

## LEVENS PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 11 July 2017 in the Methodist Meeting Room, Levens at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Cllrs. R Atfield (Chairman), S. Bagot, K. Holmes, R. Mason, D. Rogerson, J. Thacker, + District Cllr. A. Rawlinson, County Cllr. J. Bland (part), M. R. Curry (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

**17/17 Apologies for absence:** Cllrs. H. Burrow, S Hargraves and PCSO Park

**18/17 Declarations of interest:** None

#### **19/17 Minutes**

It was **resolved** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 9 May 2017 as a true record.

#### **20/17: Public Participation:**

- a) In response to his enquiry, Mr J Watson received confirmation that the condition of the village roads would be referred to under Item 9, Matters Arising from the Village Tour.

#### **21/17: Reports:**

- a) **Reports from Meetings:** Village Website – Cllr Rogerson reported that he was now a member of the Web Team. He had attended a recent meeting when edits to the Parish Council page, previously discussed with the Clerk, had been agreed. It was also agreed to post future editions of the PC Newsletter and to submit Minutes as approved.
- b) **Police:** PCSO Park's written report referred to 13 calls for service within the Parish. Just one was in relation to crime, being the shooting of a sheep thought to be caught in the crossfire of poachers shooting deer. Two call-outs in relation to welfare found the subjects to be safe and well. In relation to the proposal to issue a newsletter report rather than automatic attendance at meetings, PCSO Park has confirmed her intention to continue attendance as often as possible.
- c) **District Councillor:** Reports from Cllr Rawlinson (AR):
  - i. Affordable housing on the Story Homes development: AR referred to the recent correspondence between Cllr Burrow, SLDC and Story homes regarding the status of affordable housing on the new development. After significant correspondence it had been confirmed that the houses would be available for discounted sale and not on a shared equity basis as recently proposed by Story Homes. The Parish Council thanked Cllr Burrow for her perseverance in resolving this issue.
  - ii. The Old Carpet Shop: AR confirmed that she has had further discussion with the owner and that he had agreed to tidy-up the site and of his intention to advertise the property in the Westmorland Gazette. SLDCs property agents have been asked to provide a valuation, the outcome of which may influence further discussion. AR noted the Parish Council's request that this be concluded by the date of the September meeting. She confirmed that the provision of affordable housing on the property is not a requirement and that the question of liability for rates would be reviewed.
  - iii. Dog Control Orders: SLDC is holding an eleven-week consultation to find out what people think about dog control measures in the District and AR undertook to forward details to the Clerk.

- iv. Re-cycling: AR reported that there had been no recent issues with collections. Cllr Rogerson wondered if there was evidence of reduced use now that kerb-side collection was available in the village. If so, and whilst it was acknowledged that people from outside the village used the facility, it was suggested that the number of bins might be reduced. AR undertook to look into this.

- d) **County Councillor:** Cllr. Bland reported that following the recent election the make-up of the County Council has now been agreed. At this stage he had nothing further to report

## 22/17: Finance:

- a) **Receipts:** Councillors noted the £500 transfer from the Charity to current account in respect of Clerk's allowance for Charity work in 2016/17. The Clerk reported that on receipt of the bank statement for June a further £295 in respect of parking and allotment tenancies could be reported.
- b) **Payments: Resolved:** to authorise the following payments:
 

i. Milne Moser: legal fees for title query at Sizergh Fell Quarry:	£1,544.40
ii. M R Curry: Clerk's salary May 2017	235.82
iii. A Hartley: Internal Auditor fees	50.00
iv. Laurence Ormerod: in lieu of Chq No 100996 erroneously paid to Currys/PC World for B4RN printer. Chq 100996 stopped via bank	357.86
v. Printing Plus: print costs July Newsletter	149.53
vi. Treble 3: Website secondary hosting for 1 year	30.00
vii. M R Curry: Clerks salary June 2017	366.82
viii. HMRC: Clerks PAYE Months 1-3	190.60
- c) **Legal fees for Sizergh Fell Quarry:** On the basis of responsibility for the management of public funds it was **Resolved** to request the Solicitors acting for the Hornyold-Stricklands to reimburse the Parish Council for the legal fees incurred by it on this matter.
- d) **Financial Report:** The bank reconciliation presented by the Clerk was noted.

## 23/17: Levens Community Project: (Reports by Cllr Mason)

- a) **Sale of plots at Sizergh Fell Quarry and Cotes:** A draft of the revised particulars had just been received. It was agreed to circulate these for Councillors to submit comments to the Clerk in response. The proposed sale price was questioned as at a recent meeting Colin Tomlinson had proposed £795,000 and it was **Resolved** to instruct the agents to reinstate this as the sale price. Various builders have expressed interest and are awaiting the revised particulars.
- b) **Finance and Grants:** The Clerk confirmed that the first phase of the project had been concluded with a small surplus remaining. The next phase depends on funding from the sale of Sizergh Fell Quarry and Cotes plus grants available. Cllr Mason reported on a meeting with Tony Whittaker of SLDC when it was confirmed that Community Led Housing Grants were available under a government initiative. These included Capacity Planning grants for project set-up as well as main grants for the proposed developments. The Project Group were currently coordinating figures in preparation for applications. It was agreed that Cllr Mason should continue liaison with relevant residents about land at Fiddler's cotes.
- c) **Allotments:** The proposal to support some of the allotment development costs by an application to Levens Charity was noted and it was agreed to consider this at the September meeting. The Clerk reported that all but two allotment agreements and rents have been received. Reminders have been issued for the outstanding agreements.
- d) **Project Working Group –** There were no further matters to report.

## 24/17: Planning Applications

### a) New Planning Applications

Application No.	Address	Proposal	Applicant	Type & Status	Response
7/2017/5398	Lord's Plain Farm, Levens	Extension to existing agricultural building	Mr D Martin	LDNPA	No Objection
SL/2017/0524	Greenways, Levens Lane	Front dormer and raised terrace to rear	Mr G Paton	SLDC	No Objection

### b) To note Planning Applications determined since last meeting

Application No.	Address	Proposal	Applicant	Type & Status	Decision
SL/2017/0306	Box Tree Barn Cinderbarrow	Erection of new dwelling	Mr & Mrs Marsh	Outline	Refused 02/06/17

### c) To note planning applications still to be determined

Application No.	Address	Proposal	Comment
SL/2017/0430	Low Levens Farm	Roof over farmyard	Considered on 13 June – no objection
SL/2017/0503	The Crossings, Brigsteer Road	Roof extension and dormers	Considered on 13 June – no objection

## 25/17: Matters Arising from the Village Tour on 13 June

- a) **Ex-WI Site, Brigsteer Road:** Correspondence with the WI was noted and it was agreed in principle that a tree commemorating the centenary of the WI should be planted on the site. Cllr Holmes agreed to prepare a plan for its development and maintenance as a village asset including a recommendation for an appropriate tree in response to the WI request.
- b) **Maintenance of Road Verges and Roadside Trees:** It was noted that Councillors had spent much of the Tour considering how best to tackle verge maintenance. A plan for the maintenance of Council verges is under preparation but responsibilities for other verges, between SLDC, the County Council and private owners was unclear. The Clerk reported that SLDC had submitted a note of those they are responsible for which is helpful, but further work is required to determine a coordinated approach. The same applies to roadside trees and concern was expressed about ownership and responsibilities for management, with particular reference to the removal of a large ash tree at the bottom of the Green. Cllr Rawlinson said she had some knowledge of the background to this and undertook to confirm details to the Clerk. It was **Resolved** to seek advice from appropriate officers at SLDC and the County Council to clarify responsibilities. Cllr Bland referred to the situation in Underbarrow where the Parish Council has taken over responsibility for verge maintenance under agreement. The Clerk undertook to explore this further with Underbarrow and other Parish Councils.
- c) **Other Matters Noted:** As Highwayman, the Chair confirmed that he would review the state of Parish roads and report back to Highways at the County Council on areas with problems.

## 26/17: Open Actions Not Covered Elsewhere on the Agenda:

- a) **Story Homes:** The Clerk confirmed that in response to a request to their Chief Executive, Story Homes have declined any additional financial contribution to the village. Councillors noted this with dismay and that via Cllr Rawlinson, SLDC are equally disappointed. Further consideration would be given to this. It was reported that

a Readymix wagon servicing the development had been seen washing-out on Greengate and Cllr Mason undertook to explore this.

- b) **B4RN:** Councillors noted reports from Cllrs Holmes, Rogerson and from Mr Watson which indicated positive progress with plans to go under the A6, around Levens Hall and to use an underpass to cross the A590. There are difficulties and sensitivities with the detail of the route in and around the village with many wayleaves and agreements required. Further investment in the scheme is also required, but with the support of an active local team, B4RN is addressing these issues and it is hoped to have the cabinet live by Autumn – though this will not mean all properties will be connected.
- c) **Levens Village Traffic Management:** Cllr Hargraves reported via the Clerk that he was currently investigating schemes in place in other locations to further inform the suggestions that had been made at the open meeting in May.
- d) **Support for the Allotments** – agreed to consider this at the September meeting.
- e) **Village Maintenance and Woodland Plans:** Further to the reports previously made, it was noted that this remains work in progress. The Clerk will confirm the status of land registration at the next meeting.
- f) **Parish Newsletter:** It was agreed that the July edition was a considerable improvement on other recent issues but that print and design options should be kept under review. It was noted that the next edition is required by 28 October and that it should therefore feature as an Agenda item earlier that month. It was suggested that a new title such as “News from the Parish Council” might help identify its purpose and content a little more clearly.

#### **27/17: Correspondence**

Councillors noted the correspondence received as detailed on a schedule circulated by the Clerk and discussed the following:

- a) A Household Emergency Planning poster distributed by ACT – agreed to consider distributing this via the Parish Newsletter in November;

#### **28/17: Future Agenda Items:**

- Allotment Finance
- Parish Newsletter – further updates
- Household Emergency Planning

#### **29/17: Date of Next Meeting:**

- The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council is to be held on: Tuesday, 12 September, 2017

**The Meeting closed at 9.48 p.m.**

Signed ..... (Chairman)                      Date