

## HEVERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Unconfirmed Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on **Wednesday 15 May 2024** at 7.30pm in The Athenaeum, Leasgill

**Present** – Cllrs. Peter Clarke (Chair), Adrian Bland, Adrian Tayler and Elizabeth Moffat (from 8.05pm); Westmorland & Furness (W&F) Cllr. Janet Battye; the Clerk and no members of the public

**56/24 Apologies** were received from Cllrs. Tom Grindey and Mary Capstick (reasons accepted and noted)

### **57/24 Election of Chair**

Cllr. Bland proposed and Cllr. Tayler seconded Cllr. Clarke to be the Chair for 2024/25. There were no other nominations and the proposal was carried unanimously

A Declaration of Acceptance of Office form for 2024/25 was signed by Cllr. Clarke and witnessed by the Clerk

### **58/24 Election of Vice-Chair**

Cllr. Clarke proposed and Cllr. Tayler seconded Cllr. Bland to be the Vice-Chair for 2024/25. There were no other nominations and the proposal was carried unanimously

A Declaration of Acceptance of Office form for 2024/25 was signed by Cllr. Bland and witnessed by the Clerk

### **59/24 Elected (Nominated) Councillors**

Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms were signed by Cllrs. Tayler and Moffat and witnessed by the Clerk. Cllrs. Grindey and Capstick need to sign Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms at the next meeting

### **60/24 Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2024 be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair

### **61/24 Appointment of Councillor to fill Casual Vacancy**

It was noted that the Council was able to co-opt to fill the vacancy as nominations had been requested for the election. It was agreed to make further enquiries and report to the next meeting

**62/24 Declarations of Interest:** None

**63/24 Requests for Dispensation:** None

**64/24 Public Participation:** None

### **65/24 Ongoing Items**

- Extension of 50mph limit to Levens Bridge: The Clerk had not yet received a reply to the request to amend the proposal to 40mph on the A6 from one parish boundary to the other
- Proposed village 20mph zone: Notification had been received that the Heversham proposal was not on the list that was recommended to go forward in the first tranche but that it would be considered for the second tranche next year. The comments from the consultation were discussed and Cllr. Clarke offered to summarise these as a potential item for a future newsletter, which it was agreed would be put on the June agenda
- Crow Wood and yellow line parking restrictions: No reply had yet been received from W&FC regarding clarification of the ownership of the area used for parking
- Field of Dreams: A reply to the Council's claim was still awaited
- Street Light Removal: A firm date had not yet been received

### **66/24 Reports**

- a. Westmorland & Furness Cllr. Battye informed the meeting that Children's Services were to receive more funding; that the Council was starting to consider the use of Council buildings; that a nature and biodiversity action plan was in progress; and that community support services were under consideration. The Chair asked W&F Cllr. Battye to enquire as to the current position regarding the Park House Drive planning application
- b. The Athenaeum: A meeting was taking place contemporaneously and the minutes of that meeting (and future meetings) were to be forwarded to the Clerk. The tanking proposal was on hold at present due to increased cost and alternatives were under consideration. There was to be a barbecue in July

### **67/24 Planning**

- i) It was noted that no planning applications had been **submitted** to W&FC and circulated to members of the Council since the last meeting
- ii) Further information from W&FC regarding application **2024/0064/FPA Valley View, Leasgill** and from a site visit prior to the meeting was discussed. It was agreed that the Council had no objections to the current proposal for the house or the retaining wall. However, the Council has made clear its profound disquiet about the scale of work undertaken ahead of the planning application being determined and agreed to ask what action the Planning Authority takes in such circumstances and whether that had occurred in this instance. It was also agreed to request an explanation as to how the evolution of the proposal during consultation relates to the formal requirements of that process
- iii) It was noted that the following planning application had been **approved** by W&FC since the last meeting:  
**2024/0625/TCA Threave, Heversham**  
T1 Birch – Fell; T2 Bay - Fell
- iv) Neighbourhood Plan group: There was no report

## **68/24 Highways / Footpaths / Trees and Woods**

### **Highways:**

- a) Potholes continued to be reported

### **Footpaths/Tracks:**

- i) Cllr. Tayler had been in correspondence with the Countryside Access Officer and Cllr. Tayler had agreed to do a survey of the footpaths in Heversham parish for an online database

### **Trees and Woods:**

- i) There was no report

## **69/24 Playground Report**

- i) Former Cllr. Rendell had inspected the playground since the last meeting and had reported no problems
- ii) Cllr. Clarke would monitor the equipment and would carry out the inspections until the next meeting. Thereafter it would change from councillor to councillor

## **70/24 Appointment of Representatives**

It was agreed to defer the appointments until the next meeting

## **71/24 Finance**

- a) It was noted that there had been the following receipts since the last meeting:
  - Westmorland & Furness Council - precept 2024/25 - £14,931.85
  - Westmorland & Furness Council – support grant 2024/25 - £173.15
- b) The following payments were approved:
  - Npower – street lighting electricity April 2024 - £138.58 – cheque 733
  - Jean Airey – internal audit fee - £93.00 – cheque 734
  - Zurich Municipal – annual insurance to 31/5/25 - £542.88 – cheque 735
- c) The sums insured under the insurance policy were reviewed and approved
- d) The annual internal audit report for the year ended 31 March 2024 was received and approved
- e) The Certificate of Exemption from a limited assurance review was completed
- f) The Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 (Section 1 of the Annual Return) was approved and signed
- g) The Accounting Statements 2023/24 (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 3 June 2024 to 12 July 2024
- i) **Resolved** that it be noted that the closing bank balance at 30 April 2024 was £27,007.73, which had been reconciled with the bank account, and that the bank statement be signed by the Chair

## **72/24 Policies and Procedures**

The existing Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct were noted and confirmed. The Clerk was authorised to update all three documents as necessary for discussion at the next meeting

## **73/24 Correspondence**

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

- i) W&FC – Temporary road closure – U5348 Haverflatts Lane, Ackenthwaite on 13/5/24 (emailed to Cllrs.29/4/24)
- ii) CALC – Training programme January – July 2024 (emailed to Cllrs.9/5/24)
- iii) Cumbria Police – Neighbourhood Policing Team newsletter April 2024 (emailed to Cllrs.10/5/24)
- iv) CALC – Help shape W&FC's new Customer Charter/Promise (emailed to Cllrs.10/5/24)
- v) CALC – Cumbria Local Nature Partnership update (emailed to Cllrs.10/5/24)

## **74/24 Westmorland Gazette** – Matters from this meeting to be reported for the Westmorland Gazette:

- Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair
- Cllr. Tayler elected a councillor

## **75/24 Items for Information** – *no decisions or action permitted*

- None

## **76/24 Items for consideration for a future agenda**

- a. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Tree Scheme Plaque – When new trees are ready later in 2024
- b. Planning policy and objections – July 2024

## **77/24 Date of next meeting**

It was agreed the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 26 June 2024 and will commence at 7.30pm in The Athenaeum, Leasgill

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm

