

LANGWATHBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th July 2007

Present: Mr D.H.Banks, Mr W.H.Benn, Mr I.S.Harrington, Mr J.M.Holliday (District Councillor), Mr P.M.Jackson, Mrs C.Merrie (in the Chair), Mr W.F.Mounsey and Ms S.E.Ripper, together with County Councillor Mrs I.Henderson and three representatives of the Village Hall Committee.

18 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

19 Minutes: The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 17th May 2007 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

20 Village Hall

1. Refurbishment Scheme: Mr T.Green circulated a revised plan for refurbishment of the Village Hall, which had been prepared by Mr A.Feddon and enthusiastically received by the Village Hall Committee. The aim had been to produce a practical scheme (expected to cost in the region of £300,000) and a business plan had been drafted to support a range of grant applications. The next step, with the Parish Council's support, was to consult the residents of Low Mill and parishioners generally.

The scheme addressed the issue of car parking, which had been of concern to Low Mill residents in the past, by providing a number of parking spaces on the present tennis court. If agreed, the Games Park would be fenced and a tennis court included in the multi-use area.

The Council agreed to support the scheme and to meet the cost of the planning application for approval of the amended plan, which would be made in its name. Members also agreed in principle that, if necessary, a loan be taken out to meet part of the cost, on the basis that the repayments of principal and interest would be shared equally with the Village Hall Committee.

2. Representation on the Committee: Mr P.Jackson indicated that he was finding it difficult to make the time to attend Village Hall Committee meetings and the Council decided that Mr I.Harrington should serve in his place.

3. Village Hall Constitution: Members considered the amendments requested by the Village Hall Committee to the provisions of the Trust Deed and requested the Clerk to bring a memorandum of the proposed amendments to the next meeting for approval.

21 Update Reports:

1. Highways: In response to matters raised at the previous meeting, the County Council had said that a scheme to re-surface the deck of Langwathby Bridge had been provisionally programmed for 2008/9. Patch repairs were being undertaken on the Skirwith Road and the visibility problem at the junction of Back Lane and Coxon Lane, Langwathby, was being investigated.

2. Meadowside Housing: Two dwellings were still available and it was agreed that this should be publicized in The Memo.

3. Cemetery: Mr P.Jackson reported that a meeting had been held on site with Mr C.Wakefield and the advice was that removal of the lower branches of the trees at the entrance could cause the trees to be blown down. The site should just be tidied or alternatively the trees removed completely. It was agreed to leave the trees in place for the time being. However it was suggested that a large bag should be placed in the cemetery for wreaths etc that could be lifted out when full and the present walled area at the top of the cemetery removed.

4. Eden Straits bushes: Ms S.Ripper was thanked for removing vegetation to restore the view from "Walter's seat" and Mr C.Wakefield will be asked to remove a hawthorn

5. Seats: Mr Mounsey reported that work on the seats at Edenhall had been undertaken but a new picnic seat was needed on the children's play area. This was agreed.

6. Lady's Walk: A response was awaited from the County Council.

7. Eden CALC Meeting, 26th June: An update was given on discussion of the proposal for a unitary authority for Cumbria.

8. Green Spaces Workshop: The Chairman and Clerk reported back on this event and the availability of support and advice from the Rural Greens Project.

9. Recycling Centre: The findings of the Working Group were discussed and it was agreed that an approach should be made to the owners of two possible alternative sites in Henderson's Lane and at Carr's Feed Mill.

22. Land Registration

1. Update Report: Members noted that the work needed for registration of the Council's land holdings was near completion, subject to concluding a Licence for use of the Shepherd's Inn car park.

2. Licence: It was resolved that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorized to sign the Licence to Enterprise Inns when the draft had been finalized.

23. Parish Charter for Eden

The draft Parish Charter was welcomed.

24. New Code of Conduct

Members considered the new Model Code of Conduct and resolved as follows:

(a) That with effect from 1st September 2007 Langwathby Parish Council adopts the model code of conduct contained in Statutory Instrument No. 1159(2007), as it applies to Parish/Town Councils, with the addition of paragraph 12(2) as the code of conduct which is expected of members and co-opted members of the authority in place of the existing code of conduct adopted by the Council on 14th March 2002.

(b) That the Council adopts the ten General Principles as a non-enforceable annex to the Code to remind members and the public of the principles underlying the Code.

(c) That members of the Council renew their registrations of interests in the light of the new Code and the Monitoring Officer be notified accordingly within 28 days of the adoption of the Code

(d) That the Clerk be authorized to publish a notice of the adoption of the Model Code.

(e) That Standing Order 37 be amended to read: The public shall be admitted to all meetings of the Council and its committees and at the chairman's discretion shall be permitted to make representations, give evidence, and ask or answer questions relevant to any matter of the Council's business. The Council or a committee may, however, temporarily exclude the public by means of the following resolution: "That in view of the (special)(confidential) nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw"

25 Finance

1. Balances: The following balances were noted:

Current a/c	£4,533.68
Business Premium a/c	£8,807.29
VAT to be recovered	£1,429.70

It was agreed that alternative deposit accounts should be investigated.

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

CALC, training course for new councillors	£30
N.Greeves, swearing statutory declaration	£9
KJT Solutions re Village Hall floor	£250 plus VAT
Gaynham, King & Mellor re statutory declarations	£30 inc VAT

3. Accounts to be paid: The following accounts were approved:

N.Preston, grass cutting for half year	£504
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Assured Environmental Services, pest control at V.Hall	£70 plus VAT
Eden District Council, planning application fee	£265

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

Village Hall Committee re KJT Solutions	£250
Richardsons Funeral Directors re Mr Watson burial	£100
Interest on business premium account	£30.64

5. No Smoking Signs

The possible need to purchase “no smoking” signs for the bus shelters, if the stick-on signs prove inadequate for the job, was noted.

26 Planning

1. Planning Applications: The comments made on behalf of the Council on the following planning applications were noted:

- (i) 2 Scaur Cottages, Langwathby (porch) – no objection
- (ii) Bonnie Mount, Edenhall (quarry extension) – no objection

2. Derelict House in Eden Straits: It was agreed that the assistance of Eden Planning Department be sought to secure early renovation of this property.

3. Barn off Culgaith Road: Members noted the comments of Eden Planning Department that this barn was being erected under permitted development rights.

4. Station House, Langwathby: The Planning Officer’s comments regarding materials and use of roof lights on the proposed extension were noted.

27 Correspondence

The following publications and correspondence were noted: CALC newsletter; Cumbria Rights of Way Improvement Plan; Eden Local Strategic Partnership; Cumbria Rural Infrastructure Support Programme; Community Waste Prevention Fund; Eden Play Strategy; Eden cemetery fees; “One Council, One Vision, One Voice-Making it Happen”; and a NALC flyer regarding a training course on the code of conduct.

28. Local Concerns

1. Briggle Beck Footpath: A query was raised regarding the keeping of a bull in the field crossed by this path. Mr P.Jackson agreed to check with the farmer concerned whether there was a warning notice.

2. Land adjacent to Langwathby Bridge: Mr W.Mounsey reported a query regarding the status of land between Langwathby bridge and the water level marker on the Edenhall side, which had long been regarded as providing fishing rights for local people. The Clerk advised that an attempt had been made in the past to register this land and this could be renewed if firm evidence could be produced of use by local residents over a long period of time. It was agreed that this should be sought through The Memo.

3. Village Hall Environs: Members were concerned about the amount of weed infestation around the Village Hall and it is hoped this can be dealt with through voluntary action.

4. Drains: The Chairman reported that flooding of several areas had been reported in the recent wet weather and it was agreed that clearance of gullies in Salkeld Road should be requested.

29. Next Meeting: Thursday 20th September 2007

(The meeting finished at 9.30pm.)