

Lindal and Marton Parish Council

Chairman
A Waite
4 Silver Street
Marton
Nr Ulverston
Cumbria LA12 0NQ
Tel 01229 462922

Clerk
J Smith
7 East View
Lindal-in-Furness
Cumbria LA12 0LG
Tel 01229 467261

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 5th February 2009 at 7.30 pm in the Buccleuch Hall, Lindal.

Present:-

Councillors A Waite (Chairman); R Lord; Ms S Rainbow; D Howarth; Mrs S Kelly.

Also present: - 7 members of the public.

In attendance:-

PCSO Louise Perry from Cumbria Constabulary.
An apology was received from Borough Councillors Mrs Kath Unwin and Mrs G Heath.

1/09 Urgent business. Items normally needing to be publicised but received too late for the agenda. (Section 100B (4) (b) Local Government Act 1972)

None.

2/09 Disclosure of Interests.

None.

3/09 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 4th December, 2008.

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 4th December 2008 were taken as read and APPROVED.

PROPOSED:- Councillor Ms Rainbow.

SECONDED:- Councillor. D Howarth. Carried unanimously.

4/09 Matters arising.

- a) 136/08 (b) Councillor Lord reported that he had learned that the reason behind the application for felling the sycamore tree was that owners of buildings within close proximity to such trees (as in this case) could have difficulties in arranging for appropriate house insurance. The Clerk confirmed that he had been advised that

discussions were still on-going between the applicant and the planning officials in order to find a solution.

- b) 136/08 (a) The Clerk referred to the replacement door which BT had arranged for the telephone kiosk following publicity of the problem in the Evening Mail. However, there was still a need for the kiosk to be thoroughly cleaned and re-painted and it was AGREED that the Clerk should make further representations with BT to see whether such work could be arranged.

5/09 Attendance of Officer from Cumbria Constabulary.

PCSO Louise Perry referred to a series of thefts of trailers in the district and advised all owners to take particular care of such items.

She also referred to the Police's proposed Neighbourhood Policing Week and indicated that there would be a police presence in the Buccleuch Hall on Friday, 20th February 2009, between 1.30 pm and 3.30 pm when parishioners could ask for advice etc.

Councillor Mrs Kelly asked whether anything further was known about the vandalism in the Pennington Lane area which WPC Karen Harris had reported at the November meeting. *vide minute 122/08*. PCSO Perry had no further information.

Councillor Lord referred to the on-going problem of HGVs travelling through the village, frequently to the abattoir, and in contravention of the weight-restriction. Discussion of this topic had been deferred at the December meeting due to the absence of any police presence on that occasion. *vide minute 146/08 (a)*. PCSO Perry agreed to refer the matter to her Traffic Management colleagues including a suggestion from councillor Lord that lorry-drivers be advised of the HGV restriction area by means of advance warning signs saying "HGV Restriction Ahead". It was AGREED that the Clerk would also pass on this suggestion to the appropriate highways officials for their consideration.

Councillor Lord also wondered whether a sign on the abattoir's own road, immediately before it meets the public road leading from Lindal village and up Henning Hill, and clearly stating "No Left Turn for HGVs", would help remind drivers that they should always turn right when leaving the abattoir, away from the village and avoiding the HGV restricted area. It was AGREED that the Clerk should write to the proprietor of the abattoir with a request that he consider this suggestion.

PCSO Perry also confirmed that she would pass on to Traffic Management the continuing concerns of the Parish Council and also the School regarding lack of action from Capita in re-painting warning/advisory signs on the road outside the school.

6/09 Report of School Governors. Submission of minutes – if any.

There were no minutes for consideration.

7/09 Local election arrangements.

Correspondence had been received from Barrow Borough Council asking for the Parish Council's views regarding the local election arrangements. Currently, the Borough's District Councillors are elected for a four-year period and where a ward has more than one, elections take place in different years during the four-year cycle. The Borough Council was suggesting that it would be more appropriate if all its councillors stood for election at the same time, with there being one election day throughout the Borough just once every four years. (This would bring them in line with the arrangements for parish councillors.) There would be savings in expenses in the region of £23,000 per year. It was PROPOSED by Councillor Lord and SECONDED by Councillor Howarth that the Parish Council raise no objections to the Borough Council's suggestion. Carried unanimously.

8/09 Lindal Village Green.

The Clerk referred to a recent incident involving the village green railings whereby an HGV had damaged two of the panels. Details had been obtained regarding the driver and his company and Barrow Council's Estates Department had been advised in order to follow-up the question of repairs.

Further discussions took place regarding the outstanding requirement for kerbs to be installed along the western edge of the green. In view of the long-drawn-out history of this subject, with there apparently being an impasse in the negotiations between the Town Hall, the County Council and Capita over carrying out this work, it was PROPOSED by Councillor Waite and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Kelly that the Clerk write to the Chief Executive of Barrow Borough Council to protest at the apparent procrastination between the various parties and the unacceptable delay in bringing this minor development to a successful conclusion. Carried unanimously.

9/09 Prospective Wind Farm, Standish Cote.

Reference was made to correspondence from Infinergy which suggested that the next meeting of the Liaison Group would be held on Tuesday, 3rd March 2009. Minutes of the last meeting of the Group, held on Tuesday 28th October 2008, at Pennington, had also been received which suggested that the venue for the next meeting would be the Buccleuch Hall. However, nothing had been heard regarding any reservation of the Hall for the night in question and, given that the premises were usually being used by another organisation on such evenings, it was presumed that Infinergy would have to make alternative arrangements. No specific arrangements were made for any councillor to attend such meeting and the Clerk confirmed that, as he was not a member of the Liaison Group, he would not be attending.

10/09 Consultation re publicity policy for Local Authorities.

The Clerk suggested that, at first sight, there appeared to be little in this document applicable to the Parish Council. It was AGREED that it be placed in the circulation file and that it be an agenda item for the March meeting.

11/09 Local highways issues..

The Clerk reported that he had been hoping that Mr Gary Thomas, from Capita, would have been present in order that he might bring the Parish Council up-to-date with such matters as the proposed 20 mph speed limit for School Terrace/Pit Lane. However, Mr Thomas was unable to attend but had indicated his availability for the March meeting, if this was required. He had also supplied the latest information on a range of items.

The Clerk then referred to correspondence from a local resident which drew attention to the lack of gritting to the road running past the abattoir and which had seen a road accident at the corner by Guards Road during a recent cold spell. *From the floor* the correspondent concerned pointed out that the lack of gritting to the hilly part of the road meant that HGVs coming out of the abattoir were forced out of necessity to turn back into the village in order to gain the main road, thus adding to the HGV problems.

Reference was then made to the information from Gary Thomas which confirmed that, with the exception of the A590 (the responsibility of the Highways Agency), no roads within the Parish were on the County Council's schedule for gritting whenever a cold spell ensued and it was accepted that, given that previous attempts at changing these arrangements had been unsuccessful, it was unlikely that any further approach to the Council would succeed. It was then suggested that the Highway Steward (the County Council's employee responsible for local highway minor maintenance) could possibly assist in emergencies by hand-spreading

grit at the most dangerous places (eg., outside the school; Guards Road corner) and it was AGREED that the Clerk would approach Gary Thomas with this suggestion.

The Clerk then reported that the 20 mph scheme for Lindal (from Lindal village green, up past the school) had been accepted into the County Council's provisional list of schemes for the coming financial year. He also confirmed that re-marking the school signs on the roadway outside the school was still outstanding and was with a contractor for attention.

12/09 Planning applications relating to the Parish.

6/2008/1701. *New extension for sales area and café, Crooklands Garden Centre. (retrospective)* The Clerk pointed out that he had received this application towards the end of December 2008 and because no meeting had been arranged for January 2009, had suggested to the Chairman and his councillor colleagues that, because of the tight time-scale for a reply, and because the Garden Centre was on the edge of the parish boundary and in reality considered to be part of Dalton, it be recommended to Barrow council that an official comment be sought from Dalton Council instead. Such recommendation had been made, together with confirmation that the Parish's views would still be made known after the February meeting.

After due consideration it was PROPOSED by Councillor Waite and SECONDED by Councillor Howarth that the Parish Council express "no comment" on this application. Carried unanimously.

13/09 Correspondence.

- a) Planning applications outwith the Parish. NOTED.
 - b) Barrow Council minutes, 7/10/08 to 14/01/09. NOTED.
 - c) Barrow Council training event for councillors, 27/01/09. NOTED.
 - d) Barrow Council Annual Report 2008. NOTED.
 - e) South Lakeland Council Local Plan. NOTED.
 - f) Cumbria County Council Local Transport Plan. NOTED.
 - g) Cumbria County Council newsletters. NOTED.
 - h) Cumbria Rural Housing Trust newsletter. NOTED.
 - i) Cumbria Constabulary – "The Policing Pledge". NOTED.
 - j) Friends of the Lake District newsletter. NOTED.
 - k) Duddon Estuary Partnership. Minutes of the AGM, 13th November. NOTED.
 - l) Furness Partnership. Minutes of the AGM, 12th December. NOTED.
- (All the above documents to be circulated for information.)

14/09 Finance.

- a) Cash balances :- Current account £50 Reserve account:- £2202.68.
- b) A request was received from the parishioners who published the parish magazine "Aspects" for a grant towards running costs, as in previous years. It was PROPOSED by Councillor Waite and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Kelly that a sum of £200 be approved for this purpose. Carried unanimously.
- c) A request was received from the North West Air Ambulance for financial assistance towards the running costs of the helicopter service, as in previous years. It was PROPOSED by Councillor Mrs Kelly and SECONDED by Councillor Howarth that a donation be made of £100 on this occasion. Carried unanimously.
- d) The Clerk reported that there was likely to be a financial surplus at 31st March 2009, to be carried forward to 2009/2010, of around £1,300. He was therefore recommending that the precept for next year be reduced, from £2,500 to £2,000. This information had previously been circulated to all councillors who had all concurred with the proposals and the Clerk confirmed that the recommendation had been forwarded to the Borough Council. It was

PROPOSED by Councillor Waite and SECONDED by Councillor Ms Rainbow that the action taken be formally approved. Carried unanimously.

- e) The Clerk submitted a request for the balance of honoraria for 2008/09 to be paid in respect of himself (£275) and the internal auditor (£35). It was PROPOSED by Councillor Howarth and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Kelly that these amounts be authorised and paid. Carried unanimously.

15/08 Any Other Business.

a) Councillor Mrs Kelly reported that a local resident had drawn her attention to one or more superfluous signs on lampposts in Lindal indicating “This is a Child-Watch Area”. It was AGREED that no action be taken.

b) Councillor Waite drew attention to a lack of waste-bins in Marton for dog waste. The Clerk undertook to discuss this with the appropriate officer at Barrow Council.

c) The Clerk referred to the impending retirement of Mr David Barlow, the Headmaster of Lindal and Marton Primary School. It was AGREED that the Parish Council place on record its recognition of the outstanding merits of the school which was due in no small part to the dedication and leadership of Mr Barlow and they wished him a long and happy retirement.

16/08 Date and Time of Next Meeting.

It was AGREED that the next meeting would take place on Thursday, 5th March 2009 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.)