

## LEVENS PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 November 2018 in the Methodist Meeting Room, Levens at 7.30 p.m.

**Present:** Cllrs. R Atfield (Chairman), S. Bagot, H. Burrow, J. Fitch, K. Holmes (also attending as District Councillor), R. Johnston, R. Mason, D. Rogerson, + County Cllr. J. Bland, M. R. Curry (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

**65/18 Apologies for absence:** No apologies were received

**66/18 Declarations of interest:** None

**67/18 Minutes:** It was **Resolved** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 09 October 2018 as a true record.

**68/18 Public Participation:** The Chairman reminded the meeting that, unless invited, members of the public may not participate outside this Agenda item. No items were raised by members of the public.

#### 69/18 Reports:

**a) Reports from Councillors on Meetings Attended:** None

**b) Police:** No report had been received from the Police.

**c) District Councillor:** Cllr Holmes (KH):

- i. KH confirmed that he had allocated £350 to Levens Parish Council from his Members' Budget, subject to members agreeing what area of work they wished it to be applied to. It was **Resolved** to confirm this at the next meeting.
- ii. KH reported that the LIPs fund was again open for bids as well as a Community Grant fund for publically accessible facilities. KH will give details to Cllr. Mason.
- iii. KH had no additional update on the position with the Carpet Shop. It was understood that at least two offers at or close to the asking price had been turned down.

**d) County Councillor:** Cllr. Bland reported that despite a delay, work continues on Sampool Bridge and also work on a surface water drainage problem on Hutton Lane. Cllr. Burrow mentioned an ongoing issue with foul water drainage, also on Hutton Lane, which had resulted in an (as yet) inconclusive meeting with United Utilities.

#### 70/18 Finance:

**a) Receipts for the period 01-31 October 2018:** None

**b) Payments: Resolved** to authorise the following payments:

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|---|--------|
| i. M R Curry: Salary and expenses October   | 472.35 |
| (Cllrs. Noted error on the Agenda which read September and also that a duplicate payment of expenses would be deducted from the next claim)   |        |
| ii. Levens Methodist Church: Room hire July 2016- March 2018  | 220.00 |
| iii. Printing Plus: October Newsletter costs  | 149.86 |
| iv. Tech4 Parish Printer: callout costs and replacement cartridge   | 129.60 |
| v. Councillor Training Costs: approved  | 125.00 |
| vi. M R Curry: approval to attend RICS Annual Rural Conference  | 138.00 |
| vii. Great North Air Ambulance Grant:   | 100.00 |
| viii. Cllr Atfield Reimbursement of costs of Remembrance Wreath:  | 30.00  |
| ix. A. Banks: Invoice for clearance of new Village Hall site for a sum yet to be confirmed - <b>approved</b> within the quote of £1040.00 (work approved at Minute 46/18(c)ii to be paid from ring-fenced CIL funds in-hand). |        |

**c) Financial Report and draft Budget 2019-20:**

- i. Bank Reconciliation at 31 October: The reconciled balance of £31,316.18p was noted.
- ii. Budget Review 31 October: After deduction of ring-fenced sums, the underlying balance of £12,953 represents the core budget. After predicted spend and income the Clerk estimates a year-end balance of £9,928, well within the recommended tolerance for a reserve of twice the annual precept. The Clerk was requested to ask the Playing Fields Association to submit a bid for annual grant in January. Members **Approved the payment** of the annual grant to the Methodist Church of £520 for hosting the Post Office on its premises.
- iii. Draft Budget 2019-20: Cllrs noted a draft budget prepared by the Clerk. Final budget will be confirmed at the January meeting in conjunction with the Precept bid. The Chairman advised that an increase in CALC subscription should be accounted for.

**71/18 Levens Community Project:** Cllr Mason reported as follows:

- a) **Sale of Sizergh Fell Quarry:** It was hoped that the planning application submitted by PARTI will be heard at the December meeting of the LDNPA planning committee. In the meantime PARTI has coordinated a meeting with LDNPA on 20 November to discuss a Tree Preservation Order which has been applied to the site. Tony Hills is to be present on behalf of the Project.
- b) **Sale of Plots at Cotes:** Cllr Mason will ask Tim Thacker about progress with the reconfiguration of the roadside parking area.
- c) **Report on Financial Position:** Cllr Mason confirmed the award of £350,000 from the Community Housing Fund and that efforts continue to confirm the position with Homes England. The Clerk will update the financial spreadsheet to confirm the current position, taking into account Capacity Grant receipts and future payments.
- d) **Project Working Group:** The Project Working Group met on 8 November with Tony Hills in attendance and received a full update on the current position. It recommended that Tony Hill be authorised to prepare applications for detailed planning permission at Cotes, Church Hill and Underhill and to prepare tender packs for building the Church Hill properties, the new hall and for groundworks at the new hall site. It was **Resolved** to approve the recommendation and instruct TH accordingly.

**72/18 Levens and Savin Brow Charities**

- a) It was **Resolved** to authorise the payment of £41.64p for the purchase of defibrillator pads from Direct365
- b) Council noted confirmation from the Charity Commission of receipt of the Annual returns for both Charities for 2017-18.

**73/18 Planning Applications: the following planning applications were discussed:**

**a) New Planning Applications:**

Application No.	Address	Proposal	Applicant	Type & Status	RESOLVED
TR/2018/0184	3 Church Close, Levens LA8 8QE	Crown reduction; sycamore	Mr C Johnson	TPO	<b>NO OBJECTION</b>
7/2018/5580	Fellside Rangers Base, Fellside LA8 8DZ	Storage Building			<b>NO OBJECTION</b>
SL/2018/0883	Benson Hall, Cotes, Levens	External works and extensions	Mr & Mrs Monks	Full panning	<b>NO OBJECTION</b>
7/2018/5610	Sizergh Fell Quarry Levens	Construction of 15 dwellings and associated infrastructure	PARTI – Mr T. Leahy	Full planning	<b>NO OBJECTION (see below)</b>

In respect of 7/2018/5610 (Sizergh Fell Quarry) it was **Resolved** to support the application. A draft letter previously circulated by the Clerk was considered and **Approved** subject to a number of agreed amendments.

b) **To note Planning Applications determined since last meeting:** None notified

c) **To note planning applications still to be determined:** None notified

#### **74/18 Outstanding Legal Matters Relating to Parish and Other Land in the Village**

a) **Parish Hedge on Hutton Lane:** Members considered legal advice received confirming that the land in question is registered to and remains in the ownership of the Parish Council. It was **Resolved** to write to the adjacent land owners accordingly.

b) **Land near Yew Tree Cottage and adjacent to Church Road:** Cllr. Mason undertook to make enquiries of local people who might have insight into the previous ownership of the land in question.

c) **Unadopted Road from The Green to Church Road:** Ongoing investigation will include making enquiries of local people who might have insight into the previous use of the land in question.

#### **75/18 Open Actions not covered elsewhere on the Agenda:**

a) **B4RN:** Following recent discussions between the B4RN local group and B4RN itself, Cllr Rogerson gave a detailed review of progress and plans. These include going over the river at Levens Bridge and using BT ducts for B4RN cable. Cllr. Mason reiterated his concerns about whether cabling could be laid at sufficient depth under his land and in other places given the proximity of bedrock to the surface. It was agreed that the appropriateness of routes into the village needed to be assessed and resolved by discussion between B4RN and those whose land was to be affected.

b) **Levens Village Traffic Management:** Councillors noted the recent correspondence from the school reiterating their concerns about road safety, particularly in the light of increased traffic from the Story Homes development. Cllr Bland confirmed that he was arranging a meeting between a Highways Officer and the school to consider all the options. Cllr Burrow reported that the police had indicated that this matter was of sufficient importance to take to a forum that they had established to consider problem areas, options and possible sources of funding. Cllr Burrow felt that all concerned should meet as a collective group to ensure a co-ordinated approach to resolving the issue. Cllr. Bland reaffirmed his intention to arrange a meeting between the school and Highways. It was **Resolved** that in the meantime, Cllr Burrow would follow-up with the police to establish their position on this issue.

c) **Maintenance Plan:** It was **Resolved** that Cllrs Burrow and Mason would draw-up a list of priority actions from the Maintenance Plan recently prepared and put these to Andy Banks for attention.

d) **Woodland Management Plan:** It was **Resolved** to appoint a contractor to go ahead with a tree Health and Safety Inspection. Andy Banks had been approached and was to confirm if he had the relevant qualification, failing which the Clerk would look elsewhere.

e) **WW1 Commemoration Events:** All agreed that the various commemorative events had been well-received and appreciated. The Parish Council also noted the excellent detail, presentation and success of the World War 1 Exhibition mounted by the Local History Group. Thanks were recorded to all concerned and in particular to Hal Bagot for annotating the display of poppies, Cllr Mason and his team for the Beacon of Light Event and to the Local History Group.

**76/18 Correspondence:** Councillors noted the schedule of correspondence circulated by the Clerk. In response to an enquiry about using low energy LED lamps in street lights it was agreed that the correspondent should be advised to refer the matter to SLDC. Members also noted good feedback on the content of the last Newsletter recently circulated.

**77/18 Future agenda items:**

- a) 2019-20 Budget and Precept
- b) Cllr Holmes' Members Grant

**78/18 Date of next meeting:**

**The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council is on Tuesday 8 January 2019.**

**The Meeting closed at 9.42 p.m.**

Signed ..... (Chairman)                      Date