

Bowness-on-Solway Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 12th July 2017 at 7.00pm in Anthorn Village Hall.

Present:

Councillors: Graham (Chair), Bradshaw, Carruthers, Coates, Harrington, Hodgson, Hutton, Knowles, Reay and Wills.

In attendance: County Councillor Markley

Public attendance: E Simpson, D Millican, E Graham, K Simpson and D & K Rook

Clerk: M Abbs

1.1 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest.

Cllrs Hinks and Borough Cllr Hodgson had sent apologies.

PCSO Donaughee had also sent apologies.

Cllrs Graham and Knowles declared an interest with regard to item 4.11.

Cllr Knowles declared also an interest in item 4.5.

REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

The clerk to report any requests received since the previous meeting for dispensations to speak and/or vote on any matter where a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.

An on-going dispensation is in force in respect of the Precept.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations by elected and co-opted members of interests in respect of items on this agenda.

Members are reminded that, in accordance with the revised Code of Conduct, they are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or other registrable interests which have not already been declared in the Council's Register of Interests. (It is a criminal offence not to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest either in the Register or at the meeting.)

Members may, however, also decide, in the interests of clarity and transparency, to declare at this point in the meeting, any such disclosable pecuniary interests which they have already declared in the Register, as well as any other registrable or other interests.

If a Member requires advice on any item involving a possible declaration of interest which could affect his/her ability to speak and/or vote, he/she is advised to contact the clerk at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

2 Minutes (previously circulated)

2.1 To approve the draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting and the Parish Council Meeting held on the 10th of May 2017 – **approved and signed.**

3 Report on action taken

3.1 Report on action by members of the Council.

Cllr Knowles informed the meeting that he understood that the land which some members of the Council considered to be potentially suitable for a car park had been sold subject to contract. He understood that St Michaels's PCC had written to a local landowner concerning land for a burial ground extension.

3.2 Report from the clerk.

Including: road signage, grant applications.

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Confirmation was given that the Authorities had been contacted concerning road signage and a response was awaited. All grant cheques had been issued following the awards at the previous meeting. Other items would arise later in the Agenda.

3.3 Public participation (at the Chairman's discretion)

Mr Simpson said that there was concern locally about Mr R Irving claiming land by means of 'adverse possession' and that the Community Group, as a land registry consultee, was going to oppose the claim. There was concern that land on the marsh, if successful, would then be fenced off preventing public access.

Cllr Knowles offered some general advice concerning the legal complexity and recommended that professional advice be sought.

The clerk informed the meeting that he had received no documentation from any party concerning the matter and had consulted CALC who had confirmed that the issue was a Private Land matter and beyond the power and duties of a Parish Council. The Council has no legal basis or means to take a view.

All members of the Public left the meeting.

4 Correspondence

To review correspondence received and take any appropriate action.

4.1 AON – Confirmation of insurance renewal.

The clerk advised that a somewhat delayed confirmation had been received. – **noted**.

4.2 Footway Lighting - Current situation.

The clerk advised that he was still waiting to hear from Mr D Bryden of Allerdale BC when it would be possible for him to visit the site in Drumburgh to discuss the possibility of installing a new pole. The need for consultation with local residents was stressed by the clerk. – **noted**.

4.3 Rural Payment Agency and Council Agent.

Latest situation on submissions, entitlements and related correspondence.

The clerk advised Cllrs that a payment had been received from the RPA (see item 6.1.2) but to date no remittance advice had been received. However, the amount corresponded with the usual Higher Level Stewardship payment. The agent had been paid for its services to the Council in submitting the Council's claims. – **noted**.

4.4 Seafarers UK – Merchant Navy Day information.

The clerk provided details which were **noted without action**.

Cllr Hodgson arrived.

4.5 Citizens Advice Allerdale – request for support.

Cllr Knowles left the room for this item.

Cllrs **rejected** two proposals to give support.

Cllr Knowles re-joined the meeting.

4.6 NALC – reform of data protection legislation.

The clerk provided details which he felt had little impact on the Council. These were **noted without action**.

4.7 Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments – audit fees.

The clerk provided details which were **noted without action**.

4.8 Chief Constable Cumbria Constabulary – Engagement with Parish Councils.

The clerk provided details which were **noted**.

Cllr Hutton arrived.

4.9 Local Government Boundary Commission – final recommendations for 2019 elections.

The clerk provided details which were **noted**

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4.10 ACTION – Household Emergency Planning leaflets.

The clerk handed out the sample leaflets he had received which were **noted without action**.

4.11 Bowness Community Group – e-mail concerning defibrillator grant payment.

The clerk confirmed that the Community Group had confirmed that the previously issued grant cheque had not been credited to their account and the clerk advised that in accordance with the previous decision the cheque for £1300 would be re-issued. – **noted**.

5 New business

5.1 **To receive** Community reports:

5.2 Police report.

The clerk gave the report which was **noted**.

5.3 Condition of benches and possible purchase of replacements.

Cllrs did not wish to purchase any further seats at this point but would check on the condition of a bench in the Bowness area. - **noted**.

5.4 Possible consideration of BDO Audit documents and examination of any matters arising,

The clerk confirmed that the legal requirements concerning the posting of information on the website and notice boards had been met. The clerk had not received completed audit papers back yet but had received a communication from the auditors requesting information on any significant spending on projects which the Council may have. Following consultation with the Chairman, the clerk advised that the Council were investigating several possible uses for the money but that no spending decisions had been taken. No further communication had been received. – **noted**.

5.5 Audit and Transparency Regime / Parish Website – update from clerk.

The clerk advised that the website was being used to publish the legally required documentation. – **noted**.

5.6 Anthorn Naval Base Memorial.

The clerk and Cllr Reay advised that there appeared two initiatives concerning the memorial and following discussion it was **agreed** that the clerk should contact the Anthorn Community Association to ascertain their views prior to the next meeting.

County Cllr Markley arrived.

5.7 Cumbria CC – Bowness fingerpost.

Cllrs discussed the fingerpost and still preferred painting as the preferred option. Cllr Knowles said he would contact the landowner concerned for their views. – **noted**.

Cllr Wills arrived.

5.8 Bowness on Solway Parochial Church Council – letter concerning burials.

Update from the clerk.

The clerk confirmed that having made enquiries with CALC the Council had powers to run and maintain a burial ground but that this would require considerable extra responsibilities, work and funding. Cllrs **noted** this and would monitor the on-going situation (see item 3.1).

5.9 Defibrillators – wider availability in the parish and possible funding requests.

Cllr Carruthers advised that a fundraising initiative was taking place in Glasson and the Council could be approached in future concerning a grant application. Cllr Reay and the clerk were also aware of an initiative in Anthorn and thought that a similar application could be forthcoming from the Anthorn Community group. The clerk reminded Cllrs that money could only be awarded to suitably constituted groups but that it was not necessary to use the S.137 provision to do this for defibrillators. Cllrs were aware that redundant telephone boxes had now been removed in Drumburgh, Port Carlisle and Bowness and were obviously not now available for defibrillator use. - **noted**.

6 Finance

6.1 Information

6.1.1 **To approve accounts** to 31st May 2017 and 30th June 2017 (available at meeting). – **approved**.

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6.1.2 To note - Rural Payment Agency - **£1973.00 – noted.**

6.1.3 To note HMRC VAT repayment **£1377.25 – noted.**

6.2 Payments: to approve the following payments:

6.2.1- Clerk's salary **£680.36 – approved.**

6.2.2 – Expenses: post etc. £8.51 Telephone & broadband £13.25 = £21.76, travel 66 miles@36p= £23.76

Total £45.52 – approved.

6.2.3 – Cllr Graham: chairman's allowance **£30.00 – approved.**

6.2.4 - CGM Grass cutting – VAT (£173.40) inclusive Invoices: **£1040.40 – approved.**

6.2.5 – H & H Land & Property Ltd – Professional Services – (£200 + £40 VAT) **£240.00 – approved.**

6.2.6 – Shaw & Sons – Accounts book purchase (VAT £12.79) **£76.74 – approved.**

6.2.7 - XMA Ltd – print cartridges (VAT £14.20) **-£85.17 -approved.**

7 Highways

7.1 – Any local developments.

Possible update on cattle grids and signage.

Cllr Bradshaw provided an update on the situation concerning the Cattle Grids and Cllr Markley said he was hopeful that approval and installation of the 2 grids would happen within the next 12 months. – **noted.**

Cllr Reay enquired why a repair near the 'Bird in Hand' public house was taking so long to complete. Whilst being outside the Parish Cllr Markley thought it was progressing. Cllr Carruthers asked about a hole in the road at Glasson that was taking a long time to repair and Cllr Markley agreed to investigate.

8 Planning

8.1 Applications outstanding with Allerdale BC

8.1.1 – CAT/2017/0015 Proposed tree work in Conservation area, Solway House, Port Carlisle (Mr R Howard).

See also items 8.2.2,8.2.3 and 8.2.4 below.

The above was noted.

8.2 Applications dealt with under standing order

8.2.1 – 2/2017/0160 Change of use of redundant orchard of Bowness House Farm to C3 Class (holiday lettable Shepherds Hut accommodation), Bowness House Farm, Bowness on Solway. (Mr Ian Hunter). The clerk advised that the Council had objected to this proposal - **noted.**

8.2.2 – 2/2017/0123 Proposed single storey extension to create additional bedroom and porch/office/cloaks area, Easton Bridge Cottage, Easton. (Mr and Mrs Mark Bell).

The clerk advised that the no objections had been raised to this proposal – **noted.**

8.2.3 – 2/2017/0234 New agricultural livestock building, Easton Farm, Easton. (Messrs John and Thomas Hodgson)

The clerk advised that the no objections had been raised to this proposal – **noted.**

8.2.4 – 2/2017/0272 Access track along field to make hard standing, Sunnymead, Port Carlisle (Mrs A Rumney).

The clerk advised that amended documents were expected for consideration as the Council had been informed that the plans were undergoing amendment. – **noted.**

8.3 Applications decided by Allerdale BC

8.3.1 - 2/2017/0022 Two poles for lighting installed at menage arena (Retrospective)Galaberry Mill Road Glasson (Mr and Mrs Birkett). – permission granted.

8.3.2 – 2/2017/0160 Change of use of redundant orchard of Bowness House Farm to C3 Class (holiday lettable Shepherds Hut accommodation), Bowness House Farm, Bowness on Solway. (Mr Ian Hunter). – permission granted.

The above were noted.

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8.4 Applications for discussion by this meeting

8.4.1 – 2/2017/0266 Proposal to change use of storage barn to dwelling conversion, Cardurnock Cottage, Cardurnock.

Following examination and discussion of the plans Cllrs **agreed** that they had no objections and instructed the clerk to notify the Authority accordingly.

9.1 Documents received for comment

None

9.2 Documents received for information (available on request to clerk)

9.2.1 CALC Circulars.

9.2.2 HSBC letter information concerning Commercial Banking.

9.2.3 Broxap product information.

9.2.4 ACT Gazette Issue 27 Summer 2017.

10 Any items of information...

10.1 brought by members

Cllr Bradshaw said that she felt a review of warning signs on the marsh was required and offered to do this and submit a report to the September meeting. The clerk will include the item on the Agenda. Cllr Knowles offered a 'planning aid' to fellow Cllrs which he hoped would assist them in assessing planning applications and submitting their views to the clerk. He was requested to e-mail a copy to members

10.2 brought by Borough Councillor Hodgson

Absent.

10.3 brought by County Councillor Markley

The County Council had had its first meeting following the election and the formation of the administration. He outlined his responsibilities within it. He hoped that the Glasson Playground cover would receive some grant funding. Significant Highways spending will occur in the forthcoming year which could result in some local disruption.

10.4 brought by the clerk

The clerk advised that subsequent to the Agenda being issued he had received a request from Cllr Hutton to include the Anthorn land matter on the September agenda, but given that no paperwork had been seen and the advice given earlier (see 3.3) he did not believe that discussion by the Council was required.

A planning application 2/2017/0331 for the removal of a grain tower and its replacement by a machinery shed at Easton Farm, Easton had been received and would need to be handled under the Standing Order procedure. The applicant Cllr Hodgson had declared an interest.

10.5 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13th September 2017 at 7 p.m. in the Lindow Hall Bowness.

Please note the November meeting will be on Wednesday 8th November 2017 at 7.00p.m. in the Bower, Port Carlisle.

The dates were noted and the meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9.12p.m.