

LEVENS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 11 September 2018 in the Methodist Meeting Room, Levens at 7.30 p.m.

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

33/18 Apologies for absence: PCSO Park.

34/18 Declarations of interest: None

35/18 Minutes: It was **Resolved** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10 July 2018 as a true record.

36/18 Co-option of new Parish Councillors: Cllr. Rogerson reported that he had chaired a meeting of the Parish Council Working Group on 4 September. Informal interviews had been conducted with three parishioners who had expressed an interest in filling the two vacancies for Parish Councillors previously advertised. Cllr Rogerson thanked all candidates and on behalf of the Working Group recommended that John Fitch and Rachael Johnston be appointed. The recommendation was agreed unanimously by the Parish Council.

37/18 Declarations of Acceptance, Appointment and Welcome: The Chairman invited Cllrs Fitch and Johnston to join the meeting and welcomed them as new Parish Councillors. An induction pack including Declarations of Acceptance and Members' Interests was provided for both and each signed the necessary Declarations.

38/18 Public Participation: Mr S. Read advised that he was present to hear plans for the commemoration of the centenary of the end of World War 1 in order to link with arrangements planned by the Local History Group.

39/18 Reports:

- a) Reports from Councillors on Meetings Attended:** Cllr Burrow reported on her discussions with SLDC and Storey Homes regarding the confused procedures relating to the allocation of affordable homes on new developments. Thanks to her intervention, a specific local issue appears to have been resolved and SLDC has undertaken to review their procedures in the light of anomalies in the process.
- b) Police:** PCSO Park was unable to attend, but had advised that there had been no incidents of note in the village since the last meeting.
- c) District Councillor:** Cllr Holmes (KH) confirmed that he had had correspondence from officers at SLDC about the former Carpet Shop. Building Control have applied 'Do Not Enter' tape to the perimeter fencing and referred it to Public Protection for a view on the safety of the building, whilst the Empty Homes Officer has requested the owner to contact her about safety concerns. SLDC are also seeking to clarify the 'for sale' status of the building with the selling agents. KH also confirmed that SLDC's Tree Officer is considering the condition of a white poplar on The Green. Cllr Bagot asked that consideration be given to the trees growing in the wall adjoining the path from the Church to the new Village Hall site.
- d) County Councillor:** Cllr. Bland reported that work to repair Sampool Bridge is scheduled to start during the last quarter of the month. Resurfacing of the road from Levens Bridge to Levens Lane and raising the carriageway by 200mm is also planned.

40/18 Finance:

- a) Receipts:** Councillors noted the following receipts to 31 August:

03/07/18: Morgan - Land Rent	£25.00
05/07/18: Farquar – Allotment Rent	£35.00
09/07/18: Proctor – Land Rent	£25.00
16/07/18: Thacker – Land Rent	£80.00

- b) Payments:** Councillors resolved to authorise the following payments:
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| i. Zurich Municipal: Insurance Renewal | £391.61 |
| ii. M R Curry: Salary and Expenses – July / August | £841.41 |
| iii. Levens Good Neighbours: Parish Council Grant | £180.00 |
- c) Financial Report:** The Clerk reported that there had been relatively few financial transactions since the last meeting and that the balance in the bank at 31 August was £35,599.64. The figure is inflated by ring-fenced sums of £12,234.00 (Cumbria County Council for local projects – not necessarily solely in Levens) and £6,129 (Parish Council funds to be applied to defined purposes). The Clerk will present a half-year review against budget and bank reconciliation at the October meeting.

41/18 Charity Matters:

- a) The Clerk confirmed** that the Autumn meeting of the Committee of Trustees would be held on 25 September 2018.
- b) Councillors noted** an application from Levens Bowling Club to be considered by the Committee of Trustees on 25 September. The Clerk was instructed to ask the applicant to provide a further 2 quotes for the intended work by 25th September in accordance with the criteria for awarding grants.
- c) Councillors approved** the transfer of £7,000 from the Charity Deposit Fund to the HSBC Charity Account to meet proposed payments
- d) Councillors authorised** the payment of £7,113.60p to Pandora Signs for the supply and installation of Speed Indicator Devices. Cllr Rogerson received the thanks of the Parish Council for leading on this initiative and the Clerk was also asked to thank David and Charlotte of Pandora signs for their service.

42/18 Levens Community Project: Cllr. Mason reported as follows:

- a) Sale of Sizergh Fell Quarry (SFQ):** Councillors noted the signing of the Option Agreement by PARTI and the receipt a non-refundable Option Sum of £7,000. Councillors also noted the proposal by PARTI for a 'drop-in' consultation event at the Strickland Arms on the afternoon of the 19 September. Councillors welcomed this initiative, though with some observations about the venue, length of notice and publicity of the event. It concluded that this was an event that it should support and facilitate, whilst making it clear that it was being organised, hosted and promoted by PARTI specifically about their plans for SFQ.
- b) Sale of Plots at Cotes:** All three plots remain on the market. There is a proposal to clear and level the sites to provide prospective purchasers with a better impression of how the sites will accommodate new buildings. Tim Thacker has spoken with Mr Edmondson during a visit to confirm the work required to reconfigure the car parking plot.
- c) Report on Project Finances:**
- i) The Clerk reported that the Project is currently in funds by £6,281 as a result of Capacity Grant and the Option Sum for SFQ received. A revised version of the Business Plan has been received which will be included in an updated bid to SLDC for Scheme Grant via the Community-Led Housing Fund (CLHF) to be submitted shortly.
 - ii) Councillors authorised payment of the following invoices:

• Milne Moser for concluding the Option Agreement	£840.00
• Milne Moser for work in connection with the sale of land at Cotes	£261.00
• Wingspan Consultancy for updating the Business Plan	£720.00
 - iii) Councillor Mason reported that the bid to the Big Lottery had been unsuccessful, but that the outcome of a bid to Orsted's Walney Wind Farm Extension Fund was awaited. In addition to the bid to the CLHF, a key bid to Homes England is under preparation. A number of smaller bids will be submitted to various funds in due course.

- d) **Project Working Group:** Members noted the upcoming meeting of the Project Working Group to be held on 18 September. Invitations had been extended to the entire Levens Institute Committee and Parish Council in order to update all on the revised Business Plan and planned actions.

43/18 Planning Applications

a) **Members noted the following new application and Resolved to make no objection:**

Application No.	Address	Proposal	Applicant	Type & Status	Outcome
SL/2018/0732	Hare & Hounds	Redevelopment of external areas	B Dewar	FP	NO OBJECTION

b) **Members noted the following Planning Applications determined since last meeting**

Application No.	Address	Proposal	Applicant	Decision
7/2018/5329	Lane End Farm	Static caravan	National Trust	Approved conditionally
SL/2018/0579	Low Levens Farm	Steel framed agric building	Messrs Parsons	Approved conditionally

c) **Members noted the following planning applications still to be determined**

Application No.	Address	
TR/2018/0148	Nethercroft, Lowgate	Crown lift 30% beech tree
SL/2018/0659	High Sampool	Single Storey rear extension
SL/2018/0592 and 0619	Lakesway Holiday Home & Lodge Park	Objections submitted to both applications on 05/09/2018. It was Resolved to confirm the planning committee date with a view to a Member attending if possible.

44/18 Fly Posting and Unlawful Advertising:

Members expressed concern about the proliferation of ad hoc signage on road verges particularly in the area of Levens Bridge to the junction with the A590. It was **Resolved** as follows:

- To contact SLDC to enquire as to who is responsible for monitoring and taking action on unregulated signage on road verges;
- To contact the Highways Department at Cumbria County Council to draw its attention to ad hoc signage and fly-tipping on the A590;
- To draw attention to the modification of / changes made to brown tourist signs to promote particular facilities.

45/18 World War One Commemorations:

- After discussion it was agreed to proceed with investigations into the renovation of the war memorial plaque.
- The Clerk confirmed that the Parish is registered for a beacon to be lit on Hynning Hill on 11 November at 7.00p.m. as part of a nationwide commemoration. Guidance from the national organisers has suggested that the names of casualties might appropriately be read out at the commencement of the event. Cllr Mason agreed to coordinate the beacon, whilst the Clerk will advise the Fire Brigade and Police and prepare a simple Risk Assessment.
- Mr. S Read confirmed that the Levens Local History Group will be mounting an exhibition about the village in WW1 in the Church and the Institute to coincide with the centenary. His offer to publicise the beacon as part of this event was welcomed. This event would be followed by the publication of a book on the subject, probably early in the New Year.
- As a further act of remembrance, it was agreed to procure event poppies to locate around the village, each bearing the name of a fatality from the Parish. Members appreciated Cllr Johnston's offer to source these and approved expenditure of up to £100 to support the costs of the commemorative initiative.

46/18 Open Actions Not Covered Elsewhere on the Agenda:

- a) **B4RN:** The Clerk reported that Simon Doddrell is currently liaising with SLDC over the information required for the release of the LIPs grant and coordinating the supply of information from B4RN. It was understood that responsibility for satisfying SLDCs requirements on this lies with B4RN. Cabling routes and wayleave arrangements continue to develop and Cllr Holmes undertook to confirm further detail.
- b) **Levens Village Traffic Management:** Cllr Rogerson reported that the SIDs had been procured and installed at Greengate and Beathwaite Close. He, Cllr Burrow and Cllr Mason received thanks for their various contributions. There was discussion about location, particularly in relation to the local shared SID which will come to Levens periodically. Various options were proposed – to be confirmed as the result of further deliberation. It was **Resolved** to write to CCC to request the replacement of damaged salt bins.
- c) **Village Maintenance: The Clerk reported on a number of issues:**
 - i. Completion of the work to the roadside boundary wall on Brigsteer Road by Andrew Kitching was noted. His invoice is awaited which will be paid by the Levens Charity. Andrew has also maintained the main noticeboard free of charge.
 - ii. Following an interview conducted by Cllr Mason and Cllr Burrow with the Clerk in attendance, Members considered a recommendation to appoint Mr Andrew (Andy) Banks as maintenance contractor on a call-off contract to be reviewed at three yearly intervals. Based on the information submitted by him including proposed hourly rates, it was **Resolved** to appoint him in that capacity. The Clerk will advise him and set-up appropriate arrangements. Based on quotes submitted, Mr Banks was awarded the contracts to clear the new Village Hall site and to renovate to village benches.
- d) **Woodland Management:** Following circulation of the Woodland Management Plan prepared by David Preston and Kerry Milligan it was **Resolved** to accept this. Plans will be prepared to implement recommendations and Councillors agreed to express thanks to the contractors for their comprehensive report.

47/18 Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence received and discussed the following:

- i. It was agreed to advise Mr Alan Davies of Helsington Parish Council that Levens PC has no objection to plans proposed by the Lake District National Park for improvements to existing public access in the Lyth Valley.
- ii. Scaffolding at Cinderbarrow – it was not clear what the Parish Council could do about this issue on the basis of information supplied.

48/18 Future agenda items:

- i. To confirm arrangements for the WW1 commemoration event
- ii. Parish Council newsletter

49/18 Date of next meeting:

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council is on Tuesday 09 October, 2018

The Meeting closed at 10.31 p.m.

Signed (Chairman) Date