

**WALTON PARISH COUNCIL**

A meeting of Walton Parish Council was held on Monday 9 January 2012 at 7.45pm in the Village Hall.

**Present:** Simon Wood (Vice-Chair), Jonathan Fowler, Alan T Armstrong, Alan F Armstrong, Robert Ridley and Gordon Kyle.

**In Attendance:** County Councillor Lawrence Fisher, Mel Warwick representing Walton Village Hall and parishioners Ian Bullough, Brian Hogg and Russell Sell.

**Apologies:** John Evans, Rodney Hodgson (6 months of non-attendance), PCSO Carly Watson, Pam Cronin and James Kyle.

**Action**

**316/12 Declarations Of Interest**

Councillor Wood declared an interest in item 322/12 relating to the Save Our Pub group.

**317/12 Minutes Of Meeting Held Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011**

**Resolved** to authorise the Vice-Chair to sign as a correct record.

**318/12 Public Participation**

Mr R Sell attended the meeting to discuss his concerns over the lime tree that faces his property at Newberry. He expressed concerns over its height and proximity to his property as well as the amount of dead wood in the tree and asked the Council to consider inspecting the tree for safety. Councillor Wood explained to Mr Sell that the Parish Council had commissioned a tree stock survey in September 2011 and no immediate concerns over the health of any of the trees on the Village Green were expressed and a regular inspection programme of at least once every 36 months was recommended. A lengthy debate followed between Councillors and members of the public regarding the trees. Following this discussion it was **resolved** that a price will be obtained from Eden Woodland Consultants for potential thinning of the tree. The potential future implications of this will be fully considered at the next meeting along with the need for the additional cost so soon after the tree stock survey. The insurance cover the Parish Council has in place will also be checked and also whether any of the trees are covered by Tree Preservation Orders.

**CLERK**

Parishioners were also given the opportunity to comment during relevant agenda items.

**319/12 Reports From City/ County Councillors And Police**

County Councillor Fisher reported that a consultation was currently taking place on the potential closure of the Brampton Recycling Facility and asked that the Parish Council respond to the consultation. Concerns were expressed about the potential for additional fly-tipping if the nearest facility became Carlisle and alternative options of shorter opening hours, different opening days and a reduced workforce were all discussed.

**CLERK**

Councillor Fisher also reported that his budget for the forthcoming financial year had been reduced to £10,000 but Walton may bid for a share of it if desired.

PCSO Watson had emailed a report – copies available from the Clerk upon request.

**320/12 Clerks Report**

The following report had been previously circulated and was noted:

Signed:.....

Date:.....

**Lime Tree Risk Assessment** – has been carried out. Further information has been requested regarding a recommended schedule of inspections.

**Fingerposts** – work has been authorised to commence after £635 grant funding was successfully secured from the Brampton and District Neighbourhood Forum.

**Internal Audit Review** - it is noted that this has been carried out and subsequently signed.

**Financial Risk Assessment** - noted that it has been reviewed, updated and signed.

**Fixed Assets Register** – noted that it has been reviewed and updated.

**Play Area Maintenance** – discussions on the maintenance arrangements for the play area are on-going between the Play Area Group and the Parish Council.

**Noticeboard** – a request has been made for the noticeboard at the bus stop to be removed and this will be carried out in due course by Councillor Ridley. Correspondence has also been sent to the manufacturer to determine any means of improving the condition of the new noticeboard and will continue to be followed up on.

**City Council Planning Meeting** – the Clerk will attend a meeting concerning the Planning process on 17 January. A further meeting for Councillors is due to be held in the forthcoming months.

**320/12 Councillors Training**

Councillors discussed whether to undertake the second stage training course to complete the session undertaken in late 2011. **Resolved** not to undertake the training.

**321/12 CPCA Grant Funding**

It was explained that a grant application for the noticeboard for the rural area of the Parish (potentially around Nickies Hill) had been submitted in 2011 and had failed due to excess applications. Debate was held as to whether to re-submit the application or apply to the CPCA for an alternative project. Councillors were reminded that they had previously agreed to the purchase of a noticeboard for this area and therefore this was not the topic under debate. **Resolved** to resubmit the application. The Clerk is also to check with Jeff Twedde as to whether the Neighbourhood Forum could be accessed for additional monies this financial year.

**CLERK**

**322/12 Newsletter**

Newsletters had previously been printed by the City Council free of charge however this facility had now been withdrawn. Monies were budgeted at the start of the financial year in case of such an event and therefore the December issue had gone to print. **Resolved** that future editions of the newsletter are printed at the necessary cost and future budgets make provision for this.

**323/12 Neighbourhood Forum**

Councillor Fowler reported that the parish had been successful in securing funding for the refurbishment of fingerposts and new chairs for the Village Hall (Village Hall application). Councillor Fisher also reported that in future an email will be sent to the Clerk to circulate to the Chair/nominated Councillor outlining grant applications received with the Officer's recommendations to save holding a formal meeting. A final Neighbourhood Forum meeting may also be held before the financial year end to finalise the scheme.

**324/12 Map Board**

As the visual display board will need concreted into place (opposite the Centurion Inn) it is necessary to receive at least two quotations for this work. **Resolved** that quotations be obtained including from Councillor Ridley and John Robinson.

**CLERK**

Signed:.....

Date:.....

**325/12 Queens Diamond Jubilee Beacons**

Mr Bullough reported that the Social Committee have been considering whether to participate in this nationwide scheme. Consideration has been given to the location and inclusivity of the event which will be held at 10pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June. Further investigations are to be made and the matter will be discussed again in the March meeting.

**326/12 Land Registration of Village Green**

It was noted that the registration has now been passed at Land Registry although final confirmation was still to be received, along with a definitive map showing clearly the areas of registered land. It was clarified again that this registration has been to register ownership only to the Parish Council and the area's status as registered Village Green remains unaltered.

**327/12 Orchard House**

The discussion regarding the ownership of the Parish Council of the gravelled area outside of Orchard House and maintenance implications will be discussed fully at the March meeting.

**328/12 Cumbria County Council Land Ownership**

Councillor Evans had met with Mr Mike Smith of Cumbria County Council and the transfer of the two County Council pieces of land to the Parish Council had been agreed in principal. Mr Smith was investigating how the most efficient way to achieve the transfer and will get back to the PC in due course. Until this goes ahead the it has been verbally agreed and proposed in a letter from Councillor Evans that the PC are to use the land as if it were their own, for example by maintaining the grass and siting the visual map board.

**329/12 Car Park**

Councillor Wood reported that he had found some initial costs for matting needed to lie under the grass (as discussed in 294/11) and had discovered a price of approximately £10 to £16 per square metre. It was envisaged by him that an area of at least 200 square metres would be required. This cost would only cover the cost of the mats therefore the excavation work and lying may almost double the cost. Councillor Fowler had been liaising with CALC and sought clarification over the status of the land (being registered Village Green). Both Councillors will continue to find out further information relating to cost and legal issues and the matter will be discussed in March. A lengthy discussion over the best site for any such car park was also held, including either using the County Council area of land – or by exchanging that land for an area of Village Green in status – were considered. However, until legal issues and costs are firmly established then the debate was largely irrelevant and will be held if necessary at a future date.

**SW  
JF**

**330/12 Rose Cottage**

An anonymous complaint had been received highlighting recently laid paving slabs at Rose Cottage with the implication that they may be on Village Green. **Resolved** that the discussion is postponed until the Land Registry map is produced showing clearly the boundaries of ownership.

**331/12 Village Hall**

Mrs Warwick entered the meeting at this stage. She reported that three parties continued to show an interest in establishing a tea room in the Hall and the implications of this on businesses rates and the charitable status were being investigated.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

**332/12 Save Our Pub**

Mr Bullough reported developments to date, including correspondence with the planning department at the City Council and the MP Rory Stewart.

**333/12 Social Committee**

It was reported that the pub nights were continuing on the final Saturday of each month.

**334/12 Grass Cutting**

A letter had been received from the grass cutting contractors apologising for the failure to complete the final cut but stated that this was due to the wet ground conditions. Councillors agreed that this had been the correct decision to avoid damaging the land. The contractor had also significantly reduced his bill to account for the lower number of cuts than planned and as such it was **resolved** that due to his honesty the contract will remain with him (price dependent) for the forthcoming year.

**335/12 Ice and Snow Clearance**

It was stated that guidance had been received from the insurers to confirm that if ice and snow was cleared on behalf of the Parish Council then the area must be maintained to prevent an insurance risk. Alternatively if the Council chose not to undertake any clearing then there could be no insurance implications. It was therefore **resolved** that no clearing would take place although the County Council provided grit bins would remain in place should any parishioner wish to clear any areas themselves.

**336/12 11/0973 Sandysike Farmhouse – Instillation of Solar Panels (LBC)**

It was noted that “no representation” was made to this application by the Parish Council by the Clerk under delegated powers and that permission has been subsequently granted.

**337/12 Accounts to end December 2011**

These were circulated to Councillors and were noted.

**338/12 Donation Request Walton Village Hall (Hot Water Urn/Kettles)**

Mrs Warwick outlined that this request was made to help the Social Committee in particular, and other user groups when catering in the Hall. It was confirmed that should a tea room be set up in the Hall any hirer would be expected to provide their own equipment. Councillor Fisher however stated that Neighbourhood Forum monies may be available to help pay towards equipment. **Resolved** to purchase the two kettles and urn at a cost of £136 and gift them to the Village Hall if Neighbourhood Forum monies are unavailable.

**339/12 Donation Request Walton Village Hall (Shortfall for Social Equipment)**

Mrs Warwick stated this request was to pay towards the shortfall in grant funding obtained to help pay for the social equipment for the Hall. Again, Councillor Fisher reminded the Parish Council of the Neighbourhood Forum monies. **Resolved** that if Neighbourhood Forum monies are unavailable the Parish Council will donate £410.

**340/12 Accounts Payable**

The following receipts were noted:

- £100 Carlisle City Council Recycling
- £4145.00 Groundworks PAG (Grant mistakenly paid to PC)
- £5 Hethersgill Parish Council (Training Course)
- £600 Cumbria County Council (Councillors Funding)

Signed:.....

Date:.....

- £635 Cumbria County Council (Neighbourhood Forum Grant)

**Resolved:** to authorise the following expenditure:

- £136.72 S Kyle salary January (Standing Order)
- £136.72 S Kyle salary February (Standing Order)
- £57.50 S Kyle reimbursement for newsletters
- £1620 CGM Grass Cutting
- £4150 PAG Grant (see income)
- £40 Land Registry (TBC)
- £22 Walton Village Hall rental (this is reduced to account for a transposition error of £27 when paying an insurance donation).

**341/12 Council Matters and Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

- Dog Fouling on the Village Green – complaints have been raised regarding fouling in the area around Hollygarth. The Enforcement Officer will be contacted regarding signage before the next meeting.

**CLERK**

**342/12 Correspondence**

The following were noted:

- Cumbria’s Renewable Energy Sources - Cumbria county council
- Connecting Cumbria (Two updates)
- Local Government Boundary Commission Consultation
- Local Government (Discretionary payments) Regulation 1996 - NALC Guidance note
- QE2 Fields Challenge Information
- Cumbria County Council Budget Consultation
- Localism Act – Local Council Precepts - NALC Briefing
- Retirement Payments Advice Note
- Cumbria In Bloom Information
- Technical Reforms of Council Tax Consultation
- ACT Gazette
- ACT Energy Workshops – this will be advertised in the next newsletter using Councillor Fowler as a contact point.
- Cumbria Constabulary Newsletter
- Cumbria County Council Household Waste & Recycling Consultation

**343/12 Date Of Next Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 7.00pm. Please note the earlier time. The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will directly follow the Annual Parish Meeting at approximately 7.30pm. Agenda items for both meetings should be sent to the Clerk before Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2012.

The meeting closed at 9.07pm.

Signed:.....

Date:.....