

LANGWATHBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th November 2009

Present: Mr D.H.Banks (in the Chair), Mr J.M.Holliday (District Councillor), Mr P.M.Jackson, Mrs C.Merrie, Mr W.F.Mounsey and Mr S.J Peet, together with four parishioners.

Apologies were received from Mr G.C.Little and Members noted that it would be difficult for Edenhall councillors to attend, owing to closure of the river bridge due to flooding. Mr Mounsey attended from the item minute no. 213.

210 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2009 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

211 Police Report: There was no police report.

212 Update Reports:

1. Briggle Beck Footpath: The Footpaths Officer had confirmed that some drainage work had been undertaken but it was apparent that some form of causeway was needed and it was planned to lay stone slabs when the weather permitted.

2. Bulb-planting in Eden Straits: Mr Banks was thanked for providing bulbs for the guides to plant but it was not known if this had been done.

3. Highways: The County Council was considering the problem of lorries destined for Birds factory turning into Back Lane, Langwathby, and had suggested an "Unsuitable for HGVs" sign. They intended to clean out the drains in Back Lane in November and to repair the footway when doing other patching work in the area. Some white lining was also to be renewed when weather permitted. Salt bins had been provided in Edenhall and on Back Lane. With regard to trees planted in the verge of Salkeld Road, the highways engineer took the view that these did not cause any hazard for highway users and it was not certain whether they were in the highway or private land. Members queried progress regarding overgrowth at the corner of Coxon Lane and Back Lane, Langwathby; Mr Peet offered to raise this with the householder.

4. Street Lights: Mr Holliday said the lamp in Culgaith Road had been repaired and it was hoped others could be repaired in the new financial year.

5. Car Park: The Clerk reported that the Licence had now been signed and a site meeting held with Enterprise Inns to discuss repair of the posts and chains but a response had not yet been received.

6. Dog Bins: The problem with emptying the bins appeared to have been resolved

7. Gate at Meadowside: It was understood this would be dealt with in the spring.

8. Litter Bins: Members were appreciative of the extra bin placed at Langwathby bus shelter.

9. EALC Meeting: The Clerk reported on the meeting between Eden parishes and Eden District Council. At the subsequent EALC meeting, it had been agreed to hold a special event to learn of community energy schemes being developed in some areas.

213 Proposed Housing Development on Field adjacent to Eden Straits

The Chairman invited parishioners present to express their concerns regarding planning application 09/0809. These related to the impact on the character of this part of the village; the loss of privacy by neighbouring properties; and the probability of setting a precedent for development on adjoining land. The Council resolved to oppose the development and authorized the Clerk to make the following representations:

The Council's main concern was the impact the development of the site would have on the character of that part of the village and the detrimental effect it would have on the visual amenities of the approach to the village from the west. The site was in an elevated position and any development would be clearly visible. This was of great concern to the inspector who considered the previous planning appeal in relation to development of the site for housing. The inspector found that almost the whole of the site was west of the limits of residential development and to extend modern development, no matter how good its quality, beyond the established village boundaries and alongside the principal approach road would inevitably change the character of that side of the village. Although the current site was smaller than the

previous application, the Council believed that it would still be an extension of the village boundary as established by the traditional housing on Eden Straits. The character of the approach was set by the traditional houses and the long sandstone wall from the bridge, part of which would be lost. The visual impact of new dwellings and associated buildings would be considerable and there would be additional light pollution from the buildings and street lights.

There had been considerable housing development in the village in recent years, including affordable housing, and the Council did not believe there was a need for housing on the site. There were a number of other infill sites within the village envelope that could be developed if there were a need.

Looking to the long term, the Council was concerned that development along Eden Straits towards the bridge could prejudice future changes to the river crossing and the access to it that might become necessary in future years.

214 Village Hall: The Clerk reported that problems were being experienced with water apparently leaking from the hall roof near the area that had been re-roofed as part of the refurbishment scheme. The Village Hall Committee were investigating the problem with the architect and a meeting was to be held. An application for grant to re-vamp the area to the rear of the Village Hall had been made to Awards for All but this had been unsuccessful and other enquiries suggested it would be difficult to obtain grant funding at the present time. It was agreed that the scheme should be put on hold for the time being.

215 Fishing Path: The outcome of the site meeting was noted. Members agreed to ask Mr Metcalfe to mark out an area to be cleared for fishing in the new year and for the Clerk to make an application to Natural England and the Environment Agency for permission to carry out the work in February.

216 Property Inspections: Members decided to carry out the next round of property inspections between January and March, for consideration at the March meeting.

217 Finance

1. Balances: The following balances were noted:

Current a/c	£8,240.14
Everyday Saver a/c	£2,306.91
VAT to be recovered	£458.67

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

Skyline Construction, repairs to render at Village Hall	£504 plus VAT
Home Choice Videos, garden maintenance	£40
Home Choice Videos, garden maintenance	£20
Scottish Fuels, boiler service at Village Hall	£85.02 plus VAT
Scottish Fuels, fitting float gauge at Village Hall oil tank	£61.77 plus VAT
E.ON, electricity for Village Hall	£184.74 plus VAT
Field View Electrical Ltd, fire alarm maintenance, V.Hall	£86.99 plus VAT
Cater-Kwik Ltd, filters for Village Hall boiler	£99.99

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

Royal British Legion, wreath for Edenhall War Memorial	£14
N.Preston, grass cutting, final account	£invoice awaited
T.Glending & Co, final payment on V.Hall contract	£invoice awaited
W.Veitch, honorarium re cemetery grass cutting	£150
Petrol & mower servicing for cemetery	£accounts awaited

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

Village Hall Committee re Skyline repairs	£504
Everyday Saver account interest to 3 October	£118.36

5. Clerk's Salary: Members reviewed the Clerk's salary and increased it to £2,200 pa from 1st May 2010.

6. Budget for 2010/11 and Parish Precept: The Council resolved to approve the amended budget tabled at the meeting and to fix the Parish Precept at £11,500.

7. Honorarium: An honorarium of £35 was agreed for Mrs G.Veitch in appreciation of work undertaken as internal auditor in 2009.

8. Grants: The Council approved a grant of £320 for the Fellrunner community bus under s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 but declined to make a further grant to Cumbria Air Ambulance Service.

9. Deposit Account: Members noted that Barclays Bank proposed to convert the Everyday Saver Account to a new Business Saver Account from 7 December. In view of the low rate of interest, the Clerk was authorized to apply for a more favourable deposit account with a local building society or the Post Office.

10. Grass cutting: The Clerk was authorized to seek quotations for green cutting for 2010.

218 **Planning:** Comments made on the following application were noted:-

Underlyne, Langwathby (helicopter base) – no objection

Members welcomed the new housing policies adopted by Eden District Council, which would be considered by an inspector later in the year, and endorsed the need for restoration of a local connection requirement where justified.

219 **Correspondence**

Members agreed to join Cumbria CVS and authorized the Clerk to arrange a playground inspection in the spring. Correspondence was also noted regarding a neighbourhood forum meeting on health issues; code of conduct training; social care and support; Cumbria minerals and waste development framework; and Christmas postal services.

220. **Local Concerns:**

1. Drain in Culgaith Road: Water was still running from the manhole cover in wet weather and will be reported again to United Utilities.

2. Litter bin at notice board: Concerns had been expressed by neighbours about the litter bin next to the notice board in Langwathby, which it was felt was attracting vermin. Members agreed to monitor the situation.

221. **Next Meeting:** Thursday, 14th January, in the Village Hall (Back Room) at 7.30pm

(The meeting finished at 9.10pm.)