

LANGWATHBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th July 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, Mr W.F.Mounsey (in the Chair) and Ms S.E.Ripper, together with 5 residents.

Apologies were received from County Councillor Mrs I.Henderson.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Tony Brunskill, Chairman of Eden District Council, to the meeting.

103 Minutes: The minutes of the annual meeting held on 14th May were approved and signed by the Chairman.

104 Police Report: The Community Police Officer was not present but sent a brief report of a break-in at Bonnie Mount scrap yard, Edenhall and speed checks being undertaken in Langwathby.

105 Update Reports

1. Highways: Closure of the Langwathby river bridge had been deferred by one week to 4th August. Members decided to urge the Highways Department to display notices of the closure on the bridge as a matter of urgency.

2. Land Registration: Registration of the Village Hall site had been completed but a response was still awaited from the solicitors for Enterprise Inns, regarding the car park around the Shepherd's Inn. Members agreed that the title deeds should be stored in the Parish safe.

3. Briggie Beck Footpath: The Clerk reported that the County Council did not favour the proposal put forward for Parish Paths Initiative grant for a raised walkway, owing to the ongoing maintenance liability. The Environment Agency would also need to approve any works. The footpaths officer was, therefore, to meet with the Environment Agency to discuss possibilities, with a view to preparing a new scheme that could be implemented in spring 2009, funded from Capita's budget and PPI grant.

4. Eden CALC Meeting on 30 June: The Chairman gave a report of the discussion, which included consideration of the new system of highway stewards and the Parish Charter, governing relationships between the parishes and the principal authorities.

106 Village Hall

1. Scarecrow Festival: The Chairman congratulated the organizing committee and all who had helped with this very successful event over the previous weekend. As a result £8,000 had been raised towards refurbishment of the Village Hall. Members thought that residents would be interested to see a breakdown of the finances in The Memo. The Chairman also congratulated Langwathby School on another successful Art Mart.

2. Refurbishment Scheme: The Clerk reported that the architects had issued invitations to tender with a return date of 4th August. The Clerk was authorized to arrange opening of the tenders and Members agreed that an extraordinary meeting should be convened to consider the tenders received. Representatives of the Village Hall Committee would be invited to attend.

3. Loan: The Clerk reported that borrowing approval for an amount up to £80,000 had been received and would need to be exercised by 27th November. A resolution of the Council would be required.

107 Land at Meadowside: The future use of this land was discussed, following consultation with residents of Meadowside and The Meadows. Meadowside residents present were invited to express their views. On balance it was concluded that there was no strong support for some form of community use and that the present private grazing arrangement was an appropriate use of the land. Members decided,

however, that the District Council should be asked to tidy up the site, as the bushes in particular needed cutting back.

108 Langwathby Sewage Works: Members welcomed the proposed upgrading of the sewage works, which had been the subject of a public meeting called by United Utilities on 30th June. It was agreed that a letter should be sent, requesting that the access track be upgraded also.

109 Recycling Centre: The plan for the new compound was discussed and Members agreed that the ability to gain vehicular access to the rear of the Village Hall needed to be checked and the internal layout reconsidered.

110 Finance

1. Balances: The following balances were noted:

Current a/c	£3,671.42
Everyday Saver a/c	£8,855.29
VAT to be recovered	£995.47

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

Village Hall Committee re Parish Council meetings	£53.20
E.ON re Village Hall electricity	£257.55 plus VAT
West Coast Surveys, asbestos survey of Village Hall	£360 plus VAT

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

D.H.Iverson, picnic table for Edenhall	£100.00 plus VAT
Cartmell Shepherd Solicitors for land registration	£1,630.95 including VAT
N.Preston for grass cutting (half year)	£598.50

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

Eden District Council recycling credit, Jan-Mar	£313.76
Village Hall Committee, contribution re electricity	£257.55
“ “ , re asbestos survey	£360
Zurich Insurance re claim (Village Hall drain)	£1,495.50

Walkers Funeral Directors re Mrs M.Hodgson burial £150

5. Annual Return: The Council approved amendments to the figures in row 8 of section 1 of the Annual Return, which had been referred back by the external auditor, and these were initialled by the Chairman and Clerk.

6. Cheque Signatories: Members decided to make no changes to the arrangements for cheque signatories.

7. Risk Assessment: Follow-up action was agreed as follows:-

- (i) A date for a meeting to review old records will be decided at the next Parish Council meeting.
- (ii) Amendments to financial regulations were discussed and will be formally approved at the next meeting.
- (iii) Arrangements for regular inspection of property and equipment were agreed and schedules issued to members, inspections to be carried out three times per annum.

There was a difference of view regarding the desirable frequency with which trees on the village greens should be inspected by an expert. The Clerk reported advice from the District Council's arboriculturalist that an inspection by an expert every two or three years was normally adequate. Ms S.Ripper felt that annual inspection was best practice. The Chairman said he had taken advice from Mr C.Wakefield, who had confirmed that no action on the trees on Langwathby green was required at present but the oak tree next to the bus shelter might need some further work and will be monitored.

111 Planning

- 1. Frank Bird Factory, Langwathby (warehouse extension)** – Members noted the comments made on behalf of the Council, namely no objection, and that the application had been granted by the Planning Authority, subject to a landscaping condition.
- 2. Woodhead, Edenhall (agricultural dwelling)** – Members noted that no objection had been raised to this application..
- 3. Bank House, Langwathby (new dwelling in garden)** – The Council noted that permission had been refused, as the development would be out of keeping with the area.

112 Correspondence

- 1. Cumbria in Bloom 2009:** A notice will be placed in The Memo to see if anyone would be willing to act as coordinator for an entry.
 - 2. Remembrance Day:** A letter from the churchwarden requested the Council's support in obtaining a police presence this year. The matter had already been raised with the police and a reminder will be given nearer the time.
 - 3. Police Community Liaison Forum, 29th July:** Mrs C.Merrie will attend if possible.
- Correspondence was also noted relating to independent member appointments to Cumbria Police Authority; Members' allowances; District Council Guide to Planning Applications; CALC's Effective Council courses and the "Closer to Home" consultation on health services in north Cumbria.

113 Proposed Memorial Seat: An offer to provide a wooden seat in memory of Mr & Mrs Balmer was accepted with appreciation and a possible location will be agreed at the next meeting.

114. Local Concerns

- 1. District Council policy on banners etc for community events:** Members were very critical of recent actions by the Eden Community Wardens, requiring the removal of banners and placards advertising the Scarecrow Festival and the Art Mart. Individuals approached had reported that they had felt intimidated and the Council considered the action to be unwarranted for temporary advertisement of community and charity events. It was agreed that a letter raising these concerns should be sent to the District Council.
- 2. Parking on corners:** Two examples were given of parking on corners or bends that were dangerous or obstructive, which will be reported to the community police officer.
- 3. Edenhall village pump:** The Chairman queried whether a scheme could be devised and grant obtained to restore the village pump in Edenhall. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries.

115. Dates of Future Meetings: Future meetings of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on the following Thursdays: 4 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 8.50pm.)

(Following the meeting, the Parish Council met as trustee of The Langwathby Public Hall to approve the annual report to the Charity Commission for the year ended 31st October 2007)