

HEVERSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Unconfirmed Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Thursday 10 March 2016 in the Athenaeum, Leasgill at 7:30pm

Held in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972

Present : Councillors Adrian Bland (Chairman), Peter Clarke, John Alderson, Gordon Capstick, Tom Grindey; County Cllr Roger Bingham; District Cllr A Rawlinson; PCSO 5367 Gareth Cairns; Mr Robin Sissons (Chairman Athenaeum); Mr Tom Rigg (B4RN); Mr Ashley Reece (EGG Homes); Mr Ian Richards; Mrs Jane Cushnie.
Mrs D Challenor (Parish Clerk) and 79 members of the public.

Apologies

Apologies had been conveyed by: David Cordwell, Adele Shepherd.

1. Heversham Parish Council Chairman's Report – Cllr A Bland - Chairman of Heversham Parish Council – presented a report regarding the activities of the Parish Council during 2015/16. A copy of the report is held with these minutes.

2. PCSO Gareth Cairns Police Report - There has been a reduction in crime in South Lakeland over the past 12 months and an increase in local communities reporting suspicious behaviour. Most crimes are opportunistic and small but valuable items are easily stolen. It is extremely helpful if anyone seeing a possible crime telephones 101 giving as much information as possible. Locally there have been 27 incidents resulting in 5 crimes being recorded but none were in this parish. Cold callers continue to cause concern and there are some stickers for home windows available, to deter callers. (The Parish Council Clerk holds some stickers, 01524 761824) Please ring the police on 101 if worried. Links with neighbouring counties are helping to catch criminals and volunteers are currently being sought to help with static observations. For more information please contact myself: gareth.cairns@cumbria.police.uk or PCSO 5251 Martin Boak on: martin.boak@cumbria.police.uk

3. Queens 90th Birthday Celebrations

Mr Ian Richards spoke about a bonfire he is organising to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday: to be held on 21st April at 7.30pm, at the Jubilee bonfire site. It is a nationwide initiative. Volunteers to build and collect wood are needed. As the land is used for livestock it is important to remove nails. Anyone with a metal detector would be appreciated. Wood can be dropped at Whinfell, next to the Vicarage.

Jane Cushnie is organising a pudding party on 21st April: this will run from 5.30 to 6.30 at the Athenaeum. Please bring a cake, pudding or fruit salad. The bonfire will follow and transport is needed for those who can't walk to the site - 4 x 4's will be most appropriate.

4. Development Plans for the Blue Bell

Unfortunately the owner of the Blue Bell had decided that no-one should speak about the work at the hotel and the project manager had therefore had to withdraw. The Chairman gave the following information: The renovations have been done to a high standard. There will be 13 bedrooms, 4 small public rooms, plus the bar. A Well was discovered in what was to be the kitchen, so the owner had the kitchen changed in

order to make the Well open to public scrutiny. An old stable and coach house has also been discovered and incorporated. It is hoped that it will be open by June/July 2016 and should be well worth a visit.

5. South Lakeland District Councillor Annie Rawlinson

The Environment Agency had decided that Pumping Stations in the Lyth valley were due to cease by 31st December 2015 and it had been proposed that responsibility for them should be taken over by an Internal Drainage Board. This has been delayed until end June 2016, whilst the comments made during the consultation period and how the costs will be proportioned are assessed. She indicated that anyone wanting to know more or to make a comment should contact her.

The changes to household waste have not been well received and many wonder why it has been changed. By 2025, 65% of waste must be recycled; the current 13% to 45% is not good enough. It is hoped that there will be a weekly collection of organic waste in the future. Land-fill needs to reduce. There has been an estimated 700 tons of flood waste. The refuse lorries and vehicles are being "future proofed" to help achieve targets with route optimisation for speed and a substantial saving on fuel. It is appreciated they are too large for some lanes and Cllr. Rawlinson is going to work on the Woodhouse Lane area with the refuse collectors to see what the problems are that need resolving.

A grant has been awarded from Cllr. Rawlinson's fund for the provision of a garden area at the entrance of the Parish.

6. Developments at Greenside Farm from Ashley Reece (Construction Director for EGG Homes)

The development is on the land which was previously McHardy's Chicken Farm. Contaminates have been removed including 200 tons of asbestos, 70 tons of plastics and 70 tons of metal. Materials are onsite ready to be crushed and reused. The buildings will be constructed with re-engineered, reinforced concrete and be well insulated, giving excellent savings on energy. They are at the leading edge of house building technology and innovative in many ways. Local firms have been used where possible but also some well respected companies nationwide. EGG Homes believe in investing some profits in the local community and have already donated to Growing Well who are developing a community orchard in site; Hincaster Trailway which it is hoped can be extended towards Heversham and B4RN.

The houses are intended to attract new families and are selling well.

A member of the public requested that signs be placed to deter lorries using Deepthwaite Lane.

7. B4RN explained by Tom Rigg. T.Rigg@b4rn.org.uk

The new fibre cables installed by BT give poor speeds to users who are not close to their cabinets because they also use copper which deteriorates. With B4RN, fibre only is used and this is long lasting and much faster. It is able to provide world class broadband. It is installed by local people who can provide their services to acquire a free connection which usually costs £150. There is a monthly charge of £30 thereafter, on a 1 month contract. Phone lines are independent and can currently be obtained for around £7 a month. B4RN is funded by loans and the sale of shares: £100,000 maximum per person with tax relief at 30% of cost of the shares. Shares can reward volunteer work. Spare profits are put back into community projects, voted for by members.

There are usually 2 routes installed to provide security and the emergency centres are local. B4RN will feed into the new housing at Greenside and is likely also to go into Hincaster Village. Heversham could link up with them.

To start: A steering committee would establish the demand and work out the route and cost. Land owners need to be in agreement if digging is to go through their land. Volunteer diggers would be needed.

The benefits are great with everything now being online, television programmes and even meetings can be streamed. *(A show of hands to indicate potential interest was about 20).*

It was agreed to establish an initial working group to explore the possibilities. Cllr Clarke, Ian Richards, Mark Jamieson and ???? agreed to start the process and report back to the Council.

8. Cumbria County Councillor Roger Bingham

Road repairs required throughout the parish of which the most needy are on the eastern part of Woodhouse Lane beyond Tristrams and Deepthwaite Lane with pot holes at the south entrance to the village at the Princes Way, also near Plumtree Hall, by Leasgill Cottage and at the west end of Woodhouse Lane near the church. Because of the priority given to flood damage the highways authority is limiting major repairs to A and B roads but Cllr. Bingham has managed to have the big holes in the Ackentwaite Woodhouse road filled in. Woodhouse Lane is due to be surfaced in 2016.

Council tax has been raised by 4%; 2% of it to fund adult social care. The average for a Band D house in the Lower Kentdale Division which includes Heversham would be £1,653. The most controversial budget point was the cost of school and college transport for 11-18 year old student which could be as much as £1200 pa per student. A proposal that there should be a limit of £100 pa was defeated.

Cllr. Bingham expressed concerns about low level nuclear waste in Cumbria and the import of nuclear waste by train or motorways.

Work on Greivegate stone is close to being completed.

£500 has been granted from Cllr. Bingham's fund for the registration of Heversham's land.

The County's Children's service efficiency had been criticised by inspectors and Cllr. Bingham is serving on an enquiry about the Children's and Adolescent Mental health service, which has also been criticised by schools and clients.

9. Athenaeum Report - Mr Robin Sissons

The Committee meet 4 times a year, to consider bookings and maintenance required. The central heating is to be upgraded.

Fund raising event: Barbeque on 11th June.

10. Public Participation -There were 5 volunteers for the required footpath officer.

11. The Chairman Closed with an invitation to a Bogie in the Barn at Ninezergh, starring the "Mustard Cutters" group on 18th June. Cost of £12.50 including a barbeque: to raise money for the school and hospice.

Denise Challenor
Clerk to Hevesham Parish Council

Signed :
(Chairman)
Date : 10 March 2016