

WALTON PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Walton Parish Council was held on Monday 14th January 2013 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Present: John Evans, Alan T Armstrong, Alan F Armstrong, Jonathan Fowler, Simon Wood and Tom Brocklebank.

In Attendance: County Councillor Lawrence Fisher, City Councillor Syd Bowman, Brian Hogg, Phil Knowles and Ian Bullough. Also present was Brian Hill representing Cumbria in Bloom.

Apologies: Robert Ridley and Gordon Kyle

Action

476/13 Minutes Of Meeting Held Monday 12th November 2012
Resolved to authorise the Chairman to sign as a correct record.

477/13 Dispensation Request Delegation Arrangements
It was **resolved** to delegate to the Clerk authority to grant dispensations in cases where a majority of members of the council would be affected by the requirement to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest. It was also **resolved** that the full Council will consider all other requests.

478/13 Requests for Dispensations
The Clerk reported she had received written requests from Councillor Evans, Councillor Wood, Councillor Brocklebank, Councillor AF Armstrong, Councillor TA Armstrong and Councillor Fowler with regards to precept setting. All received requests were granted dispensations by the Clerk. It was noted that Councillor Ridley and Councillor Kyle will need to complete the required request forms before the precept setting next year.

479/13 Declarations of Interest
Councillor Fowler declared a prejudicial interest in item 495/13. Councillor Wood declared an interest in item 491/13. Councillor Evans also declared an interest in all Village Hall matters.

480/13 Cumbria in Bloom Presentation
Brian Hill was in attendance on behalf of Cumbria in Bloom. He explained that there are three categories that can be entered, namely: "Pride in your Community"; "It's your Neighbourhood" and a schools gardening competition. He also stated that entries were made based on the size of the population. He went on to further explain that the main category "Pride in your Community" was based upon three elements (horticulture, environment and community participation). Entries to the competition cost £10 and must be made by 1 April. Judging takes place the first two weeks in July and awards are presented in September. Mr Hill explained that permanent landscaping, e.g. the Village Green and Lime Trees are important elements as well as hanging baskets, private front gardens etc.

The possibility of receiving free recycled bulbs and plants from Carlisle City Council is to be investigated if necessary.

It was agreed that the Parish Council supported the competition in principal but interested volunteers will be called for in the next newsletter and if sufficient interest is raised an entry can be looked at. Councillor Fowler agreed to co-ordinate responses.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

481/13 Reports From City/County Councillors

Councillor Fisher reported that he had been in attendance at a Brampton and Beyond meeting and had encouraged them to send regular newsletters to the parishes. He explained that Solway Communications had been present at the last meeting and they have installed a broadband mast at Castle Carrock.

Councillor Bowman reported on plans by the City Council to build another swimming pool in the City Centre and to build a new community centre. Concerns were raised over the borrowing required to finance these projects and the lack of parish consultation over the new City Council budgetary spending plans.

482/13 Public Participation

No comments were raised by the attending public.

483/13 Clerks Report

The following report had been previously circulated and was noted with some additional comments:

Speeding – The Police have stated that speed cameras have been present in the area and tickets have been issued. The Council are continuing to pursue the placement of a Speed Indication Device for the near future.

Cumbria County Council Land – A formal Expression of Interest in obtaining the land through an asset transfer scheme has now been submitted. It is noted that the formal process involves many stages including a full businesses case and will take many months to complete. It was confirmed this land is close to the Church and opposite the former Centurion Inn. Councillor Fisher confirmed he had been approached about the transfer by the Corporate Director at Cumbria County Council and had given his opinions as to the value of the assets. It was also clarified that the land, if transferred, may be used as a land swap to register as Village Green to free up an equivalent area of existing land for projects, if required.

As part of this discussion concerns over the drainage behind Friars Garth were raised. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Reading Room – Due to complications with the deeds being signed correctly the process to transfer the reading room to the custodian trusteeship of the Parish Council is on-going.

Tree Inspections – Work remains on-going to complete a tree management plan including the definition of a competent person to inspect the trees after high winds. It was clarified that this person would need to be employed as and when required.

It was also noted under this item that the drainage problems on the village green will again need investigated. This is to be discussed at the next meeting.

Bench Donation – It is believed that the bench that has been donated to the PC can be placed opposite the former Centurion Inn in due course

Centurion Inn Enforcement – The City Council have informed the Parish Council that as the Planning Inspectorate dismissed the enforcement notice appeal on 18th September

Signed:.....

Date:.....

2012, the period of compliance is 6 months, therefore the requirements of the notice are to be met by 18th March 2013.

484/13 Standing Orders

Updated Standing Orders had been circulated to all Councillors for comments. Suggestions for amendments were provided and therefore the adoption was deferred until the next meeting.

485/13 Audit Documents

It was **resolved** to adopt and sign the following:

- Internal audit review (including terms of reference)
- Asset Register 2012/13
- Financial Risk Assessment 2012/13
- Insurance Risk Assessment 2012/13

It was also noted that the six-month mid-term internal audit has recently been completed with no outstanding issues.

486/13 Calendar of Dates 2013

The dates for the forthcoming year had been previously circulated and were noted. Meetings to remain on the second Monday of every other month.

487/13 Grant Procedures

A proposed grant application form had been previously circulated. It was **resolved** to adopt the application form with immediate effect following one amendment (to increase the space available to complete project details).

488/13 Parish Charter Consultation

The parish charter and formal working agreements had been previously circulated. After discussion it was **resolved** that a response would be made to say that the Parish Council had no comments on the Charter itself but they were disappointed that the City Council had already chosen to ignore the pledge to consult Councils following their decision not to allow for comments on their budget.

JE

489/13 Cumbria County Council Budget Consultation

The document or website link had been circulated with the agenda. It was **resolved** that authority be given to the Chairman to respond on behalf of the Parish Council. Councillors were encouraged to respond as individuals too.

JE

490/13 Village Hall

It was reported that the reading room development is continuing with the installation of the kitchen and floor taking place next. It was also reported that Mrs Winter has resigned as bookings secretary after many years, partly due to the inconvenience of regular user groups failing to clear away tables and chairs after bookings. A replacement bookings secretary is therefore sought. It was also commented that the tea room would be re-opening in the Spring in the Reading Room following correspondence with all regular hall users.

491/13 Save Our Pub

There was little progress to report. Concerns were expressed about the visual appearance of the former car park and it was debated whether the current owners be spoken to. Concerns over two other areas of the parish were however also raised and it was **resolved** to discuss the matter of village tidiness (potentially in conjunction with the Cumbria in Bloom topic) more thoroughly on the next agenda.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

492/13 Broadband

Little further progress has been made since the last meeting. An interesting discussion followed regarding masts and the implications for Walton.

493/13 Social Committee

It was reported that Councillor Woods has resigned from the Social Committee so no update could be formally provided other than to note the forthcoming pie and pea supper. It was clarified for the benefit of everyone that the Social Committee are a formal part of the Village Hall Management structure and their purpose is to put on social events to fundraise for the benefit of Walton Village Hall. Due to this they fall under the Parish Council and Hall joint insurance and therefore a new representative will be to appoint in due course. The Social Committee are to be informed of this.

JE

494/13 Community Led Plan Group

An updated questionnaire listing the noted action points was in the process of being delivered to all households in the parish. To follow this up an open meeting was to be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 26th January between 2-4pm.

495/13 12/0847 L/A rear of 1 & 2 Whitehouse, Walton, Brampton, CA8 2DJ - Residential Development (Outline Application)

No outcome of the decision had been officially notified before the meeting. Councillor AF Armstrong reported a private matter concerning stock movements with the planning application. He was advised to contact the planning department independently immediately.

496/13 CPCA Grant Application

It was **resolved** to submit a joint application with the Village Hall Management Committee for restoration works, including a new roof, to the toilet block.

497/13 Accounts to end December 2012

The accounting statement had been previously circulated and it was noted that an internal transfer of funds would be required due to the loss made during the year.

498/13 Precept 2013/14

A report had been previously circulated. After consideration it was **resolved** to increase the precept by 1.5% to £4952.

499/13 Donation Request from St. Mary's Churchyard

Mr Knowles informed the Council that grass cutting per year cost approximately £760. After consideration it was therefore **resolved** to donate slightly more than the budgeted amount and give £200 for this financial year.

500/13 Accounts Payable

The following receipts were noted:

- £300 Walton Village Hall (Return of donation previously awarded)
- £1500 Carlisle City Council (CPCA Grant)
- £120 Carlisle City Council (Recycling)
- £30 Cumbria County Council (Newsletter advert)
- £300 Councillor Bowman Donation (Lees Hill School)
- £1000 internal transfer from Savings to Current Account

Signed:.....

Date:.....

Resolved: to authorise the following expenditure:

- £136.72 Sarah Kyle January 2013 (salary)
- £136.72 Sarah Kyle February 2013 (salary)
- £152.17 Sarah Kyle (Reimbursements and expenses)
- £1500 Walton Village Hall (CPCA Grant)
- £696 Phil Short (Walton Reading Room electrical equipment)
- £300 Walton Village Hall (Forwarding of Councillor Bowman donation)
- £7 Walton Village Hall (Rental)
- £300 Lees Hill School (Councillor Bowman Donation)
- £1000 internal transfer from Savings to Current Account

501/13 Council Matters and Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- Drainage
- Appearance of properties in parish
- Cumbria in Bloom
- Camping Barn at Kingbarn

- Summer Play Schemes – the potential to host a summer play scheme is to be followed up with immediate effect and fully reported at the next meeting.

TB

It was noted that a manhole cover was absent from the Village Green and this is to be reported immediately. It was also clarified that street light power outages can be reported through the City Council website.

JF

502/13 Correspondence

The following were noted:

- ACT Gazette
- CALC Circular
- Local News and Views (Cumbria County Council)

503/13 Date Of Next Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Monday 11th March 2013 at 7pm. The next meeting of Walton Parish Council will take place after this meeting. Agenda items for this meeting should be submitted to the Clerk no later than Friday 1st March 2013.

The meeting closed at 9.31pm.

Signed:.....

Date:.....