

LANGWATHBY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 14th May 2009

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 Mr S.J Peet..

170 Election of Chairman: Mr W.F.Mounsey was elected as Chairman of the Council and signed the declaration of acceptance of the office. The Chairman thanked Members and the Clerk for their support.

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

172 Apologies for absence: A letter was read from County Councillor Mrs I.Henderson. The Clerk was requested to send a letter of appreciation to Mrs Henderson for her past attendance and support.

173 Minutes: Subject to amending “Hunter’s Garage” to “Hope’s Garage” in minute 161, the minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2009 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

174 Annual Report for 2008/9: 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.

175 Financial Statement for 2008/9: The receipts and payments account for 2008/9, having been circulated, was approved and signed by the Chairman.

176 Annual Return to the External Auditor

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. Asset Register: The Council approved the register of the Council’s property

3. Statement of Accounts: The Council approved the Statement of Accounts in Section 1 of the Return, which was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

4. Annual Governance Statement: The Council gave affirmative responses to all items in the Annual Governance Statement, which was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

177 Police Report: The Community Police Officer was not present but had provided details of recent crimes in the area. Concern was reported about vandalism at Langwathby School, which members agreed to refer to the Police and Eden’s Community Safety Officer.

178 Update Reports:

1. Highways: The signpost at the war memorial in Langwathby had still not been repaired and the County Council will be urged to put this in hand, also re-painting of white lines in that vicinity.

2. Recycling Centre: The Clerk reported that the District Council acknowledged the new compound had been wrongly positioned and was arranging for the fencing to be moved.

3. Walter’s Seat: Mr Little was thanked for restoring the seat and returning it to Eden Straits.

4. Balmer Memorial Seat: Mr Holliday said he hoped to arrange the base for the new seat in the near future.

5. Ullswater College MAD Day: Mrs Merrie said the school party would make improvements to the bridleway, including building some steps on the path. The possibility of constructing a footbridge over the stream will receive consideration at a later date.

6. Eden Local Heroes Awards: Members were pleased to learn that Mrs Fran Flower had been runner-up in the Local Pride category.

7. Street Lights: Mr Holliday reported the outcome of enquiries made at Eden District Council. These indicated that, where lights were considered not repairable, no replacements were being made, owing to a lack of funding. Members felt this was most unsatisfactory. It seemed that United Utilities would not permit the placement of new lights on electricity poles, as the wires were to be undergrounded eventually. Mr Holliday agreed to enquire about the flickering lights at Low Farm.

8. Fishing Path: The Clerk said a date for a site meeting had not yet been fixed. Mrs Merrie and Mr Metcalfe were nominated to attend when it was.

9. Eden CALC: The Clerk gave details of the local housing surveys to be undertaken in Eden by Cumbria Rural Housing Trust and the District Council. They were proposing to involve parish councils in the planning of the surveys and had offered to link in with any parish survey that councils might wish to undertake at the same time. Langwathby was expected to be surveyed in 2011.

179 Review of Annual Parish Meeting held on 7th May

Members agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting had been a success, albeit with a reduced attendance, with presentations on “Our Green Spaces” and the Cumbria Air Ambulance. It was suggested that only one outside speaker should be included in future meetings. Members agreed to make a donation to the air ambulance (see minute 183.5)

180 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: The Clerk reported the outcome of the site meeting with Mr J. Dulson. Mr Dulson had been asked to provide estimates of the cost of repairing the existing fence or alternatively transferring the tennis court to the Games Park so that a car park could be formed. Mr Peet was thanked for spraying the weeds. Mr Holliday agreed to contact Metcalfe Plant Hire to see if they could sweep both areas with a small mechanical sweeper. Members agreed to inspect the tennis court after the meeting to see what could be done to make the court useable.

3. Water Leak: The Chairman and Clerk were requested to ascertain the extent of water loss and what action might be appropriate.

181 Village Green

Members discussed whether the dilapidated posts and chains round the car park should be removed but felt they should be retained. As these had been provided by the owners of the Shepherd’s Inn, it was agreed that a meeting should be sought with the owners and the landlord. The Chairman, Mr Little and the Clerk were nominated to attend.

182 Property Inspections

1. Edenhall: Mr Harrington reported on parish property in Edenhall and identified the need to paint the seat on School Green and clear weed growth. The Clerk was asked to contact the District Council about emptying the bin in the bus shelter.

2. Langwathby South: Mr Holliday reported his inspection of property and identified the need to paint the seat by the notice board. He agreed to raise this with Mr Dulson. Mr Holliday was authorized to replace the missing plaque on the seat provided in memory of his father.

183 Finance

1. Balances: The following balances were noted:

Current a/c

£12,447.68

Everyday Saver a/c	£2,188.55
VAT to be recovered	£21.06 plus claim for £1,374.12 in pipeline

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

T.Glending & Co re V.Hall	£8,350 plus VAT
Chubb Fire Ltd re V.Hall	£93.31 plus VAT
E.ON, electricity for V.Hall	£141.12 plus VAT

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

Zurich Insurance Co, annual premium	£2,038.48
Cumbria Playing Fields Association, annual sub	£15.50
C.Parsons, electrical work at V.Hall	£189.65 plus VAT (revised invoice awaited)
E.ON, electricity for V.Hall	£50.44 plus VAT
R.Wager, salary, Mar-May	£500
R.Wager, inkjet cartridges, postage & stationery	£43.05
Village Hall Committee, use of rooms 2008/9	£53.20

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

Eden District Council, recycling credit for Dec to Feb	£351.15
Eden District Council, Parish precept	£10,000.00
United Utilities re wayleave payment	£59.57
Village Hall Committee re Hall refurbishment	£10,911.00
Village Hall Committee re Cater-Kwik	£60.95
Village Hall Committee re Brogan Fuels	£305.92
Village Hall Committee re E.ON	£141.12
Village Hall Committee re Chubb Fire	£93.31
Village Hall Committee re Parsons	£189.65

5. Grant requests: After considering applications and supporting information, grants were agreed to the following bodies:-

The Memo	£200
Langwathby & Edenhall First Responders	£200
A one-off donation was approved for the Great North Air Ambulance Service	£100

An application from Edenhall PCC was deferred to the next meeting.

6. Grant to Village Hall Committee

A grant to the Village Hall Committee was approved as a contribution towards caretaking costs, in the sum of £250.

7. Village Hall Refurbishment Scheme: Members noted the final statement of costs for the scheme, which totalled £131,976, funded by the Parish Council's loan of £80,000 and contributions from the Village Hall Committee of £52,000.

184 Planning: Comments made on the following applications were noted as follows:-

- (i) Woodhead, Edenhall (agricultural dwelling) – no objection
- (ii) Bank House, Langwathby (new dwelling – revised application) – no objection
- (iii) Scaur House, Langwathby (removal of local occupancy restriction) – no objection but concern expressed and recommended consideration by Eden Planning Committee

185 Correspondence

Members considered a number of matters drawn from recent CALC circulars and correspondence relating to Members' training, freedom of information, equality and human rights, and United Utilities' drought permits.

186. Local Concerns

1. Traffic Lights: Members were concerned about a number of incidents where the traffic lights on Langwathby Bridge appeared not to be operating correctly and agreed to refer the problem to the highways department.

2. Land at Meadowside: A broken gate was reported that had enabled a horse to escape onto the road. Mr Holliday agreed to make enquiries of the District Council, who owned the land.

187. Dates of Future Meetings: Future meetings of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on the following Thursdays: 9 July, 10 September, 19 November, 14 January, 11 March and 13 May (Annual Parish Meeting to be held the previous week, 6 May).

(The meeting finished at 9.10pm.)