

LEVENS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 29 November 2016 in the Methodist Church, Levens at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. R Atfield (Chairman), S. Hargraves, K. Holmes, R. Mason, D. Rogerson, J. Thacker, + District Cllr. A. Rawlinson, County Cllr. J. Bland (part), M. R. Curry (Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

81/16 Apologies for absence: Cllrs. S. Bagot, H. Burrow

82/16 Declarations of interest: None

83/16 Minutes

It was **resolved** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 8 November 2016, as a true record.

84/16: Public Participation:

Mr J Watson advised Councillors that the response from SLDC on his complaint about the S. 106 Agreement had not satisfactorily answered the points raised and that he was now considering taking the matter to the Ombudsman.

85/16: Reports:

a) Reports from Councillors on meetings attended not otherwise on the Agenda:
No meetings attended

b) District Councillor: Reports from Cllr Rawlinson (AR):

- i. The Old Carpet Shop: The property remains on the market. AR reported that a White Paper to be published in January relating to affordable housing could have positive implications for the site. In discussion, concerns were expressed around the elapse of time and the likelihood of sale and it was noted that SLDC had previously given commitments about facilitating a solution. **Resolved** to re-engage directly with SLDC through correspondence to secure its commitment to help in resolving the future of the property.
- ii. Local footpaths: As part of a local investment programme, AR has met with the Footpath Development Officer to discuss options for Levens Lane which has also attracted interest from the Morecambe Bay Partnership.
- iii. Lyth and Witherslack Proposed Water Level Management Board: AR will continue to maintain her interest through attendance at meetings.

c) County Councillor: Cllr. Bland reported that new traffic warning signs on the A6 will be in place before Christmas.

86/16: Finance:

a) Receipts: The November bank statement was not available for this meeting – no receipts reported

- b) **Payments: Resolved:** to authorise the following payments:
 - i. Royal British Legion for Remembrance Day Wreath £ 30.00
 - ii. Bruce Nelson: Allotment costs (subject to RFO receiving invoice and checking figures) £1,890.42

87/16: Planning Applications

- a) **New Planning Applications**
SL/2016/0923: Park Head, Force Lane - No objection

88/16: Levens Community Project

- a) **Sale of Plots at Sizergh Fell Quarry and Cotes:** Cllr. Mason reported that as a result of a boundary issue at Sizergh Fell Quarry, which was not of the Parish Council's making and which arose only on the day tenders were due, it would be prudent not to accept offers at either SFQ or Cotes until the boundary matter has been resolved. Until such time, and with the support of professional agents, he recommended that information on offers is treated as commercially sensitive, the release of which could be prejudicial to securing best value and should therefore remain confidential for the time being. **Resolved:** To agree the recommendation and seek a resolution to the boundary issue.
- b) **Section 106 Agreement:** The Clerk confirmed that he had written to SLDC with a formal complaint about the process as agreed. No response had as yet been received.
- c) **Story Homes - Land to the east of Greengate, Levens:** The Clerk confirmed that Parish Council comments had been submitted to SLDC. The application will be considered at the January meeting of SLDC's Development Management Committee.
- d) **Allotments: Resolved:** The Clerk to email Councillors to gain approval to the draft terms previously circulated.
- e) **Project Working Group:** There was no report of note from the Project Working Group. It will consider the implications of the boundary issue raised at Sizergh Fell Quarry.

89/16: Levens Village Traffic Management

- a) **Report from Cllr. Bland**
Cllr Bland reported that he had spoken with the County Highways Officer as well as with the Dallam Tower Estate and the school. As a result, a drop-off / pick-up area at the village playing fields was a serious possibility subject to funding contributions from stakeholders. In response, Mr Ray Gillard representing the school Governors thanked Cllr Bland for his efforts but expressed doubts that this solution would address key concerns about traffic speed past the school and the safety of children walking to school. He said that the matter was to be discussed at a Governor's meeting on 1st December. After considerable discussion about the pros and cons of the suggestion and consideration of alternative ideas, during which Councillors acknowledged the efforts of Cllr Bagot, it was **Resolved** to await the outcome of the Governor's meeting on 1 December and review the situation at the next meeting.

. 90/16: Open Actions Not Covered Elsewhere on the Agenda:

- a) **B4RN:** Cllrs Rogerson and Holmes reported on a successful public meeting held on 24th November when Barry Forde promoted the B4RN initiative. The presentation and technical detail had been well received and generated sufficient interest for a village working group to be formed with a view to bringing B4RN to the village. Cllrs Rogerson and Holmes would remain closely connected with this initiative to coordinate the development of community support through the working group. Profile would be increased via a separate page on the village website and a publicity leaflet. **Resolved** that whilst this initiative would now be led by the village working group and subject to confirmation of costs, the Parish Council or Levens Charity would fund the cost of the leaflet in support.
- b) **Village Maintenance Plan: Resolved:** In the event of snow, Cllrs Thacker and Mason would phone John Holmes for snow clearance measures and gritting.

91/16: Correspondence: No additional correspondence was recorded other than that discussed during the meeting

92/16 Future agenda items:

- Precept: The Clerk will circulate a draft budget for 2017/18 in advance of the January meeting when the Precept will be agreed
- Revised Financial Regulations: to be approved

93/16 Date of next meeting:

- Tuesday 10 January, 2017

The Meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

Signed (Chairman) Date