

CROSTHWAITE AND LYTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

held on Monday 15 April 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Room, Crosthwaite

Present: Cllrs Angela Dobson, Matthew Dobson, M. Harkness, E. Sharp, H. Young

In Attendance: Cllr. S. Bavin (Westmorland & Furness Co.), Martin Curry (Clerk), Malcolm Richardson (Responsible Finance Officer – RFO) and 6 members of the public.

164/23 Apologies: Cllr. R. Sykes.

165/23 Minutes of the meeting held on the 04 March 2024: It was **Resolved** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 04 March 2024 be signed by the Chair as a true record.

166/23 Declarations of Interest: No declarations of interest were submitted.

167/23 Requests for Dispensation: No Requests for Dispensation had been submitted.

168/23 Chair's Announcements: The Chair welcomed members of the public in attendance.

169/23 Public Participation: Several members of the public, including neighbours and near neighbours, spoke in favour of planning application 7/2024/5168 – a retrospective application for the use of an existing extension at Willow Beck, Crosthwaite LA8 8HU for short-term letting via AirBnB. Points made included that the property had already been converted to a small residential annexe; that at 25 sq. meters it is too small for permanent occupation or employment purposes; that the proposed use is compatible with LDNPA's Local Plan; that it is discreet, sharing access with the main property and that there is plenty of parking. There is no evidence of detriment to local heritage features. The Chair thanked those present for their comments which would be taken into account when the item was discussed later in the meeting.

170/23 Reports:

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

- i) Road repairs and Potholes: He apologised for the delay in finalising road repairs at Broad Oak – there had been issues with the contractors. The Chair confirmed that she had submitted two complaints about road conditions there with the worst potholes still evident. Cllr. Bavin confirmed that efforts are being made to complete this work. Progress with works near Hubbersty Head and on the Crook road were noted.
- ii) A590: In response to the Parish Council's expression of concern previously sent, he confirmed that the Working Group is due a meeting and that he will try to set one up in May. He said that National Highways had decided that they won't be funding a roundabout in the short- (or medium-) term, because they've assessed it as not meeting their cost/benefit requirements. This means that the Group will need to revert to campaigning to have the system overridden by a minister (as happened at Greenodd) through every available channel e.g. via W&F Council (particularly regarding connectivity to Barrow), the local MP and other channels.
- iii) Grants for 30-mph zones: He has not so far found any funding source that would help secure a 30-mph zone through the village. Cllr. Dobson wondered if there were any funds to support local health and well-being as speed limits might fall within that category for support. Whilst doubtful on the latter, Cllr. Bavin will continue to investigate possibilities.
- iv) He reported for information that W&FC are currently reviewing their existing policies relating to street lighting with a view to having a single authority-wide policy approach as to how they are managed across the area. Anyone with a view is encouraged to contribute.
- v) The Windermere Ferry has been withdrawn from service for repairs and maintenance until 24 May.
- vi) Finally, he added his thanks to all who had taken part in the recent litter pick around the Parish.

b) Police: The Clerk reported that there was nothing in recent Police Focus Newsletters of direct relevance to Crosthwaite and Lyth.

171/23 Planning

a) Applications Received: Councillors noted the following planning applications that had been received from LDNPA since the last meeting and circulated for comment:

- i) **7/2024/5054: St Mary's Green, Crosthwaite, LA8 8HU – 2 Dwellings and footpath (Reserved Matters).** (Circulated to Councillors 11/03/24). Councillors noted that this was an application dealing with reserved matters from a previous application 7/2021/5565. The Parish Council had submitted an objection in August 2021, but the development had been approved with conditions - including compliance with specified reserved matters. Councillors confirmed the reasons for their previous objection, but

acknowledged that consent had already been secured. It was **Agreed** to submit comment reiterating the original concerns about the development.

- ii) **7/2024/5168: Willow Beck, Crosthwaite, LA8 8HX** - Use of Annexe for self-catering holiday letting. (Circulated to Councillors 04/04/2024). Councillors noted that this was a retrospective application to regularise an existing activity. They noted the level of support for the application from neighbours and near neighbours and the relatively small size of the development. It was **Resolved** that the Parish Council should not object. Concerns were raised however about the precedent that this might set for other developments in the future, as there are numerous 'amenity' buildings that could be developed in this way. It was **Agreed** that these concerns should be put in the response to Development Management. It was also noted that the site notice for public consultation was once more not synchronised with the period for consultation with statutory consultees and that this too should be raised as a matter for clarification.
- b) Councillors noted that no planning applications had been received since publishing the Agenda.
- c) Councillors noted that the following responses had been submitted to LDNPA following consideration by the Parish Council:
 - i) **7/2023/5817: Land west of Oak Fold and north of Totter Bank**: Erection of three dwellings etc – Objection submitted 07/03/2024. No decision yet notified.
- d) Councillors noted the following decisions made since the last meeting:
 - i) **7/2023/5726 (& 5727 - listed building): Pool Bank House, Witherslack LA11 6SB** – Extension(s) including alterations to conservatory, replacement of greenhouse with office, garage. No Objection submitted. **Approved** with conditions 14/03/2024.
 - ii) **7/2024/5030: Gilpin Farm, Kendal, LA8 8EW** – Refurbishment and extensions etc to former farmhouse. No Objection submitted 06/02/2024. **Approved** with conditions 19/03/2024.
 - iii) **7/2024/5041: Redwood House, Crosthwaite, LA8 8HX** – Non-material amendment re cladding. Forwarded 07/02/24. No provision for consultation: for information only. **Approved** unconditionally.
 - iv) **7/2024/5037: Thornrigg, Lyth, LA8 8DF** – Single storey extension; replacement of timber garage/workshop with ancillary accommodation; internal and external alterations. No Objection submitted 20/03/2024. **Approved** with conditions 27/03/2024
 - v) **7/2024/5018: Espford Farm, Crosthwaite LA8 8BS** – Conversion of small modern farm shed / barn into a walkers bunk house. Objection submitted 12/03/2024. **Refused** 27/03/2024
- e) Other planning matters: In addition to the above, Councillors noted the following:
 - i. The Clerk has requested an update from the Enforcement Team on alleged breaches of planning relating to various structures and is awaiting a reply.
 - ii. The Chair reported that she, Cllr. Harkness and the Clerk had each received an anonymous letter referencing an alleged breach of planning relating to the erection of a shed/garage and other developments at Tarnside Farmhouse. The Chair undertook to look into this and report back.

172/23 Highways and Footpaths

a) Highways matters:

- i. Councillors thanked Cllr. Bavin for his attention to highways matters as previously reported.
- ii. Local Speed Restrictions and possible Grants: This had been dealt with previously under Cllr. Bavin's report.

b) Footpaths / Tracks Matters: There were no footpaths / tracks matters reported.

173/23 Trees, Woods, Hedges and Grass: The following matters were noted:

- i. Oak tree and ivy: The Clerk reported that he had written to the owner to say that if the tree needed to be treated from a health and safety point of view then the Council would prefer it to be pollarded if possible.
- ii. Encroachment of a hedge onto the footpath in the vicinity of Oak Fold – Castles and Coasts Housing Association are engaging with the issue of the overgrown hedge at Oak Fold and have asked for a photograph.
- iii. The Clerk is contacting operatives to quote for a tree health and survey condition report for trees on Parish Council land.

174/23 Parish Land

- a) **Letting of Vacant Parish Land**: The vacant sites (Hubbersty Head, Cowmire Quarry and Mearsons) were advertised in the March edition of the Two Valleys Parish News and three expressions of interest were received. It was **Agreed** to offer these out on the basis of preferences expressed by the applicants and the outcome will be reported to the next meeting.
- b) **Other Land Related Matters**: The Clerk reported that work continues on preparing new property profiles using Parish On-line.

c) **Noticeboard at the Old Post Office:** It was **Agreed** that this needed to be replaced. The Chair will take a look and report back on thoughts to the next meeting.

175/23 Neighbourhood Plan: The Chair reported that she, Louise Kirkup and the Clerk had had a positive meeting with Planning Officers from LDNPA on 12 March to discuss Version 4 of the draft Neighbourhood Plan. LDNPA commended the Parish Council for the hard work that had gone into the draft Plan so far. Many of the concerns raised by the Parish Council were addressed by LDNPA – though within the framework provided by the planning system. Louise Kirkup had prepared a revised V5 of the Plan based on the outcomes of the meeting which was circulated to Councillors on 04 April. Advice received from her is:

- a) Councillors should provide further feedback on the current draft of the plan and then forward it to the LDNPA for any further informal comments together with a request that they undertake the SEA / HRA Screening Assessment and consultation.
- b) Following any further changes, the draft plan should be published for informal and then formal consultation.
- c) Following any final changes in response to comments submitted the Draft Plan should be finalised for formal, Regulation 14 consultation.
- d) Final examination will follow.

Much of this will depend on securing further grant support, as advice will be required from Louise Kirkup and there will be costs connected with the consultation process. The window for applying for further grant is not currently open, but the Parish Council should be advised when the application will be considered.

176/23 The Annual Parish Meeting: The Clerk reported that all arrangements are in hand for the meeting on 22 April and that a range of representatives from village organisations had confirmed attendance. In addition to a report from the Chair on Parish Council activity over the previous year, Cllr Harkness will give a short presentation on her experiences of being a Parish Councillor.

177/23 Parish Council Elections - May 2024: The Clerk confirmed that following the submission of four valid nominations, Westmorland and Furness Council had, on 10 April, issued a Notice of Uncontested Election for the Parish of Crosthwaite and Lyth. The Notice confirmed that the following Councillors had been duly elected: Cllrs A. Dobson, J. Perry, E. Sharp and H. Young and that their term of office would commence on 07 May 2024. Councillors welcomed Jordan Perry as a new Councillor.

178/23 Environmental Initiatives

- a) **Annual Litter Pick:** Cllr. Harkness reported that 18 volunteers had participated in a very successful event. The Parish Council expressed its thanks to all who had taken part including to Cllr. Bavin for his support. Cllr. Harkness confirmed that she will continue to organise the event in future years.
- b) **CLEAN:** The Clerk confirmed that he had written to Pat Howarth on 04 March giving agreement in principle to the erection of a swift box subject to a number of conditions. He was awaiting a response agreeing to these. Otherwise there was no other update from the CLEAN initiative.

179/23 Local Infrastructure Issues

- a) **Water Supply:** The Clerk confirmed that he had written to UU via its online portal to request an update on the present and future plans for the supply network as part of the Neighbourhood Plan process. He had had a telephone response but that had not answered the question in detail. The UU officer undertook to get back to the Clerk with information on strategic proposals, but has not yet done so.

180/23 Finance: Councillors considered the following report submitted by the Responsible Finance Officer:

- a) **Receipts:** The following receipts since the last meeting (other than investment income) were noted:

i) A Baron – Rent for the Donkey Field and Scales Hill Quarry	£ 32.50
ii) HMRC – VAT Refund	£ 257.37

- b) **Receipts since publishing the agenda:** None was reported

- c) **Payments:** The following payments were **Approved:**

i) Npower – Parish Room electricity February 2024:	£ 72.52
ii) Npower – Parish Room electricity March 2024:	£ 66.65
iii) M R Curry – salary and expenses March 2024:	£ 418.27
iv) M R Richardson – Salary and expenses 3 months to March 2024	£ 489.45
v) HMRC – PAYE March 2024:	£ 195.60

- d) **Payments required since publishing the Agenda:** None was reported

- e) **Receipts and Payments Report** for the year ended 31 March 2024: The RFO circulated spreadsheets detailing receipts and payments for the 2023-24 financial year. He confirmed that all transactions had been reported and that there were no matters of exception to note.

f) **Bank Balance:** Councillors noted the bank balance of £18,338.89p on 31 March 2024 and the Chair was authorised to counter-sign the bank statement.

181/23 Correspondence:

- a) Updates from CALC and other Agencies: Councillors noted that these had been circulated as appropriate.
- b) Specific items of correspondence: Councillors noted the information previously circulated announcing that the Department for Transport has awarded Westmorland and Furness Council £1.7 million of Bus Service Improvement Plan Plus (BSIP+) funding to enhance services across the area in 2024/25. The Council is engaging in a consultation exercise, and this led to discussion about the possible introduction of a limited service connecting rural communities with larger centres such as Bowness and Kendal. It was **Agreed** to consider submitting a representation to W&FC. All other correspondence received had been dealt with or referred to in the meeting.
- c) No further correspondence had been received since publishing the Agenda.

182/23 Items 'for Information': No items were submitted.

183/23 Councillors' Issues to be Raised

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

- Next steps in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan
- The Noticeboard at the Old Post Office
- Planning matters at Tarnside
- Window cleaning at the Parish Room

Date of the next meeting: It was confirmed that due to the Early May Bank Holiday, the next meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting to be held on Monday 13 May 2024.

In concluding the meeting, Cllr. A Dobson reminded all present that Councillors Harkness, M. Dobson and Sykes had not stood for re-election to the new Parish Council. Their contribution to the local community through many years of service (60 in the case of Cllr. M. Dobson) had been exceptional and Councillors **Agreed** that the Minutes should record a special note of appreciation to them together with sincere thanks for their long service to the community.

The meeting finished at 8.42 p.m.

Signed as a correct record:

Date: