

## HEVERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Unconfirmed Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on **Thursday 20 May 2021** at 7.40pm in The Athenaeum, Leasgill. This meeting followed Covid-19 government guidance with regard to village halls and community centres including social distancing and the wearing of masks

**Present** – Cllrs. Brian Rendell (Chairman), Peter Clarke, Tom Grindey and Iain Richards; County Cllr. Roger Bingham (until 8.30pm); District Cllr. Kevin Holmes; the Clerk and no members of the public

### **61/21 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Tom Grindey and District Cllr. Kevin Holmes, who both arrived late

Cllr. Clarke chaired the meeting until the new Chairman was elected

### **62/21 Election of Chairman**

Cllr. Rendell proposed and Cllr. Richards seconded Cllr. Clarke to be the Chairman for 2021/22. There were no other nominations and the proposal was carried unanimously

A Declaration of Acceptance of Office form for 2021/22 was signed by Cllr. Clarke and witnessed by the Clerk

### **63/21 Election of Vice-Chairman**

Cllr. Clarke proposed and Cllr. Richards seconded Cllr. Rendell to be the Vice-Chairman for 2021/22. There were no other nominations and the proposal was carried unanimously

A Declaration of Acceptance of Office form for 2021/22 was signed by Cllr. Rendell and witnessed by the Clerk

### **64/21 Elected (Nominated) Councillors**

Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms were signed by Cllrs. Grindey and Richards and witnessed by the Clerk

### **65/21 Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2021 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chairman

### **66/21 Appointment of Councillors to fill Casual Vacancies**

The Clerk reported that he had been advised by SLDC that there was no need to advertise the vacancies as nominations had previously been requested. However, the Council agreed to put a notice in Next Door and in the Westmorland Gazette and to make a decision as to the appointments so that co-option could take place at the next meeting

### **67/21 Requests for Dispensation**

None

### **68/21 Declarations of Interest**

None

### **69/21 Public Participation**

None

### **70/21 Ongoing Items**

- B4RN: Cllr. Richards reported that more wayleaves had been completed but expressed his frustration that once again no progress had been made since the last meeting regarding the outstanding matters. The Council agreed to ask Cllr. Richards to write to B4RN to express concern about the delay. It was agreed to ask Mark Jameson to attend the next meeting to inform the Council about imminent changes in Openreach
- Contact Line (coronavirus local community support network): The line was now closed. The Council expressed its thanks to all the volunteers
- It was agreed to invite the new Dallam School Headteacher, the new Head of Boarding and Mr. John Watton to a future meeting
- It was agreed that the adjourned Annual Parish Meeting should be held no earlier than September and County Cllr. Bingham offered to give his delayed talk about Heversham's historical timeline either at that meeting or another suitable occasion
- It was noted that NHS and Frontline Workers' Day was to take place on 5 July 2021

### **71/21 Reports**

- a. District Cllr. K. Holmes reported on the pilot schemes re environmental impact; improving the health of the population; the SLDC change of leaders and chairmen; and the recovery plan post Covid-19. Cllr. Richards questioned the process with regard to moving abandoned vehicles such as the now-removed Mini. The Council thanked Cllr. Rendell for his efforts in obtaining the removal
- b. County Cllr. Bingham gave an update regarding the local government reorganisation of Unitary Councils replacing Cumbria County Council and the six District Councils; the results of the Police and Crime Commissioner and District Council elections; the current Covid position; the outstanding highways work on Moss Lane; and the Lyth Valley water levels – on which District Cllr. Holmes also commented. County Cllr. Bingham also reported the imposed reduction in members permitted to attend CCC and SLDC meetings. The Council asked him to urgently pursue the highways work at Leasgill
- c. The Athenaeum: The building was re-opened on 17 May 2021. The Clerk reported that he had agreed with B4RN that they would not make a monthly charge (saving £30 per month) as well as their making no connection charge

## 72/21 Planning

- i) It was noted that the following planning applications had been notified as approved by SLDC since the last meeting:  
**SL/2021/0351 Winter Fell, Dugg Hill, Heversham**  
Variation of reserved matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout, scale, surface water, management & sewage disposal in SL/2018/0631
- ii) It was noted that the following planning applications had been submitted to SLDC and circulated to members of the Council since the last meeting:  
**SL/2021/0390 Old Grammar School, Leasgill**  
Single storey extension  
**TR/2021/0099 Tower House, Heversham**  
Fell conifer  
**SL/2021/0484 Spout House, Heversham**  
Single storey colour coated metal clad steel framed garage and improvements to access by an existing gateway  
The Council had **no objection** to these applications
- iii) It was noted that no reply had yet been received from SLDC regarding the reported development without permission
- iv) The Chairman reported that he had been invited by Crosthwaite Parish Council to talk about the Neighbourhood Plan

## 73/21 Highways/Footpaths/Trees

### Highways:

- a) The Clerk reported that the position regarding "20 is Plenty" and the proposal for a 20mph speed limit throughout the village was unaltered from the last meeting. He had received an enquiry from Stainton and Sedgwick Parish Councils as to whether the Council wished to join them in a concerted approach to this matter and the Council agreed to do so
- b) The Clerk reported that he was still waiting to hear from Cumbria County Council Highways Dept with regard to parking between Crow Wood and the Playground. He said that he would contact Victoria Upton at CCC and Cumbria Police to ask for their support as vehicles were currently also being parked on the double yellow lines

### Footpaths/Tracks:

- i) Cllr. Rendell reported that it was expected that the work on the wall by the bench at G Handley's Copse would be completed in the next few days
- ii) Gates were being left open and it was proposed to ask CCC for additional kissing gates or stiles
- iii) The proposal to have noticeboards at each end of the village showing local maps, etc. was being explored jointly with The Athenaeum committee
- iv) The Chairman was to contact John Watton at Dallam School regarding the condition of the old railway line

### Trees and Woods:

- i) There were two proposals for the work to be carried out at Quarry Wood and it was agreed to discuss these further at the next meeting. Until then Cllr. Richards was to carry out some selective thinning and it was agreed to consider setting up a working group as a village initiative to continue to keep the wood safe and also improve health and the amenity
- ii) The Queen's Platinum Jubilee tree initiative was discussed. It was felt that a Jubilee Copse might be an option and the Field of Dreams was suggested as a possibility

## 74/21 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. The sign had been repaired. He reported that a clean up was necessary by the gates and that the grass needed to be cut more frequently. It was agreed that the Clerk should clarify the existing agreement and he and Cllr. Rendell should consider options
- ii) It was agreed to obtain quotes for a new double swing (part small child) and a zip wire and for the Clerk to make grant applications where possible

## 75/21 Appointment of Representatives

It was agreed to defer the appointments until the next meeting

## 76/21 Finance

- a) The following receipts were noted:  
HMRC – VAT refund to 31/3/21 - £615.34  
SLDC - precept - £11,511.43  
SLDC – precept grant - £200.57
- b) The following payments between meetings were approved:  
Npower – street lighting electricity (quarter to 31/3/21) - £122.68 – cheque 575  
CALC – annual subscription - £191.86 – cheque 576  
SLDC – annual playground inspection fee - £176.87 – cheque 577  
Jean Airey – internal audit - £50.00 – cheque 578  
M R Richardson – salary & expenses to 30/4/21 - £1,271.81 – cheque 579  
HMRC – PAYE re M R Richardson - £269.80 – cheque 580
- c) The following payment was approved:  
Zurich Municipal – annual insurance - £449.36 – cheque 581
- d) The annual internal audit report for the year ended 31 March 2021 was received and approved
- e) The Certificate of Exemption from a limited assurance review was completed
- f) The Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 (Section 1 of the Annual Return) was approved and signed
- g) The Accounting Statements 2020/21 (Section 2 of the Annual Return) were approved and signed
- h) The dates of the period for the exercise of public rights were confirmed as 14 June 2021 to 23 July 2021
- i) The insurance cover was confirmed
- j) **Resolved** that it be noted that the closing bank balance at 30 April 2021 was £22,635.57 which had been reconciled with the bank account and that the bank statement be counter-signed by the Chairman

## **77/21 Policies and Procedures**

The existing Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct were noted and confirmed

## **78/21 Correspondence**

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

- a. Further items from SLDC and CCC giving information re coronavirus (covid-19), testing and vaccination matters
- b. Further items from CALC and SLDC concerning local government reorganisation and the Bay authority proposals
- c. Various items re the death of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh on 9 April 2021
- d. SLDC – Link to the agenda for the Standards Committee meeting on 20/4/21 (emailed to Cllrs 13/4/21)
- e. CALC – Draft minutes of the South Lakeland District Association meeting on 4/3/21 (emailed to Cllrs 17/4/21)
- f. CALC – NALC briefing re DCMS rural broadband consultation (emailed to Cllrs 23/4/21)
- g. SLDC – Application process open for business restart grants (emailed to Cllrs 27/4/21)
- h. CALC – MHCLG electronic communications infrastructure consultation (emailed to Cllrs 27/4/21)
- i. CALC – High Court judgement on virtual meetings (emailed to Cllrs 7/5/21) Cllr. Richards asked for it to be minuted that he didn't agree with meeting in person at the moment
- j. CALC – North West Coastal Access update 27/4/21 (emailed to Cllrs.7/5/21)
- k. CALC – Climate change interactive sessions in June and September 2021 (emailed to Cllrs.7/5/21)
- l. CALC - Highways management system changes update (emailed to Cllrs.7/5/21)
- m. CCC – Local cycling and walking infrastructure plans public consultation (emailed to Cllrs.7/5/21)
- n. Power for People – Attempt to adopt the Local Electricity Bill as a Ballot Bill (emailed to Cllrs.7/5/21)
- o. SLDC – Locality Services Team May newsletter (emailed to Cllrs.10/5/21)
- p. SLDC – Welcome back fund briefing (emailed to Cllrs.10&11/5/21)
- q. CALC – Chief Executive's bulletin (emailed to Cllrs.14/5/21)
- r. SLDC – Climate change action plan is driving SLDC's carbon reduction commitments (emailed to Cllrs.12/5/21)
- s. CALC – April/May 2021 newsletter (emailed to Cllrs.12/5/21)
- t. CALC – Local Nature Recovery Strategy Pilot (emailed to Cllrs.14/5/21)
- u. Highways England – Additional works required at A590 Newby Bridge junction (emailed to Cllrs.20/5/21)
- v. SLDC – Reminder re science and solutions of climate change training sessions on 10/6/21 & 30/6/21 (emailed to Cllrs.20/5/21)
- w. Lake District National Park Partnership – Public consultation on the LDNPP's plan 2020-25 (emailed to Cllrs.20/5/21)
- x. NALC – Newsletter 19/5/21 (emailed to Cllrs.20/5/21)

**79/21 Westmorland Gazette** – Matters from this meeting to be reported for the Westmorland Gazette:

- Councillor vacancies
- Appointment of new Chairman
- Adjourned Annual Parish Meeting

## **80/21 Items for Information- no decisions or action permitted**

- A commemoration seat in memory of Cllr. Gordon Capstick was proposed for discussion at the next meeting
- Enquiries were being made as to whether Woodhouse Lane is a recommended cycle route
- The Bowling Club were holding a come and try day on 30<sup>th</sup> May as part of the national bowls big weekend

## **81/21 Items for consideration for a future agenda**

- Presentation on Dark Skies – possibly at adjourned 2021 Annual Parish Meeting
- Discussion as to how the parish coped with the pandemic – at adjourned 2021 Annual Parish Meeting
- "What's Back On in Heversham" – when possible to produce
- Promotion of Wild Flowers and Wildlife – possibly at adjourned 2021 Annual Parish Meeting
- Heversham Village Heritage Exhibition – possible consultation later in the year
- Celebration of the B4RN installation – possibly at the adjourned 2021 Annual Parish Meeting

## **82/21 Date of next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 17 June 2021 and will commence at 7.30pm in The Athenaeum, Leasgill. It was also agreed to then review the meeting dates for the rest of 2021

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm