

HEVERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on **Thursday 10 March 2022** at 7.30pm in The Athenaeum, Leasgill

Present – Cllrs. Peter Clarke (Chair), Brian Rendell, Tom Grindey, Iain Richards, Elizabeth Moffat and Adele Shepherd (until 9.00pm); County Cllr. Roger Bingham (until 8.10pm); District Cllr. Kevin Holmes; the Clerk and five members of the public

21/22 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. Adrian Bland

22/22 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2022 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair

23/22 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Shepherd declared an interest regarding the High Meadows, Woodhouse Lane planning application

24/22 Requests for Dispensation

None

25/22 Public Participation

Three of the members of the public spoke to express their objections to the High Meadows, Woodhouse Lane planning application. They referred to the impact on the Conservation Area and the Public Open Space; the excessively steep slope with apparent impossible access for large vehicles and which would cause excessive surface water run off onto the Lane without consideration of any necessary drainage; and the current traffic problems on Woodhouse Lane which would be exacerbated. One of them drew the Council's attention to several technical matters relating to the submitted plans. The other member of the public expressed his disquiet concerning the amount of dog poo on the stretch of pavement by the tennis courts and the Council said that this would be placed on the next agenda

26/22 Ongoing Items

- B4RN: Cllr. Richards reported that work was continuing
- Commemoration seat in memory of Cllr. Gordon Capstick: It was noted that the plaque had now been received and that the ceremony would take place on a date to be agreed with Mary Capstick
- Climate Change Working Group: The Clerk had spoken to the lighting contractor regarding the practicality and cost of adjusting the timing and / or strength of the street lighting. It was technically possible. The cost would depend upon the requirement upon which Cllr. Richards said that he would liaise with the Clerk

27/22 Reports

- a. District Cllr. Holmes reported that the SLDC council tax increase would be 1.5% and that SLDC had passed a resolution to purchase the Park House Drive site from CCC for low-cost housing
- b. County Cllr. Bingham reported that two judicial reviews have rejected making Cumbria a single unitary authority so the two unitary authorities – Westmorland and Furness / Cumberland – will go ahead from 1 April 2023; increased government funding has enabled there to be no increase in the CCC share of the council tax for 2022/23 although the 2% premium for social services will still be levied and there will be a 9.99% increase in the police and crime charge to help pay for the highest yet officer numbers; there was additional government funding for potholes; Covid cases were reducing but with disproportionate affects in age groups; and that he was pressing for more electric vehicle charging points in villages
- c. The Athenaeum: Cllr. Grindey reported that Hilary Hutchinson was the new treasurer and that the cake bake was expected to return later in the year. In view of County Cllr. Bingham's comments regarding electric vehicle charging points, it was agreed that Cllr. Richards would ask The Athenaeum committee chair if they would revisit the possibility of one in their car park

28/22 Planning

- i) It was noted that the following planning application had been submitted to SLDC and circulated to members of the Council since the last meeting:
SL/2022/0158 High Meadows, Woodhouse Lane, Heversham
Improvement of existing Woodhouse Lane access to provide highways compliant independent vehicular entrance and driveway
The Council **strongly objected** to this application and was to comment upon the inappropriate impact on the Conservation Area and Community Open Space; the excessively steep slope which was impossible for access vehicles; the fact that surface water will run off and the drainage hasn't been addressed; and to question the validity of the submitted drawings
- ii) It was noted that the following planning application had been withdrawn:
SL/2021/0986 Hawthorn Cottage, Church View, Heversham
2 storey rear extension with roof terrace over, rear dormer window, enlargement of openings for access to new extension and various internal repairs
- iii) It was noted that the following planning applications had been notified as approved by SLDC since the last meeting:
SL/2021/0868 Land at Swallowmire, Deepthwaite
Agricultural building for housing machinery with associated infrastructure
SL/2021/0890 Stonethwaite, Woodhouse Lane, Heversham
Single storey front, rear and roof extensions

- iv) It was noted that the Council had sent an email to SLDC concerning SL/2019/0475 Woodhouse Farm, Woodhouse and the neighbour responses referring to the desirability of attaching a planning condition regarding the opening of permissive access to the old railway line. The Council had not proposed this because it does not believe that this is an option open to the Planning Committee but, if it is, the Council support it
- v) The Council noted the correspondence with SLDC Planning Department regarding further information on applications SL/2022/0029 & 0030 for the land opposite Brant House, Woodhouse Lane, Heversham. No further action was to be taken and the situation was logged for the future
- vi) The Chair stated that the Neighbourhood Plan group had nothing new to report

29/22 Highways / Footpaths / Trees and Woods

Highways:

- a) It was noted that the resurfacing works on both U5072 Leasgill and Moss Lane, Heversham had been done although the Council had concern about the finishing and the drainage
- b) Reports on HIAMS had again been made regarding potholes on the A6 and at the southern entrance to the village; the damaged road sign on the A6 at Parkhouse; and the manhole covers on Woodhouse Lane

Footpaths/Tracks:

- i) The Chair reported that the three map / visitor information noticeboards work was moving forward
- ii) The Chair stated that there was nothing new to report

Trees and Woods:

- i) Cllr. Richards stated that he would deal with the fallen trees along the old railway line footpath
- ii) The Chair stated that Cllr. Bland had reported that the path would be cleared but that the work already agreed in Quarry Wood would be undertaken later in the year

30/22 Playground Report

- i) Cllr. Rendell had inspected the playground since the last meeting, continued to monitor the equipment and would carry out the inspections until the next meeting. SLDC had carried out their annual inspection and he would attend to the minor items in need of attention
- ii) It was noted that the combi-swing was to be installed shortly

31/22 Annual Parish Meeting

It was confirmed that the Meeting would be held on 14 April 2022 and that, in addition to the normal reports, there would be discussion on speed control, lighting, the Jubilee celebrations, the playground and Quarry Wood. Unfortunately neither SLDC or Cumbria Action for Sustainability were able to attend for a climate mitigation presentation

32/22 Village Tidy

It was confirmed that the annual tidy would be held on 26 March 2022 and that the Clerk had made the usual arrangements

33/22 Grit Bins

It was suggested that there were four places where grit bins were needed including at the top of Dugg Hill and the Clerk was asked to enquire of CCC Highways Dept about their provision

34/22 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

The arrangements for the beacon on Thursday 2 June 2022 were further discussed including obtaining permission from the landowner by Cllr. Richards; the lighting of the beacon by Mary Capstick; the bell ringing; and the booking of the piper by Cllr. Grindey. The Pudding Party in The Athenaeum was to start at 6pm and Cllr. Rendell said he would ask if the WI would be willing to work in partnership with the Council on this

35/22 Finance

- a) It was noted that there had been no receipts since the last meeting
- b) The following payment was approved:
Npower – street lighting electricity February 2022 - £41.96 – cheque 620
- c) The Asset Register was received and **approved**
- d) The 2022/23 Effectiveness of Internal Audit document was received and **approved**
- e) It was noted that HSBC had not yet refunded the excess charges made to date and that they now stated that they were to charge £5 per month per account and not give free banking. The Clerk was therefore to continue to explore options regarding changing bankers to the Council
- f) **Resolved** that it be noted that the closing bank balance at 28 February 2022 was £11,506.83, which had been reconciled with the bank account, and that the bank statement be signed by the Chair

36/22 Correspondence

The following correspondence received and not included as an item on this agenda was noted:

- a. Further items giving information re coronavirus (covid-19) matters
- b. Further items concerning local government reorganisation
- c. CALC – North West Coastal Access update February 2022 (emailed to Cllrs 11/2/22)
- d. CALC – Newsletter January & February 2022 (emailed to Cllrs 3/3/22)
- e. CALC – Civility and respect newsletter February 2022 (emailed to Cllrs.3/3/22)
- f. SLDC – Below inflation Council Tax rise as final SLDC budget approved (emailed to Cllrs.3/3/22)
- g. CALC – Cumbria independent custody visiting scheme recruitment (emailed to Cllrs.3/3/22)
- h. CALC – Cumbria in Bloom, Tourism & RHS "It's your neighbourhood" awards (emailed to Cllrs.3/3/22)
- i. SLDC – Applications open for final Additional Restrictions Grant scheme (emailed to Cllrs.3/3/22)
- j. CCC – A6 footway surfacing works – Church Street and Beetham Road, Milnthorpe from 7/3/22 (emailed to Cllrs.3/3/22)

- k. CALC – Cumbria Wildlife Trust event on 15/3/22 (emailed to Cllrs.3/3/22) Date amended to 16/3/22 on 8/3/22
- l. CALC – Developing your skills programme to July 2022 (emailed to Cllrs.3/3/22)
- m. NALC – Chief Executive’s bulletin 4/3/22 (emailed to Cllrs.7/3/22)
- n. CALC – Building costs rising, implications of underinsurance and the importance of risk management webinar on 16/3/22 (emailed to Cllrs.8/3/22)

37/22 Westmorland Gazette – Matters from this meeting to be reported for the Westmorland Gazette:

- Village Tidy
- Annual Parish Meeting

38/22 Items for Information – *no decisions or action permitted*

- Local government reorganisation and elections update webinar on 15/3/22 at 7.00pm
- The national pay award 2021/22 has been agreed
- The Bowling Club quiz had raised £256

39/22 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- i) Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Tree scheme – April 2022
- ii) “What’s Back On in Heversham” – September 2022
- iii) Playground committee – May 2022
- iv) Local government reorganisation – September 2022
- v) Improved access to footpaths and tracks – June 2022
- vi) Poppy collection – July 2022

40/22 Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 14 April 2022 and will follow the Annual Parish Meeting which will commence at 7.30pm in The Athenaeum, Leasgill

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm

Signed.....(Chair)

14 April 2022