

LANGWATHBY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 17th May 2007

Present: Mr D.H.Banks, Mr W.H.Benn, Mr I.S.Harrington, Mr J.M.Holliday (District Councillor), Mr P.M.Jackson, Mr G.C.Little, Mrs C.Merrie (in the Chair), Mr T.W.Metcalf, Mr W.F.Mounsey and Ms S.E.Ripper.

The Chairman welcomed the two new councillors.

1 Election of Chairman: Mrs C.Merrie was re-elected as Chairman of the Council and signed a declaration of acceptance of the office.

2 Appointment of Vice-Chairman: Mr W.F.Mounsey was re-appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council.

3 Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from County Councillor Mrs I.Henderson

4 Declarations of Interests: Mr D.Banks and Mr P.Jackson declared an interest as a member of the Village Hall Committee, serving as a representative of the Parish Council. Members agreed to complete declarations of interest forms for the Register of Interests and to forward these to the Clerk.

5 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2007 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

6 Annual Report for 2006/7: The Chairman presented a summary of the events and achievements of the past year. It was agreed that the Council's Annual Report should be circulated with The Memo.

7 Financial Statement for 2006/7: The receipts and payments account for 2006/7 and supporting notes, having been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

8 Audit of Accounts and Annual Return

1. Internal Audit Report: The Clerk reported that the internal auditor had completed her work and had not raised any points on the accounts. Her report, incorporated as Section 4 of the Annual Return was noted.

2. Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Audit: The Clerk submitted a report on the new duty to undertake an annual review of internal audit arrangements. Members reviewed the current arrangements and concluded that they were satisfactory. An Audit Plan was approved for future audits.

3. Annual Return to the External Auditor: The Council approved the Statement of Accounts and gave affirmative responses to all items in the Annual Governance Statement for the Annual Return. Sections 1 and 2 were signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

9 Update Reports:

1. Meadowside Housing: Most dwellings had now been sold or let and the remaining vacancies had been publicized locally.

2. Cemetery: No progress as yet.

3. Eden Straits bushes: The County Council had now agreed to bushes being trimmed back to restore the view from "Walter's seat". Ms Ripper agreed to do the work on behalf of the Parish Council.

4. Land Registration: The Clerk reported that the solicitors for Enterprise Inns had accepted the Parish Council's ownership of the car park around the Shepherd's Inn and would transfer the ownership of the land at the Land Registry back to the Parish Council. In accordance with Cartmell Shepherd's advice, it

was agreed in principle that a Licence Agreement on should be entered into, which would formalize the use of the car park by patrons of the Inn (and also members of the public).

5. Langwathby Play Area: Mr Little reported that the swings, roundabout and slide had been thoroughly overhauled, repaired where necessary, and painted. This included modifications to the bars of the slide to meet the safety inspector's recommendation. Mr Little and Mr Dulson were thanked for their work.

6. Games Park: Removal of the moss had not yet been undertaken.

7. Seats: Mr Jack Dulson was in the process of painting the seats on Langwathby green. Mr Mounsey agreed to investigate the work that needed doing on the seats at Edenhall war memorial and the picnic seat on School Green.

8. Cumbria in Bloom: No offers to act as coordinator had been received.

9. Highways: Following a query raised about the new access at Scaur House, the Planning Authority had confirmed that planning permission was not required, as the access was not onto the A686.

10. Powley's Garth Nameplate: The District Council was not willing to put up a name sign and regarded this as a matter for the developer. Members agreed that an approach should be made to Mr and Mrs Kersey about having a sign on their wall.

11. Damage to Langwathby Village Green: No reply had been received to the letter sent to K & B Coaches but the Chairman reported that buses were now stopping in a different place, which avoided over-running onto the green.

12. Parish Website: Members viewed the website and expressed appreciation of the work undertaken by Mr G.Anderson.

10 Review of Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th May

Attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting had been disappointing and, whilst the reports and presentation made had evoked interest, no issues had been raised for consideration by the Parish Council.

11 Village Hall

1. Annual General Meeting: Details of the new officers were reported and noted.

2. Nomination of Parish Council Representatives: Mr Banks and Mr Jackson were nominated to serve on the Village Hall Committee for the ensuing year.

12 Finance

1. Balances: The following balances were noted:

Current a/c	£8,699.11
Business Premium a/c	£8,776.65
VAT to be recovered	£1,381.75

2. Accounts to be ratified: Payment of the following accounts was ratified:

Powergen, electricity for Village Hall	£480.02 plus VAT
E.Rigby Architects re Village Hall	£6,427 plus VAT

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

Cumbria Playing Fields Assoc, annual subscription	£15
Zurich Insurance Co	£1,681.58
Village Hall Committee re Parish Council meetings	£53.20
Village Hall Committee, contribution to caretaking	£250
M.Longstaff, shelter & recycling centre cleaning	£150
R.Wager, Clerk's salary, March-May	£433.32
R.Wager re paint for seats (less overpayment, 2006)	£8.30 (£18.72 less 10.42)
R.Wager re two ink cartridges for printer	£17.34
Penrith Tool Hire re mower repair	£24 plus VAT
Mr G.Anderson re website design and maintenance	£175.02

C.Merrie re token for Mr A.Burne £25
Cake & Catering by Design re dinner for Mr A.Burne £15

(The last two payments were approved as Section 137 payments for the benefit of the area through recognizing long and distinguished service to the Council)

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

Eden District Council, parish precept	£8,500
S.Harrington, rent for Pinfold, 2005-9	£5
United Utilities, wayleave	£55.77
Village Hall Committee re Powergen	£480.02
Village Hall Committee re E.Rigby	£6,427
D.Mowbray re burial of ashes	£50
Eden DC, recycling credit Jan-March	£256.42

Arising from the last item, it was agreed that a committee comprising the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Ms Ripper and Mr Little be appointed to find an alternative site for the Recycling Centre.

5. Annual Grants: The following grants were approved:

The Memo	£200*
PCCs for churchyard maintenance	£350 each
Langwathby and Edenhall First Responders	£200*

* Section 137 payments for the benefit of the area

6. Grant requests: A request for funding from “Vitalise”, which provides breaks for disabled people and carers, was declined.

7. Insurance and Risk Assessment: Members considered the schedule of risks that the Council needs to manage, the steps already being taken to manage them and any further action required. The following decisions were agreed:

- (i) Insurance cover for the loss of Village Hall rent to be increased from £300 to £2,000.
- (ii) Mr J.Dulson to be approached regarding the annual safety inspections of the children’s play areas and, if he is not able to undertake the work, Wicksteed Ltd be requested to do so.
- (iii) Mr C.Wakefield to be requested to inspect trees on the Langwathby village green during the year.
- (iv) The Council’s policy limiting the dimensions of grave stones meant that special measures of the type being undertaken in some cemeteries to make headstones safe were not necessary at the present time.
- (v) All risks cover to be taken out for the Council’s laptop and printer.
- (vi) The risk assessment was approved as amended.

8. Cheque Signatories: The Council resolved to amend its bank mandate with Barclays Bank PLC so as to make Mr D.Banks a cheque signatory in place of Mr A.Burne and authorized the Chairman, Mr Banks, Mr Holliday and the Clerk to complete the Bank’s Appointment of Bankers form.

9. Sports Field: A letter was noted from Edenhall & Langwathby Sports Committee, thanking the Council for cutting the football pitches

13 Local Government Reorganization

Members noted the consultation on proposals to replace the “two tier” system of local government in Cumbria by a single unitary authority and alternative proposals being put forward by the district councils. In response to a letter from Eden District Council it was agreed to commend the Council for providing the public with the opportunity to vote on the issue in a poll to be conducted by the Electoral Reform Society.

14 Planning

The comments made on behalf of the Council on the following planning applications were noted:

- (i) East Lodge, Edenhall (extension) – no objection

- (ii) White House, Langwathby (extension) – objection due to detriment to listed building
- (iii) Station House, Langwathby (extension) – commented on need for sandstone to be a good match and queried need for Velux windows on road frontage

15 Correspondence

1. CALC: It was agreed that Mr Benn and Mr Harrington would attend the training event for new councillors to be held at Appleby on 21st June, 6.30-9.00pm, at a cost of £15 per person to be met by the Parish Council.

The Chairman hoped to attend the next Eden CALC meeting on 26th June at Morland Village Hall.

The results of CALC's survey of views on Neighbourhood Forums were noted.

The County Council's Parish Paths Initiative for 2007/8 was noted and it was agreed that enquiries should be made regarding possible funding for repair of a landslip on Lady's Walk.

2. New Code of Conduct for Councillors: Following CALC's advice, it was agreed that adoption of the new code should be delayed until further advice and training is available.

3. Workshop for Green Space Managers: Members noted that the Chairman and Clerk would attend a free workshop on the legal and management issues relating to village greens and other green spaces on 3rd July.

4. Rural Wheels: This new transport service was welcomed.

5. Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities: Members decided not to join this organization.

6. Recycling Centre: Members noted that new signs are to be erected at recycling centres and that managing bodies are being issued with keys to unlock the wheels of containers.

16. Local Concerns

1. Langwathby Bridge: The bridge surface was again in a poor state and the traffic lights needed straightening.

2. Skirwith Road: The surface was in a poor condition

3. Coxon Lane, Langwathby: Visibility is again poor at the junction with Back Lane and Members considered that the laurel bushes planted in the road edge should be removed.

It was agreed that the above issues should be referred to the Highways Department.

17. Dates of Future Meetings: Future meetings of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on the following Thursdays: 12 July, 20 September, 15 November, 17 January 2008, 13 March and 15 May (Annual Parish Meeting to be held the previous week, 8 May).

(The meeting finished at 9.15pm.)