

LANGWATHBY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th September 2010

Present: Mr D.H.Banks, Mr I.S.Harrington, Mr J.M.Holliday (District Councillor), Mr P.M.Jackson, Mr G.C.Little, Mrs C.Merrie, Mr T.W.Metcalf, Mr W.F.Mounsey and a parishioner.
Apologies were received from Mr W.H.Benn, Mr S.J Peet and County Councillor Mrs M.Robinson.
The Vice-Chairman took the chair for the first two items pending the arrival of the Chairman.

271 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 15th July were approved and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

272 Police Report: The Clerk read the Community Police Officer's report in her absence. She particularly requested that any theft of batteries and energizers from fields be reported, as there had been a number of such thefts and the police needed information on all these incidents to help apprehend the culprits.

273 Update Reports:

- 1. Litter-Picking:** Members were pleased to learn that the litter-picking team was up and running and had undertaken the first litter pick in the two villages.
- 2. Footpath to the Sports Field:** There was still no indication of the timescale for this project.
- 3. Farmers Market:** Nothing further had been heard from the organizers about the possibility of a farmers market in Langwathby.

274 Housing Needs Survey: Councillors divided the Housing Needs Survey questionnaires amongst themselves and agreed to return the collected forms to the Clerk at the end of the month.

275 Tennis Court: Members considered an e-mail from Mrs J.Langston, following an item in The Memo about the future of the tennis court. The Council felt it would be unfortunate to lose this facility and asked Mr M.Holliday to follow up the possibility of a minimal cost restoration of the fencing, replacing only that alongside the neighbouring houses. Mr Little agreed to liaise with Mr Eland to cut back the boundary hedge. Members agreed to consider the matter further at the next meeting. The Clerk was asked to investigate the possibility of a grant.

276 Parish Fishing: The Clerk reported the County Council's comments on the application for village green status for a short length of the River Eden. It was noted that more detailed evidence of use by parishioners was required and the Clerk would arrange to interview some of those who had already given evidence. The Chairman agreed to interview Mr W.Birbeck.

277 The Future of Refuse and Recycling in Eden: Members considered the consultation document issued by Eden District Council. They believe the current refuse collection and recycling services are good and do not favour the introduction of wheeled bins, which would be emptied every other week. This, they feel, would lead to increased vermin and fly tipping. Members do not want to lose the existing recycling centre in Langwathby, which is a good facility and produces some return for the local community.

278 Village Hall: The Council agreed to support a request by the Village Hall Committee that a direction sign to the Hall be added to those at the War Memorial and suggested a nameboard be placed on the outside of the Village Hall itself.

279 Finance

1. Balances: The following balances were noted:

Current a/c	£2,067.01
Penrith Building Society	£11,000.00
VAT to be recovered	£111.30

2. Accounts to be ratified: The following accounts were ratified:

N.Preston, grass cutting (half year account)	£630
Field View Electrical, servicing alarm, fitting fan	£220.94 plus VAT
BDO LLP, external audit fee	£135 plus VAT
E.ON, electricity for Village Hall	£201.21 plus VAT
C. Wakefield, tree work	£280 plus VAT

3. Accounts to be paid: Payment of the following accounts was approved:

T.Glending & Co, final payment on V.Hall contract	£account awaited
R.Wager, Clerk's salary, June to August	£550
Public Works Loan Board, loan repayment	£3,726.04 (by direct debit on 15 Sept)
Field View Electrical Ltd, quarterly fire alarm check	£30 plus VAT

4. Receipts: Receipt of the following sums was noted:

Village Hall Committee, contribution to expenditure	£422.15
Eden District Council, recycling credits, Apr-June	£328.10

5. External Audit of Accounts for 2009/10: Members noted that the External Auditors had cleared the annual accounts and resolved to approve and accept the completed annual return.

280 Planning Applications: Comments made on the following applications were noted as follows:-

- (i) East Lodge, Edenhall (tree works) – no objection
- (ii) Underlyne, Langwathby (extension to covered lairage) – no objection
- (iii) Langwathby School (continued use of portacabin) – no objection

281 Correspondence

1. Cumbria Association of Local Councils: The Chairman and, if possible, Mrs C.Merrie to attend the Eden Association's AGM on 15th September.

2. The Big Society: Mr D.Banks to attend the conference at Newton Rigg on 9th October.

3. Rural Broadband: Following a request for views from Rory Stewart MP, Members discussed the broadband service within the parish and believe there is a need for faster access.

4. Recycling Centre: Members noted that a cleanliness inspection by the District Council had given the Recycling Centre 8 out of 10 points and thanked Mr C.Little for his supervision of the facility.

Correspondence was also considered relating to parish charters, a Churches, Houses and Rural Communities Conference, the proposed "Community Right to Build", planning guidance on conservation areas, Eden's supplementary planning guidance on housing, Eden's review of licensing policy, the County Council's consultation on landscape character, the "No Need for Nuclear" campaign and new guidance on "Being a Good Employer".

282 Local Concerns:

1. Street Lights: The Clerk was asked to report the problem of flickering lights at Low Farm again to the County Council and the non-functioning lamp at High Farm to the District Council. The numbers to ring when lamps are out will be placed in The Memo.

2. Potholes on the Edenhall/Penrith road by the Lodge and chicken farm: Members agreed that the road was in need of attention and noted that County Councillor Mrs M.Robinson was to raise the matter with the Highways Department.

3. Speeding on Back Lane, Langwathby: It was agreed that this problem should again be referred to the Police and that the matter of a 20mph restriction be raised again with the County Council.

4. Manhole covers outside Eden Garth: Responsibility for repair to be investigated.

5. Land at The Meadows: Eden District Council to be asked to tidy this land and provide a promised new gate.

6. Bridleway from Quiet Corners: A parishioner's kind offer to trim the bridlepath was accepted with thanks and Mr Holliday agreed to locate a suitable strimmer.

7. PACT: A parishioner explained the objectives of this local food group and raised two issues – the availability of land for growing food crops and the possibility of having a communal cob oven. Members agreed to place this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

283 Retirement of Parish Clerk: The Clerk intimated that he would wish to retire by the end of the financial year and was asked to initiate a recruitment process in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

284. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 11th November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

(The meeting finished at 9.15pm.)