were only operative at certain times of the day when pupils were entering or leaving the school.

Mr McGeough confirmed that he was aware of such signs and indicated his willingness to see whether they would be suitable for Pit Lane, adjacent to Lindal School.

He also undertook to investigate further the possibility of re-applying red tarmac to the road in order to emphasise the school’s location, together with any other road markings or signs which might be helpful.

He also confirmed that the replacement / additional signage previously discussed would be installed in the near future.

Discussions then ensued over the recent icy weather and the fact that none of the local roads were included in the County Council’s priority lists for gritting. It was pointed out that a gritting vehicle had actually been seen gritting the local roads on at least one occasion although Mr McGeough was unable to give an explanation as to why this might have occurred. He also confirmed that he had had copies of correspondence submitted to the Council at the last meeting, from the Chairman of the School Governors and also a local resident, which drew attention to the problems associated with a lack of a formal, and routine, gritting programme. Mr McGeough undertook to consider all the points made regarding gritting with a view to recommending that local roads (the minimum being Pit Lane, leading to the School) be included in the County Council’s gritting programme.

34/10 Report of School Governors. Submission of minutes, if any.

There were no minutes for consideration.

35/10 Parish Paths Initiative.

The Clerk confirmed that a pre-meeting had taken place before the start of that evening’s meeting when representatives from the Residents’ Association had been in attendance to discuss with Councillors the most appropriate way forward regarding the Parish Paths Initiative. This was an initiative from the County Council (the body responsible for footpaths) whereby grants of up to £1000 could be made available to parishes for specific schemes to improve or maintain footpaths within the parish or to provide seats, notice boards, leaflets etc. It was AGREED that Councillor Lord and the Clerk would assess the numbers of footpaths within the parish with a view to drawing up a programme of “walks” so that each footpath could be inspected so as to identify any problem areas or suggested improvements. The programme would then be disseminated to the Residents Association (and any other interested persons), the intention being to complete the assessment of all footpaths before the April Parish Council meeting

36/10 Adoption of BT telephone kiosks, Lindal and Marton.

The Clerk reported that he was still waiting for final confirmation from BT that the telephone kiosks in Lindal and Marton were to be transferred into the ownership of the Council. However, he had been notified of a change in the arrangements whereby BT appeared to be suggesting that they would, if requested, remain responsible for the power supply to the kiosks. However, it was unclear as to whether BT would then re-charge the cost of electricity to the Council and he was, therefore, awaiting further clarification.

37/10 Planning applications relating to the Parish.

None.

38/10 Correspondence.

- a) Planning applications relating to the whole of the Borough. NOTED.
- b) "Love Barrow" community awards. NOTED.
- c) Cumbria C.C. Flood remedial work – update. NOTED.
- d) Energy saving Trust. "Green Communities". NOTED.
- e) Duddon Estuary Partnership.
 - 1) Minutes of last meeting. NOTED.
 - 2) Draft response re nuclear power station, Kirksanton. NOTED
 - 3) Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities. NOTED.
- f. Cumbria Association of Local Councils. Seminar on "Open Spaces". NOTED.

39/10 Finance.

- a) Cash balances:- Current account £50 Reserve account:- £1336.91.
- b) The Clerk reported that rental payments were due for the Council's use of the Buccleuch Hall, as follows:-
 - April to August, 2009, 4 meetings @ £12 per night (no meeting in July) = £48
 - September to March 2010, 8 meetings @ £14 per night (2 meetings in October) = £112
 - Total rental payments due = £160

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Lord and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Kelly that a cheque for £160 be authorised in connection with this amount. Carried unanimously.

40/10 Any Other Business.

- a) Councillor Mrs Glover referred to the Council's donation towards the cost of Bibles for St Peter's Church, confirming that the Church was extremely grateful for such financial assistance. NOTED.
- b) Councillor Howarth asked the Clerk about problems with a failed street light and excess undergrowth near to Melton Terrace which he had asked the Clerk to deal with recently. The Clerk confirmed that these matters were in hand.
- c) *From the floor*, it was pointed out that when some local hedges were being mechanically cut recently, no effort had been made to sweep up the thorns and other cuttings which had been left in the roadway. There had been instances whereby vehicles had suffered tyre damage and it was AGREED that the Clerk would raise the matter with the appropriate department in the District Council.

41 /10 Date and Time of Next Meeting.

The date and time of the next meeting was AGREED as Thursday, 1st April, 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.)