

## **LANGWATHBY PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 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.Ripper, together with County Councillor Mrs I.Henderson, two representatives of the Village Hall Committee and a resident.

**55 Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2007 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**56 Police Report:** There was no police representative present. Members were advised that PC Bradley would be retiring soon and resolved to write to Cumbria Police requesting a prompt replacement.

#### **57 Update Reports:**

**1. Land registration:** The Clerk reported that no progress appeared to have been made by the Council's solicitors since the person dealing with the matter had left in October. The Clerk was asked to take this up with the firm.

**2. Fishing Rights:** Witness statements were still being collected and it was hoped that a few more could be obtained before the application to register part of the river as a village green was made. Members agreed to consider whether there any other persons who could be asked to complete a witness statement, either because they had fished the section of river by Langwathby Bridge or knew someone who had.

**3. Quality Parish Council Application:** The Clerk reported that the Council's application folder had been completed and would be passed to the Cumbria Association of Local Councils for consideration.

**4. Day Centre Charges:** The County Council's response to the Parish Council's concerns was reported.

**5. Eden CALC Meeting:** The Chairman and Clerk reported the discussion at the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **58 Highways Issues**

**1. Update Report:** The Council's comments on widening and haunching of the Skirwith Road had been noted and the County Council hoped to widen a section by 0.5 metres. They had also agreed to sign the Drove Road to discourage unsuitable vehicular use. The District Council's response to a suggested litter bin at the unofficial layby on the A686 opposite the Skirwith Road was felt to be unsatisfactory. The Clerk was asked to take the matter up again.

**2. Highway Response Team:** In readiness for the Team's visit to the area in March, a list of flooding points and other defects was suggested, to be finalized by the Chairman and Clerk.

**3. Seat on Storey Bank:** Now that the footpath had been surfaced, it was felt that the seat should be relocated nearer the path on a hard standing. Mr J.M.Holliday offered to investigate the possibility.

**3. Bridge Closure:** Members noted the proposed closure of Langwathby Bridge for approximately 7 days in the summer holiday and did not wish to express a preference for any particular week.

#### **59 Briggle Beck Footpath**

The Clerk reported the outcome of a meeting with Dick Capel of the East Cumbria Countryside Project and the Clerk of Hunsonby Parish Council. He had proposed constructing a 54 metre long raised pathway of treated beams on the Winskill side of Briggle Beck and re-building the stone steps to the bridge on the Langwathby side. This would cost in the region of £2,000, to be shared equally between the two councils. This was accepted and the Clerk was requested to make a grant application to the County Council's Parish Paths Initiative.

#### **60 Village Hall**

**1. Progress Report:** Mrs F.Flower and Mr T.Green gave a report on progress with grant applications for the hall refurbishment. They said it was proving extremely difficult to obtain grants; a number of applications had been declined but some had been successful. The current position was that £30,000 had

been raised or pledged to date and some decisions were pending. However, it was clear that the planned scheme would have to be further reduced and a scheme costing around £150,000 was now envisaged. It had proved necessary to omit some items, such as renewal of the hall floor and stage, the new entrance, and the car park, but hopefully these could be undertaken in a later phase, if the grant situation improves. The reduced scheme would still give the hall a much needed facelift as well as tackling essential improvements to meet current environmental health and fire safety standards as well as upgrading the facilities and incorporating improved heating and energy efficiency. At present it was considered that there was a funding shortfall of £80,000, which it was hoped the Parish Council could meet by taking out a loan.

**2. Proposed Loan:** Mr D.H.Banks and Mr I.S.Harrington declared an interest as Parish Council representatives on the Village Hall Committee and left the room during this item. The Clerk explained the procedure for seeking a loan, which would need a formal written report and resolution at the March meeting or at an earlier extraordinary meeting, if needed sooner. Following this, an application for approval to take out a loan would be made via the Cumbria Association of Local Councils. The Village Hall Committee had offered to meet half the annual cost of repaying the loan and interest. This would leave approximately £3,000 per annum to be funded by the Parish Council, equivalent to an increase in the Parish Rate of £9.45 per annum for a Band D property. It was envisaged, however, that the increase could be phased over a period of time, using some accumulated balances. The Council unanimously agreed in principle to take out the loan, subject to a further report and the necessary legal process.

**3. Annual Accounts:** The Village Hall Committee's accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007 were noted.

## 61 Langwathby & Edenhall First Responders

The Chairman reported that the reason for the request for a parish council representative on the First Responders Committee had been related to the period when the Committee was without a chair and circumstances had now changed.

## 62 Finance

**1. Balances:** The following balances were noted:

Current a/c	£1,716.89
Everyday Saver a/c	£8,855.29
VAT to be recovered	£8.75

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

Penrith Tool Hire, mower service	£53.23 plus VAT
W.Veitch, honorarium & petrol for cemetery mower	£120.00
Eden Locks, lock repair at Village Hall	£35 plus VAT
TFE Accord, waste disposal at Village Hall	£214.24 plus VAT
Powergen, electricity at Village Hall (amended account)	£519.90 plus VAT
GM & F.Farish, pest control at cemetery	£50 plus VAT

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

R.Wager: reimbursement re –

Stationery	£3.99
Postage	£2.88
2 ink cartridges for laptop	£20.52
Renewal of internet security subscription	£34.99
Payment re work in preparing Quality PC application	£500
CALC, fee for QPC application	£29.38
C.Merrie: reimbursement re wreath for Edenhall	£14
Eden District Council, election expenses	£140.00

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

Village Hall Committee, re Powergen	£519.90
TFE Accord	£214.24
Eden Locks	£35
Stonecraft Designs re Watson headstone	£50

HM Revenue & Customs, VAT recovery	£564.19
Eden DC, recycling credit, July – September	£282.21

**5. Grass Cutting Contract 2008:** Two tenders had been received and the lower of the two from Mr N.Preston was accepted in the sum of £1,197. This allowed for an increase in grass cutting on the Edenhall Sports Ground football pitches.

### 63 Planning Applications

- 1. Burnside, Salkeld Road, Langwathby (Garage and Store):** No objection had been raised.
- 2. Land adjacent to Stratheden (Four Dwellings):** An objection to this application had been made earlier in the year. Members were advised that the Eden Planning Committee had held a site visit and had decided to reject the application, because of the loss of trees that would ensue. The application had, however, been withdrawn. It was understood that a tree preservation order would be made.

### 64 Correspondence

- 1. CALC Newsletter:** Ms S.Ripper requested to be added to the e-mail circulation.
- 2. CALC Advice on Standing Orders:** The clerk will check if any amendments need to be made to the Council's Standing Orders.
- 3. "Closer to Home" Health service Consultation:** Members decided to register their concern that adequate beds are retained at Penrith Community Hospital to meet the needs of people needing nursing care who cannot be cared for at home.
- 4. Eden District Council Scrutiny Review:** The Council decided to request a scrutiny on the issue of village halls, particularly in relation to the funding of necessary refurbishment schemes.
- 5. Police Community Liaison Forum:** The Chairman and Clerk will attend the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January.
- 6. Government Consultation on Orders & Regulations relating to the Conduct of local Authority Members:** Members decided to make no comments on the Consultation Paper.
- 7. "Ways to Tackle Climate Change":** Ms S.Ripper gave a report on this DEFRA publication. The Council also considered correspondence regarding Members' allowances and a VAC newsletter.

### 65. Local Concerns

The following issues were raised:

- 1. Recycling Centre:** As it had not proved possible to find a better site for the Centre, the Clerk was asked to arrange a site meeting with Eden's Recycling Officer to see if the present area could be re-vamped to make it less intrusive and easier to keep tidy.
- 2. Speeding:** Concern was expressed about an agricultural vehicle traveling at speed on village roads. Members felt that persons observing such incidents should report them to the police.
- 3. State of roads and footpaths:** Complaints were made about the state of some roads and footpaths from deposit of mud or leaves. It was agreed that the District Council should be asked to arrange for sweeping.
- 4. Gritting:** Edenhall Members reported that their road salt bins were empty.

### 66. Future Meetings

**1.** The following dates were noted:

Next meeting: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting dates already agreed: 8<sup>th</sup> May (Annual Parish meeting), 15<sup>th</sup> May (Parish Council AGM)

**2.** The following dates were provisionally agreed, to be confirmed at the next meeting: 17<sup>th</sup> July, 11<sup>th</sup> September, 6<sup>th</sup> November and, in 2009: 15<sup>th</sup> January, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 7<sup>th</sup> May (Annual Parish Meeting), 14<sup>th</sup> May (Parish Council AGM).

(The meeting finished at 9.30pm.)