



Colton Parish Council

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The following are the minutes of the Colton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 22nd February 2010 in Finsthwaite Village Hall at 7.30 p.m..

Members Present: Cllr Barr (Chair) Cllr Dean Cllr Potts Cllr Taylor Cllr Robinson Cllr Watson
Cllr Fishwick Ms M Lane (Clerk)

Also present: Cllr Wilson (CCC) Cllr Davies (SLDC) PC Diana Wilcock and colleague and 5 members of the public

016/10 Apologies

Cllr Cunliffe (working) Cllr Lovegrove (ill health)

ACTION

017/10 Minutes of Last Meeting

It was resolved that the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th January 2010 as a true record.

018/10 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Potts declared a prejudicial interest in item 9. on the Agenda: Finsthwaite Clock Maintenance as a member of the Finsthwaite Clock Committee.

019/10 Update on Issues and Actions from Last Meeting

- Bouth Playground surface and repairs: Receipt of a second estimate was awaited.
- Community Plan (CP): The first social event held on 28th January yielded a good response; a summary of ideas and opinions for the future of the Parish has been circulated. Another similar event was planned. The Community Plan Working Group still had no Chairman or Secretary. A bid was being made to Action For Communities in Cumbria for CP funding.

020/10 Public Participation

Mr Charlie Mackeith gave a presentation on plans for Snows Heights Outdoor Centre, to be submitted later in the year. The Snows Heights Trust was a charity based in Blackpool that enabled young people, some from disadvantaged backgrounds, to learn about the environment. The present huts on site had been condemned as unsuitable. A re-build was planned at the cost of around £500,000. The money was yet to be raised. The site had been 'regularised' with the National Park in 2002, with conditions including limiting the number on site to 30 people. New plans would request an increase to 40 people and an increase of the building height to 4m. It was suggested that the Trust might wish to increase its level of liaison with the local community.

PC Diana Wilcock spoke about a recent increase in boat thefts in the area; a meeting on this topic was to be held at Water Yeat Village Hall on 13th March.

021/10 Comments from District and County Councillors

Cllr Wilson (CCC): i) Field of Pigs, Ealinghearth: The Highway Inspector was in contact with the owner about the flooding effect; notices have been put on the road. ii) Speed Limits in Bouth: The Local Committee Highways group had been unanimous in wanting Cumbria County Council to re-think its 'do nothing' policy on speed limits through villages. iii) Green Roads: Cllr Wilson had asked again about the lack of progress on the setting up of a Working Group with Parish Council representation; he would contact a senior officer in the Cumbria Countryside Access Partnership. iv) Pot-hole repair: some extra funding was to be allocated, but the shortage of money for Highways would mean cuts in general.

Cllr Davies (SLDC): i) Local Area Partnership (LAP): There was still no Chairman; Cllr Davies felt that the Chairman should come from a Parish Council, not principal authorities. ii) Renewable Energy: he had attended a conference in Penrith on 17th February for members of planning committees; he felt that the government was strongly supporting wind turbines.

022/10 Accounts

It was resolved that the following payments be made:

- Cheque number 000482 - C.Slater - Lengthsman salary for Nov 09 - **£187.00**
- Cheque number 000483 - C.Slater - Lengthsman salary for Dec 09 - **£115.50**
- Cheque number 000484 - Finsthwaite and Lakeside Village Hall hire 08/09 - **£30.00**
- Cheque number 000485 - A.Lane, Clerk, salary Oct-Dec 2009 - **£1068.00**
- Cheque number 000486 - A.Lane, Clerk, home office allowance for 08/09 - **£150.00**
- Cheque number 000487 - A.Lane, Clerk, office supplies - **£114.34**
- Cheque number 000488 - A.Lane, Clerk, travel FY09/10 - **£54.00**

- Cheque number 000489 - A.Lane, Clerk, expenses, Community Plan event, 28th Jan - **£63.09**
- Cheque number 000490 - A.Lane, Clerk, Bouth Village Green advance - **£100.00**
- Cheque number 000491 - Cllr Dean, Travel expenses for 09/10 - **£60.40**
- Cheque number 000492 - Cllr Barr, Travel expenses for 09/10 - **£91.20**
- Cheque number 000493 - Cllr Taylor, Travel expenses for 09/10 - **£9.60**
- Cheque number 000494 - C.Slater, Lengthsman salary for Jan10 - **£159.50**

The Budget check for 2009/2010 - The Clerk reported an under-spend of about £1000, due mainly to Lengthsman ill-health, lack of claims from Bouth Village Green, no further notice board repairs, and efficiencies in office expenses, printing and travel. It was agreed that this amount would need to be carried over, as Bouth playground surface repairs and notice-boards repairs were pending.

The SLDC Parish Council Remuneration Panel recommendations for 2010/2011 (no change) were approved.

023/10 Planning

The following responses to planning applications were noted:

- 7/2009/5632 - 12, Landing Howe, Lakeside: Ground floor extension. *No objection.*
- 7/2009/5590 - New Hall, Bouth: New agricultural storage building. *No objection.*
- 7/2009/5651 - Abbot Park Farm, Bandrake Head: Change of use:barn to tea-room. *No objection.*

The following refusal of planning permission was noted:

- 7/2009/5452 - Stricely Fell Caravan Park: 2 additional caravans

The following dismissal of appeal against refusal of planning decision was noted:

- Tanglewood, 4, Brown Howe, Water Yeat - new boat store and jetty.

Concern from Ickenthaite resident at Barkhouse Bank over size of replacement telegraph poles: the Chairman had written to the LDNPA expressing concern at the apparent lack of need for planning permission for these much larger poles that dominated the site.

Concerns over planning procedures: Blawith PC had asked whether Colton PC wanted to join in expressing concerns over planning procedures; there had been some mistakes and misrepresentations made during the past year. It was suggested that this might be a topic for the High Furness Local Area Partnership; the Clerk would suggest this to Blawith PC.

Clerk

024/10 Finsthwaite Clock Maintenance

The annual grant made to the Finsthwaite Clock Committee for clock maintenance had reached its 5-yearly review. Cllr Potts explained that the clock was a war memorial and was a feature of the village. He left the room during discussion of this item. **It was resolved** that an annual grant of £150 should be made, which would be reviewed after 3 years.

Clerk

025/10 Phone Kiosks

BT had changed their policy on electricity supply to adopted kiosks and would now be responsible for costs including any disconnection fee. However, a clause in the agreement implied that this might hold for 5 years only. It was resolved to adopt both the Nibthwaite and the Oxen Park phone kiosks subject to satisfactory 3rd party insurance cost and confirmation that the electricity supply costs (or disconnection fee) would not have to be paid by the Parish Council after the 5 year term.

Clerk

026/10 Highways

i) Salt/grit: Cllr Wilson reported on the recent South Lakeland Local Committee Highways Working Group meeting. A report by Keith Masser (Area Highways Engineer) indicated a willingness to improve on this winter's roads maintenance. Parish Councils would be consulted on Priority 2 and 3 gritting routes via the Local Area Partnerships, with a full review of Priority 3 routes. The list of grit bins and heaps held by Highways was inaccurate. Colton parish's map of grit bins and heaps and list of existing bins and new bins required was mentioned as an example of good practice. Funds would be sought for additional grit bins. There had also been discussions with SLDC on the lack of rubbish collection during 3-4 weeks when the roads were ice-bound, and there was a willingness to cooperate better in future.

ii) Bouthrey Bridge damage: A consultation letter had been received from Capita Symonds on repair/reconstruction options for Bouthrey Bridge. There were 3 options presented: A – demolish and replace the bridge as a replica, B – repair the bridge, C – Demolish and replace with a rectangular beam-deck. Colton had agreed with Blawith & Subberthwaite Parish Council to hold a joint Public Meeting at Water Yeat on Thursday 11th March, followed by respective short extraordinary Parish Council meetings to decide on a response.

ii) Lowick Bridge: This bridge had also suffered some damage, but remained safe for traffic and would not be closed; repairs were scheduled.

027/10 Projects

It was resolved to allocate between £400 and £500 to Community Plan activities in FY10/11. A bid for matched funding was being submitted to Action for Communities in Cumbria.

Notice boards were still in need of repair; the Clerk had been in touch with the joiner who had

made the Claife boards and was awaiting an estimate.

Cllr Watson reminded the Council that a new bench was still in his barn waiting to be sited. The bench had been destined for Oxen Park, but the large clump of Japanese Knotweed had first to be tackled. Cllr Barr asked Councillors to suggest an alternative site for the bench.

All Cllrs

028/10 Consultations

The following consultation responses were noted:

i) Nuclear Power Stations in Cumbria: Objections had been expressed to the siting of more nuclear power station sites in west Cumbria, particularly at Kirksanton because of i) its proximity to important wildlife sites and ii) the likely need for road improvement schemes to cater for increased heavy traffic to access the area from the A590 at Greenodd.

ii) Defra: New National Parks Circular and Vision Statement: The Clerk explained that this document was important policy guidance for National Parks. However, local communities had not been consulted although some 50 separate recreational organisations had been consulted. Information about this consultation had come from a third-party a few days before the deadline. The Clerk had sent in a response on behalf of Colton, including a complaint about the lack of consultation; CALC had also sent in a complaint.

The following new consultations were noted and procedure for responding agreed:

i) LDNPA – Core Strategy Independent Examination – hearing meetings 12th March and 3-10th May. It was agreed that Cllr Potts would attend.

ii) Cumbria Community Energy Trust – consultation on community-owned renewable energy solutions, by 31st March. It was agreed that Cllr Taylor would circulate a draft response.

iii) Public Toilets in South Lakeland, by 4th April – it was agreed that Colton would not submit a response, there being no public toilets in its area.

iv) Coniston Byelaws (Bluebird Project) re-draft consultation, by 28th March. It was agreed that Cllr Fishwick would respond.

Cllr
Potts
Cllr
Taylor

Cllr
Fishwick

029/10 Meetings

The following meeting reports were received:

i) Green Energy meeting on hydro-power, 21st January: Cllr Taylor explained that Satterthwaite Parish Council are aiming for a working turbine next year that should yield £10,000 per year for community projects. It was confirmed that Cllr Taylor should proceed with plans for a meeting of representatives from all Councils in the High Furness LAP in May. Cllr Fishwick reported that the LDNPA had identified potential hydro sites in Cumbria, though none are in Colton Parish.

ii) CALC Training ‘Essentials for Local Councillors’: Cllr Taylor reported that the course had been very helpful and the instructor excellent. Colton’s ‘Councillor’s Information Pack’ cited as an example of good practice. He noted that it was permitted to provide refreshments from Council funds at an Annual Parish Meeting, and suggested that Colton should do this.

iii) High Furness Local Area Partnership meeting, 9th February: Cllr Barr reported. No chair had yet been appointed and the meeting proceeded in an unstructured fashion until Cllr Anne Hall was asked to chair. Cllr Barr had presented his experiences from the Grange and Cartmel Community Board, its governance and administration as an example. The meeting was in danger of being dominated by one or two individuals and some strong leadership would be needed for future meetings; it was agreed that the chair should come from Parish rather than from District or County level.

Attendance to the following meetings was approved:

i) CALC South Lakeland District Association, 4th March: Cllr Dean to attend

ii) High Furness Neighbourhood Forum, 3rd March, Broughton: All to inform Clerk if wish to attend.

iii) CALC: Open Space Protection, 13th March, Ulverston: Cllr Fishwick would try to attend

Clerk

CllrDean
Cllr
Fishwick

030/10 Correspondence

Receipt of the following correspondence was noted:

CALC/NALC

- Lake District Parishes Meeting - 19th April, Skiddaw Hotel, Keswick
- Training courses for 2010
- Small-scale community-owned renewables in Cumbria - questionnaire
- Notification of ballot for attendance at the Royal Garden Party 2010
- Freedom of Information Update - training course, Newton Rigg
- Request to complete questionnaire on Quality Status experience
- CALC Circular - Feb 2010
- CALC Spring 2010 Training Programme
- SL District Association Meeting papers for 4th March
- Seminar on renewable energy schemes, Casterton, 10th March
- Notice of Public exhibitions on off-shore wind-farms 10th/11th Feb
- CALC Training and Development Bulletin - Feb 2010

CCC

- Low Furness Neighbourhood Forum Agenda for 19th January
- Cumbria Community Energy Trust - press release and questionnaire - by 31st March
- Flood recovery updates.
- Notification of changed date for next High Furness LAP meeting to 9th Feb
- Temporary road closure at The Sheilings, Bouth. 23rd Feb for 3 days
- Copy of reply from Highways to Tim Farron MP's letter on Colton's behalf on lack of salt/grit
- Farmers' flood bulletin and funding information
- Response from Highways to letter from Tim Farron MP on lack of salt delivery to Colton Parish
- Agenda for High Furness LAP, 9th Feb
- Help for surveys of trees on land owned by parish councils
- Environment message - Flood Recovery update
- Capita - consultation on options for Bouthrey Bridge repair
- Correspondence about Bouthrey Bridge and Lowick Bridge damage
- Winter maintenance and employment of farmers - copy of reply to Tim Farron MP's letter.
- High Furness Neighbourhood Forum Agenda for 3rd March 2010

SLDC

- Consultation on provision of public toilets in Cumbria - by 4th April
- Register of Electors for Colton Parish, 2009/2010
- Standards Committee papers for 9th Feb
- Agenda for Extraordinary Council Meeting, 16th Feb
- Parish Remuneration Panel - recommendations for FY 2010/2011

LDNPA

- LDNPA LDF - CD of documents as submitted to the Secretary of State
- Consultation on draft Coniston Water byelaws for Bluebird Trials. By 28th March
- LDNPA Core Strategy Independent Examination. Confirmation of Colton PC's response, and invitation to attend Public pre-hearing meeting on 12th March in Kendal - by 12th Feb.
- Helicopter air-lifts notification, Fix-the-Fells project, Gummers Howe, 18th Feb
- Malcolm Wilson Rally, 6th March - closure of rights of way in Grizedale.

Cumbria CVS and ACT: Cumbria CVS News Jan/Feb 2010

Other

- Friends of the Lake District - Overhead Wires Newsletter, Winter 2009
- CCAP - MPV sub-group - report on UCRs 5051 and 5064
- Satterthwaite PC - Agenda for 18th and minutes of last meeting
- Local Works - lobbying MP for making the Sustainable Communities Bill law (MP already signed up)
- Haverthwaite PC - minutes of meeting on 11th Jan
- Millom Without PC - Concern over proposed nuclear power station site at Kirksanton
- Charlie Mackeith - Snows Heights outdoor centre re-development - presentation/site visit proposal
- Coniston and Crake Partnership - Notes from core group meeting 12th Jan
- Millom Without Parish Council - information on proposed nuclear power station at Kirksanton
- Coniston Parish Council - Notice for next meeting on 8th Feb re Flooding.
- Lake District Still Waters Partnership meeting invitation - 26th Feb, Brockhole
- Defra: new policy guidance document for National Parks - received via Coniston PC. Concern at lack of community consultation and dilution of views of local communities. Deadline 5th Feb
- Great North Air Ambulance - request for support
- Mencap - request for support.
- British Red Cross - request for support
- Clerks and Councils Direct Newsletter Jan 2010 and Suppliers Guide and Yearbook.
- RoSPA Playsafety Inspection booklet.
- Malcolm Wilson Rally - Grizedale - 6th March
- Friends of the Lake District - e-newsletter, Feb 2010
- Windermere Lake Restoration Programme - 'Windermere Reflections' project - newsletter
- Correspondence between Cllr Taylor and Tim Farron MP on obstacles to hydropower in Cumbria
- Coniston PC - Agenda for 15th Feb and minutes of last meeting
- Blawith PC - Minutes of meeting 7th Jan
- Coniston PC - Flood Forum Action Plan
- Abacus - quote for Bouth playground repairs (£1669.04 + VAT)
- Tim Farron MP - surgery sessions time-table
- North West Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation, - Examination in Public - statements submitted
- Coniston - revised Flood Action List

031/10 Date of Next Meeting and Meeting Dates for 2010/2011

The next meeting was confirmed as the Annual Open Parish Meeting followed by a Parish Council meeting on Monday 29th March in Rusland Reading Rooms, 7.30 p.m. Meeting venues for 10/11 were confirmed.