

LANGWATHBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 14th May 2008

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.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Mr W.Collinge, Chairman of the Cumbria Association of Local Councils, presented the Council with a certificate, awarding it the status of a Quality Parish Council. Mr Collinge congratulated the Council and spoke about the special contribution that parish councils make to the quality of community life.

87 Election of Chairman: Mr W.F.Mounsey was elected as Chairman of the Council and it was agreed that he would sign a declaration of acceptance of the office at the end of the meeting. The Chairman and Members expressed appreciation of the tireless work Mrs C.Merrie had undertaken over the previous 7 years as Chairman and Mrs Merrie in turn thanked Members and the Clerk for their support.

88 Appointment of Vice-Chairman: Mr D.Banks was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council.

89 Minutes: The minutes of the meetings held on 20th March, 30th April and 8th May 2008 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

90 Annual Report for 2007/8: 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.

91 Financial Statement for 2007/8: The receipts and payments account for 2007/8, having been circulated, was approved and signed by the Chairman.

92 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. Risk Assessment: The Council reviewed the risks that might face the Council and internal controls and insurance arrangements. The submitted schedule was approved subject to the following points{

- (i) Loss of records: A meeting will be convened at Townhead Farm to review the records held by the Council and to identify those suitable for deposit with County Archives
- (ii) Financial Regulations to be reviewed at the next meeting
- (iii) The bodies which regularly receive grants from the Council to be requested to submit accounts for consideration if they wish to receive grants from 2009 onwards
- (iv) A system of quarterly inspections of seats, equipment, cemetery etc to be established and areas allocated to individual Members
- (v) The insurance value of the Village Hall to be re-assessed following refurbishment
- (vi) Advice to be sought from Eden District Council on the appropriate frequency of inspection of trees on the village greens and cemetery, and whether they could undertake this

2. Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Audit: The Clerk submitted a report on the annual review of internal audit arrangements. Members reviewed the current arrangements and concluded that they were satisfactory. The 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.

93 Police Report: The Community Police Officer was not present but had forwarded a copy of a small survey he had undertaken of 18 local residents. Their responses rated speeding and reduction of crime as the key issues.

94 Update Reports:

1. Highways: It was reported that the County Council hoped to install a drain at The Luham junction on the A686 when the river bridge is closed for re-surfacing.

2. Land Registration: The Clerk reported that Mr Holliday had sworn a statutory declaration in relation to part of the tennis court. A response was awaited from the solicitors for Enterprise Inns, regarding the car park around the Shepherd's Inn.

3. Recycling Centre: Mr Holliday agreed to remove the broken flower box from the Recycling Centre.

4. Trees at Stratheden: Eden District Council had confirmed that no trees covered by the Tree Preservation Order had been affected by recent tree surgery.

5. CALC Conference: The Clerk gave a report on the conference aimed at increasing the influence of local and town councils.

6. Litter on C2C Route: Sustrasns were arranging a meeting about a proposed litter pick on the route and would be encouraging cyclists not to drop litter through a campaign to be held at the late Spring bank holiday weekend.

95 Review of Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th May

Members agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting had been a success, with a good attendance and some useful suggestions raised. These were to be considered by the Highways engineers and a further meeting held to select possible highway improvement schemes.

96 Village Hall

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

2. Maintenance of the Village Hall Site: Mrs Merrie reported the inspection which she and Mr Little had undertaken with Mr J.Dulson. Mr Dulson had offered to repair the wire fence for the cost of materials, if Members of the Council would help with the work. This was agreed and Mr Dulson's offer accepted with thanks. Mr Holliday agreed to arrange spraying of the weeds. The Clerk was asked to contact Metcalfe Plant Hire to remedy the area of settlement following the recent drain repair. Members felt that there would be advantage in resurrecting a tennis club and this will be encouraged, perhaps commencing with a tournament.

3. Scarecrow Festival: Approval was given to use of the Langwathby Village Green for the Festival in July.

97 Finance

1. Balances: The following balances were noted:

Current a/c	£8862.52
Everyday Saver a/c	£8,855.29
VAT to be recovered	£231.70

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

CALC re conference on 29/3/08	£20
Chubb Fire Ltd re Village Hall	£101.51 plus VAT

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

M.Holliday re statutory declaration for Land Registry	£19
Zurich Insurance Co, insurance premium 2008/9	£1,737.13
R.Wager, clerk's salary, Mar-May	£500

Office expenses: postage	£4.14
stationery	£4.98
ink for printer (twin pack)	£21.83

Cumbria Playing Fields Assocn, affiliation fee £15.50

Village Hall Committee re Parish Council meetings

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

G.Anderson, refund of overpayment re website £42.16

Stonecraft Design re I.N.Lowthion headstone £50

United Utilities re wayleave payment £57.75

Eden District Council re Parish Precept £8,500

Re recycling credit, Oct-Dec £270.87

Village Hall Committee, re Chubb Fire £101.51

5. Village Hall Drain Repairs: A contribution had been received from Eden Ostrich World of £1,300 and Zurich Insurance Ltd had agreed to accept the Council's claim for its part of the cost, less the excess due.

6. Honorarium: An honorarium was approved for Mrs M.Longstaff for cleaning of the bus shelter and recycling centre in the sum of £150.

7. Annual Grants: The following grants were agreed:-

The Memo £200

PCCs for churchyard maintenance £350 each

First Responders £200

98 Planning

1. Powleys Farm, Langwathby (agricultural dwelling) – Members noted the comments made on behalf of the Council, namely no objection but change of access queried. Members noted that the application had been refused by the Planning Authority.

2. Scaur House, Langwathby (conversion to three units) – Members noted that the application had been granted subject to a local occupancy condition on two of the units and an additional parking space being provided.

3. Bank House, Langwathby (new dwelling in garden) – The Council noted that the Highways Department had approved the revised entrance but still felt that the design of the house was inappropriate for the location.

99 Land at Meadowside: The Clerk reported that the District Council was willing to consider use of the backland for some form of amenity area. It was decided that residents of properties at The Meadows and Meadowside should be invited to contribute ideas or express an interest in use of the land, which would be further considered at the meeting in July.

100 Correspondence

1. CALC: The Chairman hoped to attend the Eden CALC meeting on 30th June. No nominations were forthcoming to serve on the Eden Standards Committee.

2. Edenhall Conservation Area: This was circulated to Edenhall Members.

3. Fly tipping at Recycling Centres: The number for reporting problems to the District Council was noted (01768 817817)

4. Dog Control Orders: Advice from the District Council confirmed that the dogs on leads order did not apply to village greens.

5. CALC Guide to Planning: It was agreed that a copy would be circulated with the next planning applications to be received.

6. Neighbourhood Forum: Members suggested topics for the meeting to be held at Culgaith on 11th June, namely funding for village halls and a presentation on the role of community wardens. Correspondence was also noted on Highway Stewards, Cumbria Minerals & Waste Development Framework, and Calor Village of the Year,

101. Local Concerns

1. Henderson's Lane: The Clerk was asked to write to United Utilities to seek an improved surface, owing to the nuisance being caused to neighbouring property by splashing of mud in wet weather.

2. Skirwith Road: Complaints had been received about the inadequacy of notice of the road closure, which will be taken up with the Highways Department.

102. Dates of Future Meetings: Future meetings of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on the following Thursdays: 17 July and, subject to confirmation at the next meeting, on 11 September, 6 November, 15 January, 12 March and 14 May (Annual Parish Meeting to be held the previous week, 7 May).

(The meeting finished at 9.20pm.)