

HEVERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12 February 2015 in the Athenaeum, Leasgill at 7:30pm

Present : Cllrs A Bland (Chairman), J Alderson, G Capstick, D Cordwell, T Grindey, A Shepherd, County Cllr R Bingham, District Cllr A Rawlinson, PCSO M Hutchinson, the Clerk (Mrs J Davidson) and no members of the public.

120/14 Apologies

It was resolved for apologies with reasons given to be noted from Cllr Clarke.

121/14 Minutes

It was resolved for the Chairman to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2014 as a true record.

122/14 Declaration of Interests

None.

123/14 Requests for Dispensations

None.

124/14 Public Participation

- PCSO Hutchinson attended the meeting and presented a report on behalf of the Kendal Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT). Since the last meeting there has been one reported crime in the Heversham Parish - an accident on the A6 near the Blue Bell - and one person was arrested. Residents are reminded during the winter months to be aware of icy conditions on footpaths and especially on the roads. Also to remain vigilant for suspicious persons and vehicles - making use of the cover of darkness - and to monitor any heating fuel oil levels. Crime affecting the Kendal NPT is still focussed on acquisitive crime and which targets lock-up business premises and outbuildings. The Police inter-county operations are still ongoing - targeting travelling criminals - on routes in and out of the County. Following the Christmas drink/drugs driving campaign in Cumbria - 2,687 people were tested of which 60 were positive - 420 were tested following road traffic collisions of which 16 were positive. These figures show a slight decrease on previous years.
- A question was asked – and noted by District Cllr Rawlinson - about when the new recycling bags and service for recycling plastics and cardboard which has been introduced in some parts of the District - would be introduced to Heversham.
- County Cllr Bingham reported there will be a council tax increase of 1.99% with effect from April 2015. This will be the first time in five years that the County Council's share of the council tax has increased. From April 2018 the County Council will no longer receive a Revenue Support Grant from Central Government.

125/14 Planning

i) It was noted the following planning applications had been submitted to SLDC since the last meeting with a consultation deadline before this meeting of the Parish Council. Therefore the Clerk had consulted with each member of the Parish Council individually and, using delegated powers, submitted any relevant response to SLDC that the majority of the members of Heversham Parish Council were in support of.

SL/2015/007 – Blue Bell Hotel, Heversham, Milnthorpe

Demolition of 'recent' extensions and refurbishment
There had been no observations

SL/2014/1218 – High Haverflatts Farm, Milnthorpe

Siting of ground based solar panels
There had been no observations

ii) It was noted the following planning applications have been granted by SLDC since the last meeting :

SL/2014/0920 – Land at Leasgill House, Leasgill, Milnthorpe
Dwelling

SL/2014/0931 – 8 Haverwood, Woodhouse, Milnthorpe
Single storey, rear, side and front extension

126/14 Heversham and Hincaster Neighbourhood Plan

The following February 2015 Steering Group Progress Report to Heversham Parish Council and Hincaster Parish Meeting was received and noted :

Progress since November 2014 – the Housing Survey report is now available on the Cumbria Rural Housing Trust (CRHT) website – www.crht.org.uk. The Steering Group has made good progress in producing a draft Plan but there is still work to do. They have had a very productive discussion with Dan Hudson at SLDC which has helped to shape the detail of the policies in the emerging draft.

Next Actions - the Steering Group's main task will be to continue with the production of a draft Plan to put before the Parish Council. It is aimed to have a complete draft ready by May. The draft will need to be approved by Heversham Parish Council, Hincaster Parish Meeting and SLDC before it goes out to everyone in the two Parishes for formal consultation. There will be a discussion with the Parish Council as to how approval might be sought when the completion date is more certain.

127/14 Parish Land

The Clerk reported she had met twice with the solicitor who had been identified by Cllr Clarke. The legal fees for the registration of Parish Land would be £475 (excluding VAT) + a £5 disbursement for each document submitted. It was resolved to proceed with this task and the next stage would be for the Clerk and Cllr Alderson to identify plots of land against the inclosure award documents.

128/14 Highways/Footpaths

- a) The correspondence and reports regarding the South Westmorland Village Maintenance Association were received and noted.
- b) It was noted that since the last meeting of the Parish Council the Clerk had spoken with a Cumbria County Council engineer who had advised that streetlight 104 was broken. No further action would/could be taken by the County Council due to the light being positioned on a telegraph pole and also being owned by the Parish Council. The Clerk had reported this matter to each member of the Parish Council and had been instructed to call out an electrical contractor. Optech Fibres Ltd. had identified that the light requires the lantern, bulb and internal supporting equipment replaced. This would then entail a visit from Electricity North West to replace a cut out in the space that has been freed up by relocating and updating the internal equipment. Optech would then need to make a second visit to connect up and test. The total cost of the Optech work would be £519.50 (excluding VAT). It is understood the Electricity North West part of the work would be free of charge to the Parish Council. It was resolved to proceed with making arrangements for the light to be repaired by Optech. A discussion was introduced as to whether it was felt the Parish Council should introduce a streetlight management plan and it was agreed that further consideration to this would be given at the next meeting.
- c) It was reported it is hoped that the South Westmorland Local Area Partnership Speed Indicator Device (SID) will be back in operation from next week and then the rota will be redone and sent out. There are a further two SIDs in operation in South Lakeland which it may be possible to borrow if it would be wished to do so.
- d) It was noted the pothole at the junction of Woodhouse Lane/main street through Heversham & Leasgill has been reported to Cumbria Highways yet again (Ref : 62/WEB151309067).
- e) It was noted the hedge opposite the Crescent, Leasgill, has now been cut back.

129/14 The Athenaeum

- a) The Athenaeum financial report for the 2nd quarter of the financial year 2014/15 period ending 31 January 2015 was received and noted.

- b) Cllr Grindey reported a second 'Bake Off' event is planned to be held on 12 April 2015; the Open Gardens event is to be held on 5 July 2015 and the date of the Village Barbeque is still yet to be decided.

130/14 Finance

- i) The financial risk assessment was received and it was resolved for it to be approved.
- ii) It was noted Mr Paul Cheesbrough who had acted as the Parish Council Internal Auditor for a number of years had sadly passed away in January. The Clerk had conveyed condolences to the family of Mr Cheesbrough on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk of Beetham & Milnthorpe Parish Councils has recommended their Internal Auditor - Mr Alan Hartley - who has been found to provide a 'thorough and prompt' service. Although it is no longer a statutory requirement to separately minute the 'Review of the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit' it is recommended that it is undertaken as part of the review of effectiveness of the system of internal control. A 'Review of the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit' report was received and it was resolved for it to be approved. It was also resolved for Mr Alan Hartley to be invited to be appointed as the Internal Auditor for the 2014/15 accounts for an honorarium payment of £50.
- iii) The asset register was received and it was resolved for it to be approved.
- iv) It was noted the precept form has been completed and returned to SLDC.
- v) It was noted the National Joint Council for Local Government Services has reached agreement on new pay scales for 2014- 2016 to be implemented from 1 January 2015.
- vi) It was resolved for the following payments to be approved :

Optech Fibres – inspection of streetlight 104	£ 99.60
Clerks' Salary & Administration Costs (December-March)	£995.02

131/14 SLDC Clean Streets Survey 2015

The SLDC Clean Streets Survey 2015 was received and completed;

132/14 Village Clean

A discussion was introduced regarding whether arrangements for a 2015 'Village Clean' should be made. It was agreed that a Village Clean should be held on Saturday 7 March 2015 starting from the Athenaeum at 10am. The Clerk was instructed to obtain some refuse bags from SLDC.

134/14 Correspondence

- Heversham Tennis Club – enquiry regarding Parish defibrillators.
- Any other correspondence, circulars and publications received since the last meeting and not included as an item on this agenda was noted.

135/14 Items for Information

- None in addition to the those already mentioned

136/14 Items for consideration for a future agenda

- Streetlight management plan

137/14 Parish Meeting

A discussion was introduced as to what arrangements should be made for the Parish Meeting to be held on 12 March 2015. It was resolved that the meeting would not be an event this year and would include only the Chairman's Report, Financial Report and Public Participation.

133/14 Westmorland Gazette/Parish Magazine

It was agreed that the Village Clean and the Parish Meeting dates should be reported to the Westmorland Gazette and the Parish Magazine.

138/14 Date of next meeting

It was confirmed that the date of the next meeting of the Parish Council will be 9 April 2015. The meeting will commence at 7.30pm and will be held in the Athenaeum, Leasgill

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm

Signed : (Chairman)
Date : 9 April 2015