

CROSTHWAITE AND LYTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

Held on Monday 06 November 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Room, Crosthwaite

Present: Cllrs Angela Dobson, Matthew Dobson, M. Harkness

In Attendance: Cllr. S. Bavin (Westmorland & Furness Co.), Martin Curry (Clerk).

92/23 Apologies: Apologies had been received from Cllrs E. Sharp, H. Young

93/23 Minutes: It was **Resolved** that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 02 October 2023 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

94/23 Declarations of Interest: Cllrs. A. Dobson and M. Dobson declared an interest relating to planning issues at Acorn Cottage (Item 8(a)ii).

95/23 Requests for Dispensation: No requests for dispensation had been received.

96/23 Chair's Announcements: The Chair confirmed that an election for membership of the Parish Council would be held on 02 May 2024 and an item on this would be included on the December Agenda. The process for filling the current vacancy was being addressed.

97/23 Public Participation: No members of the public were present.

98/23 Reports

a) Westmorland & Furness Council: Cllr. Bavin reported as follows:

- i) A5047: The work has been completed and the road is once again open. Some problems had been identified including continuity of work during the period of closure and confusion over signage and pedestrian access. These matters will be addressed as part of a 'lessons learnt' exercise.
- ii) Mill Lane Bridge: Additional work has been identified and the requirement for 'in-river' works means that the bridge will remain closed to traffic until well into 2024. The bridge remains open for pedestrians but not motor vehicles. The collection of green bin waste on Mill Lane is still inconsistent but is not a major problem at present.
- iii) C5048, Bowland Bridge: Councillors noted a publicised road closure to enable utility works for 12 days from 06 November. Alternative routes had been identified.
- iv) A590: The A590 Working Group is to meet soon to consider progress with planning and proposed works. Cllr. Bavin will report back on developments.
- v) Oak Fold: Some issues with property lighting have been identified on Oak Fold. Cllr Bavin reported that Castles and Coasts are happy to adjust these, and he will discuss with the local residents to see what changes might be welcomed.
- vi) The 20-m.p.h. initiative: Cllr. Bavin advised that the new Policy agreed by W&FC anticipated that Parish Councils will lead on proposing a scheme for their area. Parish Councils must formally agree an intention to progress a scheme and submit an Expression of Interest to W&FC. Evidence of a positive outcome from public consultation is required and Parish Councils should note that there are likely to be costs associated with the implementation of an approved scheme. It was **Agreed** that this will be a full Agenda item for the December meeting and that Councillors will give thought to where a 20-m.p.h. zone(s) would be appropriate. Cllr Bavin undertook to provide the Clerk with information on the process to assist this discussion.
- vii) Winter gritting and snow clearance: W&FC has agreed key routes on the road network in its area which will receive attention on a priority basis. Attention to lesser routes will be maintained as resources allow. The A5074 through the Parish is a priority route. W&FC has now adopted a slightly more relaxed approach to road management in bad weather enabling local resources to be used, though full guidelines on this are awaited and public liability insurance will be essential. Roadside grit mounds should be provided and replenished, and new grit bins will be supplied for key areas if requested. Cllr. Bavin made a note that grit bins at Hubbersty and on Mill Lane would be welcomed.

b) Police: A recent edition of Focus had been published, otherwise no specific report had been received.

99/23 Planning

a) The following planning applications received from LDNPA and circulated to Members of the Council since the last meeting were considered:

- i) 7/2023/5552: Gilpin Farm, LA8 8EW.** Refurbishment & extension of former farmhouse into adjoining barn. Refurb & re-cladding of barn extension. Proposed garage, garden store etc. Circulated 11/10/23. Comments due 08/11/23. **Agreed to submit No Objection.**

- ii) **7/2023/5622: Acorn Cottage, LA8 8JL.** Erection of enlarged garage. Circulated 18/10/2023. Comments due by 13/11/2023. No comments had been received following circulation and therefore **No Comment** would be submitted.
- b) Councillors noted that no planning applications had been received since publishing the Agenda.
- c) Councillors noted that no responses had been submitted to LDNPA following consideration by the Parish Council since the last meeting.
- d) Councillors noted decisions on the following planning applications since the last meeting:
 - i) **7/2023/5466: Blues Barn, Broadoak Farm, Crosthwaite LA8 8JL:** New garage and solar array. **No Objection** submitted 16/06/2023. **Approved with conditions 10/10/2023**
 - ii) **7/2023/5479/5480/5485/5486: Land off Woodside Road:** Applications in respect of agricultural buildings. **Objections** submitted 16/09/2023. **All approved with conditions 11/10/2023.**
 - iii) **7/2023/5476: Gilpin Cottage, Lyth, LA8 8DQ.** Replacement agricultural building. **No Objection** submitted 16/09/2023 (subject to use retention as an agricultural building). **Approved with conditions 11/10/2023.**
- e) To note any other Planning Matters:
 - i. Planning consents relating to various structures: Councillors noted the importance of letting parishioners know that it is taking action with regard to structures that may require planning consent and the Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council has sent a Schedule of these to LDNPA. He reported that he is in correspondence with a member of the Enforcement Team at LDNPA who has allocated Case Numbers to several of the structures notified to them. She has made site visits and feedback is awaited.
 - ii. Correspondence on structures: The Clerk reported that he had received correspondence from Parishioners relating to a shed and Shepherd's Hut at Starnthwaite Field. He confirmed that the shed had been referred to LDNPA on 07/10/2022 and a case number allocated. He has requested an update on this matter. The appearance of a 'Shepherd's Hut' has also now been referred to LDNPA.

100/23 Highways and Footpaths

- a) **Highways matters:** Items i) to iii) had all been dealt with under Cllr. Bavin's earlier report. Councillors noted the Clerk's report that he had responded to an enquiry from Highways regarding land ownership details at the Howe (verges overgrown).
- b) **Footpaths / Tracks Matters:** There were no footpaths / tracks matters reported.

101/23 Trees, Woods, Hedges and Grass: The following matters were noted:

- i. Chris Smith has removed scrub and raspberry canes from the area around Jubilee Bridge. Some coppicing work is still required around Clapper Bridge.
- ii. The Woodland Trust has offered free trees to community groups, and it was **Agreed** to promote this initiative on the website.
- iii. An overgrown hedge was impeding access along the footpath in the vicinity of Oak Fold and it was **Agreed** to write to adjacent owners to enquire if the hedge was theirs and if so to request attention.

102/23 Parish Land

- a) **Letting of Vacant Parish Land:** The Clerk reported as follows:
 - i. Hubbersty Head and Cowmire Hall Quarry: The question of insurance remains an issue for the prospective tenant. It was **Agreed** that the RFO should write to Zurich (Parish Council insurers) for advice on this matter).
 - ii. Mearsons: This property remains unlet but there is concern about overhanging trees on the property. The Clerk was asked to explore the commissioning of a Tree Management / Health and Safety survey.
- b) **Other Land Related Matters**
 - i. Proposed skate-board circuit: With a note from the Landowners of Crosthwaite and Lyth confirming that they have no land that might be appropriate for a skateboard circuit, Councillors agreed that they had done as much as they could in direct support for the initiative and, though remaining supportive, this matter will be removed from the Agenda.
 - ii. Parish On-line: The Clerk is taking out a free one-month trial but needs to clarify a possible existing account in the name of a previous Clerk.

103/23 Neighbourhood Plan: The Chair reported that work has continued and asked the Clerk to summarise progress. The Clerk's full report will be posted on the website (<https://www.crosthwaiteandlythpc.co.uk/>) as part of the Agenda and subsequent Minutes. Councillors registered disappointment that LDNPA had still not offered the opportunity to meet to discuss Policies in the draft but with Louise Kirkup's support, will press for this.

104/23 CLEAN: Cllr. Harkness reported that the Group is working very hard on a number of initiatives to improve the local environment and had recently organised a Brainstorm session which she had attended. The next meeting is at 7.00p.m. on 09 November at the School.

105/23 Finance: Councillors considered the following report submitted by the Responsible Finance Officer:

- a) Receipts: In addition to investment income Councillors noted the following receipts since the last meeting:
 - i. Rents for land £ 133.00
- b) It was noted that there had been no receipts since publishing the Agenda.
- c) The following payments were **Approved**:
 - i) Npower - Parish Room electricity October 2023: £ 22.43
 - ii) M R Curry - Salary & Expenses October 2023: £ 320.87
 - iii) HMRC - PAYE for October 2023: £ 73.40
- d) It was noted that no payments had been notified as requiring payment since publishing the Agenda.
- e) Receipts and Payments Account for the half-year to 30 September 2023: The RFO presented and explained the detailed receipts and payments account for the half-year to 30 September 2023, together with the bank reconciliation at that date. The documents were noted.
- f) To receive and consider the half-year budget comparison 2023/24: The RFO presented the half-year budget comparison 2023/24 showing a summary of receipts and payments to 30 September 2023, together with estimates of the second half-year's receipts and payments. These were then compared with the budget 2023/24. The projected surplus / deficit was less than £10 and was mainly made up of additional precept, an electricity refund and the VAT refund relating to the previous year less the refunded neighbourhood plan grant and other explained minor expenditure differences. The projection would result in a bank account balance of £17,183 at 31 March 2024, which was in accordance with published guidance for retained reserves. The comparison was noted.
- g) Councillors noted the bank balance of £22,440.23 at 23 October 2023 and authorised the Chair to counter-sign the bank statement.
- h) Lowland Curlew Recovery Group: Councillors were supportive of the work of the Group but wished to see further data on its success from the 2024 breeding season and details of other fund-raising initiatives. It was **Agreed** that a grant should not be offered at this stage but that the Council would be happy to consider a further approach for the 2025 breeding season. It wished the Group well with its efforts in 2024.
- i) Crosthwaite C of E Primary School: Councillors considered a letter from the School giving details of its Project for the improvement of its outdoor spaces estimated at an overall cost of £50,000. With comment from the RFO that a grant would be sustainable within current finances, it was **Agreed** to offer a grant of £500 to be applied to the Project.

106/23 Correspondence: Items of correspondence listed on the Agenda were noted with no additional comment.

107/23 Items 'for Information': The Chair indicated that a formal note of thanks to Andrew Metcalfe should be recorded at the next meeting.

108/23 Councillors' Issues to be Raised

The following items were noted for inclusion on the next Agenda:

- i) Parish Elections May 2024
- ii) 20-m.p.h. speed limit

Date of next meeting – The next full Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 04 December 2023**

The meeting finished at 9.20 p.m.

Signed as a correct record:

Date: