

## WALTON PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Walton Parish Council was held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

**Present:** John Evans (Chair), Margaret Sutcliffe, Robert Ridley, Alan Armstrong, Simon Wood, Gordon Kyle, Rodney Hodgson and Andrew Vaughan.

**In Attendance:** City Councillor Sid Bowman, PC Anita Owen, PCSO Emma Tonge and parishioners Moira Mark, Brian Hogg, Mike Seddon, Ian Bullough and Phillip Mason. Mel Warwick, Fiona Ritson and Hazel Winter arrived during the meeting.

**Apologies:** County Councillor Lawrence Fisher.

### Action

#### 062/10 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A non-personal interest was declared in the Play Area by Councillor Vaughan. A non-personal interest was also declared in the Village Hall by Councillor Evans.

Interests were also declared in the Registration of the Village Green by Councillors Ridley, Armstrong and Hodgson.

#### 063/10 **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010**

Resolved to authorise Chair to sign as a correct record.

#### 064/10 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Concerns regarding the registration of the Village Green with Land Registry were noted from Philip Mason. These were to be discussed as an agenda item. Developments with the Centurion Inn were also to be discussed as an agenda item.

#### 065/10 **REPORTS FROM CITY/COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND POLICE**

Councillor Bowman reported that the Highways Stewards are now working in teams of two so are able to undertake larger jobs.

PC Owen and PCSO Tonge introduced themselves and also reassured parishioners that reported cuts in the force would not impact upon the policing in the area as teams were only being restructured. PC Owen also stated that a small pot of money was available from them for projects such as the Play Area. The Police Officers left copies of their monthly newsletter which are to be displayed on the noticeboard and reported that sheep and a quad bike have recently been stolen in the area.

#### 066/10 **LAND REGISTRATION OF VILLAGE GREEN**

A report had been previously circulated to explain the background to the decision to register the Village Green with Land Registry and the position to

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date. For the benefit of parishioners the Chair explained that the decision was made to help meet Government targets and for the Play Area Grant to be approved. It was confirmed that this registration does not affect the status of the area being registered Village Green so the PC would not gain any further rights to do anything with the land.

To date, Land Registry has confirmed that some areas of the Green are privately owned and the PC have not attempted to contest these decisions. The main area of Green this affects is the large piece of land from the Church to outside The Grove/West Garth. The PC has therefore written to Cumbria County Council (who actually own this area) in order to clarify future maintenance arrangements. A query of whether this area is actually Village Green was made and may be investigated in due course dependent upon the outcome of the Cumbria County Council decision.

Correspondence had been received from three parishioners with concerns over the registration. These were noted however the PC confirmed that this exercise is not intended for them to make any gain of land or rights but will help clarify land boundaries to assist in maintenance etc.

067/10

**WOODLAND AREA**

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

SW

068/10

**ABANDONED VEHICLE**

It was noted that the vehicle has been taxed and is moving regularly so this item will be removed from the agenda.

069/10

**KNORREN FELL COTTAGE**

Correspondence had been exchanged with Land Registry regarding the area of fenced off land in front of Knorren Fell Cottage. Land Registry has confirmed that the land is not registered to anyone and suggested issuing a lease for the land to the owners of the adjacent property.

It has however been queried whether that area may fall under the management of Smiths Gore for Major Johnson - a reply to correspondence is awaited from them.

A discussion regarding Common Land and the areas in the Parish that have been registered, both correctly and incorrectly, was also held.

**VILLAGE HALL**

070/10/1  
070/10/2

**Clock:** It was noted that this has now been serviced and repaired.

**Toilet Door Renovations:** This project has been deferred until a future date by the Village Hall Management Committee. On-going costs of cleaning/maintenance as well as issues regarding locking doors/congregating people would need to be addressed before any renovations to the door could be undertaken. A discussion was also held regarding whether a tea room was a potential future project – it was confirmed that this had been considered as a potential use of the Reading

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Room but deferred until after the Play Area has been completed. Concerns were also expressed that developing the Reading Room may lead to decreased Hall usage so any plans would need to be very carefully formulated.

**WALTON PLAY AREA GROUP**

**071/10/1** *Progress with Grant:* No progress has been made as the Grant cannot be finalised until that area of the Green is registered with Land Registry.

**071/10/2** *VAT:* No response had been received to clarify whether the PC could reclaim the VAT on behalf of the Group.

**072/10** **SAVE OUR PUB**

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the activities taking place within the Centurion with speculation about possible businesses being run from the premises. It was clarified that the premises will have a license but they are not forced into opening as a public house by it.

It was confirmed that the Parish Council have very little power to interfere with a private business although the offer of help advertising in the newsletter still stands. PC Owen however offered to investigate whether a change of use planning application had been submitted. It was also confirmed that if parishioners have any concerns over the tidiness of any area of the Parish, including the pub car park, they should write to Environmental Health at Carlisle City Council to investigate. The PC will forward any letters received to them regarding the car park and the Chair confirmed he will also have a look at the area.

JE

**073/10** **WALTON SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

Halloween: Although the turnout for the Saturday night adult get-together had been disappointing, the children's Halloween party had been a success.

Mr Bullough confirmed that the Christmas Tree was going to be on display again this year and a few events were currently being planned.

It was also stated that the Parish Council fully support the Social Committee and if any support in terms of help/donations are required then they should contact the Clerk.

**074/10** **PARISH SALT SCHEME**

This scheme, to leave seven tonnes of salt in the Village, had been cancelled prior to the meeting. It was confirmed that Highways will bring additional salt to any areas if necessary in cases of extreme weather.

It was also confirmed that should additional grit bins be required then these can be purchased for £99 and filled by Highways for free. Councillors were to contact the Chair if they could think of any locations for such bins before Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November.

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- 075/10 PARISH PATHS INITIATIVE**  
Open days are to be held on this footpath initiative and further information is to be obtained. **GK**
- 076/10 SPEEDING IN VILLAGE**  
Complaints had been made about cars speeding through the Village from the moss direction. No signage is in place to warn of children playing. PC Owen offered to bring a traffic detection unit to the Village to find out if vehicles are speeding and at what specific times/days. The unit will need stored overnight so a volunteer parishioner will be necessary to look after the equipment. Resolved: PC Owen to contact the Chair with a suitable location – a volunteer will then be found to look after the unit (Councillor Ridley is willing to do this should it be near to his property). **JE**
- 077/10 ENTRANCE SIGN TO VILLAGE**  
The vandalism has been report to the Highways department on two separate occasions and will be fixed in due course.
- 078/10 WALTON PC WEBSITE**  
A national company had offered to build a website for the Parish Council. Costs and benefits were discussed. Resolved: to have a website built by either this company or by the Clerk at the lowest price possible. **CLERK**
- 079/10 CPCA MEETING (5 OCTOBER 2010)**  
The feedback had already been covered in items 065/10 and 074/10.
- PORTFOLIO AREAS**
- 080/10/1 Grass Cutting.** It was noted that the grass cutting had been off schedule due to fire damaging the contractor's equipment. A discount had been received in respect of this. Resolved: To monitor the grass cutting regularly next year.
- 080/10/2 Recycling Bins.** It was noted that a sticker is missing off one of the bins and that there have been problems with the wrong items being placed into the bins.
- 080/10/3 Budget Requests:** Councillors had been previously asked to consider whether they required any budget provision for the forthcoming financial year for their portfolio areas. No requests were received.
- 081/10 NEWSLETTER**  
It was noted that the newsletter had been distributed in its new layout which was well received. The next edition will be circulated in the Spring and Councillors were asked to contribute articles in due course.
- 082/10 COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BUILD**  
As part of the Big Society the plans to delegate planning powers in certain circumstances have raised concerns with CALC and PC's were requested to lobby their MP to outline these worries. The Chair had therefore written to the Rt. Hon. R. Stewart explaining concerns that proper consultation

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would be needed for planning applications as too many incidental factors could easily affect a majority vote.

**083/10 BUDGET STATEMENT**

This was noted without any queries.

**084/10 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

The following receipts were noted:

- £100 donation for Clerks Training (NALC)
- £15 advertisement income (Pinpoint Financial Services)
- £15 advertisement income (Carspeed Autoparts)

Resolved: to authorise the following expenditure:

- £111.63 Clock Repairs (Cumbria Clock Company)
- £41.13 Play Area Inspection (Digley Associates)
- £21.00 Hire Fees (Village Hall)
- £363.45 Laptop (Sarah Kyle)
- £417.20 Clerks salary to date (Sarah Kyle)
- £1762.50 Grass Cutting (CGM)

**085/10 PARISH PRECEPT**

A spreadsheet and report had been previously circulated to discuss financial issues for the forthcoming financial year including increasing the Clerks hours from 10 per month to 16 per month. After consideration of all this it was resolved to raise the precept by 3.5% to £4725 (equating to a rise of £160).

**086/10 CORRESPONDANCE**

The following were received:

- West Cumbria: MRWS. Noted information relating to Radioactive Waste in West Cumbria.
- Electoral Reform – Noted consultation poster. The Chair was to email round Councillors any comments he had. **JE**
- Broadband Champions – Email noted.
- Brampton Economic Partnership – Information on this initiative was noted. Resolved: to invite representative to a PC meeting. **CLERK**
- CALC Circular – Noted.
- Over 60's Club – noted that this club was now meeting in the Hall.
- ACT Community Exchange Grants – noted that grants were available from this support organisation. Resolved: to pass information onto Over 60's club. **RR**
- Traffic Lights at Irthing Bridge. Resolved: to contact Councillor Fisher regarding these lights being too bright. **CLERK**

**087/10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011. Agenda items should be submitted to the Clerk before Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

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