

LANGWATHBY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting Held on Thursday 21st March 2024
in the Braithwaite Room, Langwathby Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

15/24 Apologies

Cllr. C Eland,

Unapproved

16/24 Present

Cllrs D Banks (Chair), K Little C Wilson, J Corbishley, C Henderson, M Holliday, C Merrie, J Hodgson, WAF Cllrs M Hanley and M Robinson and J Fleming (Parish Clerk)

17/24 Minutes

The Chairman was authorized to sign the minutes of the 25th January 2024 meeting, as a true record

Proposed by Cllr D Banks

Seconded by Cllr K Little

18/24 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs K little, J Hodgson and C Wilson declared their positions on the Langwathby Public Hall Committee

Cllrs D Banks and M Holliday on the Public Hall Renovation Committee

19/24 Public Participation

There was none.

20/24 Westmorland and Furness Councilor Reports

20.1 Cllr M Hanley Report.

1. Eden Planning Committee 17.1.24 Sockbridge Housing Estate: 24 houses, 7 due to be affordable but developer says he can't afford any. Compromise: 7 reduced to 2. Decision delayed by 4 weeks to check about grants.

2. Health and Adult Scrutiny Committee 19.1.24 Presentation re North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board: population 3 million, North Cumbria (NC) is 10% of this. Budget: £9 million. Main problem in NC: high suicide rate. Domiciliary Home Care: from March 24 WAFC will take on this. Cost: £11 million per year.

3. Eden Locality Board (ELB) 24.1.24 M6 Lune Gorge Bridges repair. 8 bridges. Lane closures and some total motorway closures. Started now, end winter 29. Place Action Groups (PAGs): Alston Moor PAG: discussed public transport, village hall generators, youth provision, Fairhill community market, astronomical observatory at golf club. Highways: School Streets. Eden Bridges: 10 will have new weight limits.

4. Biodiversity Workshop, Penrith, 1.2.24 Cumbria Wildlife Trust: budget £2.5 million. Nursery in Carlisle. 100k plants. Aim: planting road verges, orchards, churchyards, parks, playing fields. Planted 19 k plants, 10 k bulbs, 34 kg of wild flower seed. Mainly have been active in areas other than Eden but looking for 4 areas in Eden.

5. Eden Planning Committee 14.2.24 Sockbridge Housing Estate: no grants for developers apart from housing associations and community groups. Application to build estate with 2 out of 24 houses as affordable granted.

6. WAFC Meeting 22.2.24 Budget: £10 million for decarbonising. Council tax in by 4.99%. Double on second and empty homes. Empty homes for longer than 10 years: treble. 5% increase in council house rents. Increased costs in elderly care homes: £688 to £752 per week.

7. ELB 6.3.24 Active Cumbria presentation: Samuel King School, Alston (secondary): £27k spent on improving exercise and sports facilities: rugby, soccer, archery, swimming. Planting for Pollinators: ELB agreed to spend £20k on this focusing on 4 areas in Eden.

8. Health and Adult Scrutiny Committee 7.3.24 Recruitment plan for NHS staff. What attracts workers to the area? a good working environment, good support and free parking.

20.2 Cllr Mary Robinson

Cllr Mary Robinson raised the issue of the major problem being experienced with potholes, on the whole County road network. The pressure on financial and staffing resources, within WAFC Highway, had come about by numerous Central Government cuts to local authority budgets, over many years. This had resulted in a deteriorating state of rural roads over recent years, making them very susceptible to potholes appearing. Highways staff were struggling to keep on top of the situation; potholes over 60mm deep were receiving priority.

21/24 Finance (Including Vat)

21.1 The Following Balances Were Noted, as at 17/3/2024

	£
Currant Account	1592.69
PBS	<u>15605.23</u>
Total	<u>17197.92</u>

21.2 Presentation and Approval of Interim Accounts

These were unanimously approved.

Proposer Cllr D Banks

Seconder Cllr C Wilson

21.3 The Following Accounts Were Ratified – Since 25th January 2024

Clerks Salary Jan/ Feb	936.00
Office Provision	50.00
Room Hire	22.50
Playground inspections	192.00
Langwathby Swing Chains	305.63

21.4 To Approve the Following Expense

Clerks Expenses	55.60
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21.5 To Approve 21.3 and 21.4

Proposed Cllr J Hodgson

Seconded Cllr C Merrie

21.6 Receipts

Recycling Income	483.51
Pin Fold Rent	1.00

22/24 Planning Matters

- 2024 0002 FPA - Stagstones Rd Edenhall - Retrospective change of use of 2 agricultural crop storage buildings to mixed use of crop storage and livestock accommodation. Objected with comment.
- 2024/0013/FPA - Retrospective siting of 1no storage container and 2no storage sheds, and proposed siting of 1no additional container for storage of sports club equipment. Supported with a comment.

23/24 Highways and Land Matters**23.1 Back Lane Light, by Coxen Lane – Langwathby.**

Matter is still in hand with WAFC and E NW.
Suggested that Gary Atkinson, WAFC Assets Manager be approached.

23.2 Edenhall Roadside Flooding by Sports Field Entrance

Work has been carried out and improvement made, however there is still a flooding issue, which is unresolved.

As this has been a long running saga it was suggested that Cllr Peter Thornton, Cabinet Member for Highways and Assets, be approached to assist in resolving the problem.

23.3 Litter Bin Provision – Edenhall

It was reported that there are bins located by the swings and bus shelter. Whether a further bin be requested at the end of Ladies Walk, by the old Stone Cross was discussed; access to empty it, by the 'blue bag' refuse vehicle was queried, along with the appropriateness of the site; resolved not to request a bin at this site.

It was clarified that the 'blue bag' refuse collection contractors were contracted to empty Litter Bins weekly, when passing.

23.4 Edenhall Pothole

The Pothole at the west end of the village opposite Windfield farm had been reported and repaired.

23.5 Edenhall Gritting

WAFC Highways had, unfortunately had to confirm that they cannot give permissions for gritting by farm bike, or any other self-help mechanized salt spreading, due to Health and Safety required qualifications to work on the public highway, training and insurance implications.

However, discussions are ongoing, within WASC, and legal advice is being taken regarding how 'Parish Self-Help Schemes' may work in the future, but the issues involved are yet to be resolved.

23.6 Priority Gritting Routes. It was confirmed that the road through Edenhall is not registered as a 'priority' gritting route. Later in the year there will be the annual review undertaken of the winter gritting service, which revises the list of 'priority' routes agreed for the 2024/2025 winter; the Parish Council is advised to contribute to the review. WAFC Highways have included the Edenhall road as a route, for further consideration.

23.7 Edenhall and Stagstones Road Grit Bins

WAFC Highways had confirmed that the grit heaps and bins were to be checked and refilled if needed.

23.8 Langwathby Notice Board Replacement

23.8.1 Notice Board Quotes Received

Quote 1

Material – Aluminum.

Same display size as present 1780mm (W) X 931mm (H)

(70 inches X 36 inches). The back board being pin and Velcro friendly.

The board comes with two doors, hinged left and right with public access, 'thumb' locks and also a header board.

£

	1415.20
Carriage	<u>95.00</u>
Total	<u>1510.20 + Vat</u>
Plus, local installation.	

This price was within the £1976 available to finance the replacement by the Williamson Trust and left £467 to cover or part cover, local installation.

Quote 2

Similar specification as Quote 1

Material – Stainless steel.

Back board is magnetic and will not accept pins or Velcro.

£

	3649.00
Carriage	<u>355.00</u>
Total	<u>4004.00 + Vat</u>
Plus, local installation.	

Action:-

Agreed to take further advice, including seeking a price from a local fabricator and to defer a decision to the May meeting.

Details of the above quotes are on file.

23/9 Langwathby Traffic Issue

It was reported that, with reference to the two one-way sections proposed, this request will add to the list and reviewed during the next Traffic Regulation Order review. This may not commence until the last quarter of the 2024/25 financial year,

It is appreciated that the Parish had highlighted this matter a number of years ago and therefore Highway will try to undertake the review earlier, if possible.

With regard to speed limit road markings, on Salkeld Road, there is no problem in arranging these, however, 20mph road markings around the school may not be feasible due to this limit being advisory only, but Highways can look into other options.

Funding is not available to commit to these measures during this financial year, the matter will be progressed in the first quarter of the new financial year.

24/24 Playgrounds

24.1 Langwathby Playground

Swing chains had been replaced following a recommendation from the inspection report.

24.1 Edenhall Swings.

Following the inspection report reporting the two uprights on one swing were rotten at the base, the swings were taken out of uses.

Action: -Unanimously agreed to obtain quotes for the complete replacement of these swings; to be funded by grant support. Fund sources to be approached, being Penrith Lottery and WAFC' 0 – 19 Community fund.

It was suggested, for safety reasons, that replacement with a wooden structure again, may be desirable.

25/24 Correspondence, Notices and Publications

The following had been received since the last meeting.

25.1 11 E Mails had been circulated to Councillors since last meeting. These being kept on file for 12 months

25.2 Parishioner Carriageway Concerns – Edenhall

Concern had been raised with Highway, with LPC being copied in, by an Edenhall Parishioner regarding the general state of repair of the roads in Edenhall.

The key points raised were; -

- 1 The General State of the Poor Road Surface**, including potholes, on the road through Edenhall
- 2 Flooding Opposite the Sports Field** on the Eastern end of the village.
- 3 Flooding and Potholes on the Western Approach to Edenhall.**
- 4 Edenhall Church Road - Blocked Dain** - on the left about 100 m from the bus shelter/junction
- 5 The Metal strip at Langwathby Bridge** is loose and requires attention
- 6 Langwathby Bridge New signage and Road Markings for Cyclists**
To clarify: -This work has been agreed but not yet actioned. On this matter the Clerk reported that the works to install the advanced stop line and improve the signage requires good weather, unfortunately due to the winter we have had, it has not been possible to complete the works, with either rain or salt on the road. The works are with the operations team and contractors and will be address early in the new, 2024/25, financial year when the weather improves.
- 7 The Condition of "Gas House Lane"** – Numerous potholes and poor road surface.

It was reported that all the above issues had been noted by the Highways department, some had been actioned and others were awaiting attention, for good reason; a number having been also reported by the Parish Council.

25.3 Footway Lighting Charges

It was reported that the Parish Council will no longer be recharged for the former district-owned footway lighting. This means that we will no longer be invoiced for 2023-2024 and we do not need to include or allow for this in setting the precept for 2024-2025.

Furthermore, there is now to be a review of the lighting policy for the whole of the Westmorland & Furness area during 2024 and the WAFC will provide an update, once that progresses.

25.4 Honorarium Paid in Respect of the Recycling Centre

Following the Langwathby Recycling income now being credited to the Public Hall account, the Langwathby Public Hall Committee had raised a query regarding the **Honorarium, currently paid by the Council to a parishioner, who happens to be a Councillor**, in respect of the onerous, weekly task, of keeping the centre tidy throughout the year..

It was unanimously confirmed that the Council would continue to pay all Honorariums, as in the past, including this one.

25.5 Commemorations with a D-Day 80 Flag of Peace,

The availability of this initiative was reported.

26/24 Councillor Matters

An opportunity for Councillors to raise issues on behalf of residents.

Note: no decisions can be made on these matters but they may be placed on a future agenda of the Council.

Concrete Slit Drainage Salkeld Road – Opposite School

Reported that this was badly silted up and required jetting.

Action: - To report to Highways.

27/24 Dates of Forthcoming Meeting

Venue Langwathby Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm

16th May – Annual Public Meeting followed by AGM and May meeting

Braithwaite Room

18th July - Braithwaite Room

19th September – Back Room

21st November – Back Room

The meeting was closed at 20.50.

Signed

Date
