



Colton Parish Council

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The following are the minutes of the Colton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 29th March 2010 in Rusland Reading Rooms following the Annual Parish Open Meeting held at 7.30 p.m..

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

Also present: Cllr Wilson (CCC) Cllr Davies (SLDC) and 1 member of the public

037/10 Apologies

Cllr Fishwick (holiday) Cllr Lovegrove (other commitment) Cllr Watson (working)

ACTION

038/10 Minutes of Last Meeting

It was resolved that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 22nd February 2010 and the minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 11th March 2010 as true records.

039/10 Declarations of Interest

None.

040/10 Update on Issues and Actions from Last Meeting

- Bouth Playground repairs: The Clerk reported that she had managed to reinstate the bid to Low Furness Neighbourhood Forum with Debbie Binch for playground surface repairs and that the bid for £1000 had finally been submitted. The Clerk and Chairman had met with the officers of the Bouth Village Green Committee on 19th March to discuss how to go forward. The Bouth Village Green AGM was to be held on Monday 26th April.
- Community Plan: The Clerk and Cllr Fishwick had submitted a bid to Action for Communities in Cumbria (ACT) for £500 towards the cost of the Community Plan.

041/10 Public Participation

No matters were raised.

042/10 Comments from District and County Councillors

Cllr Wilson (CCC): i) Winter Maintenance of Roads: A consultation had been circulated to all Parish Councils; the Clerk confirmed she had received this. ii) Bouthrey Bridge repairs: County Councillors Wilson and Salisbury had expressed concern to County that neither of them had been invited to the Bouthrey Bridge site meeting. iii) Green Roads: He had written to Mr Terwey (Cumbria Countryside Access Partnership) about the lack of progress with the sub-committee due to be convened on green roads in Colton Parish. He advised that the Council should keep pushing. The Clerk would also contact CALC who had expressed concern at the lack of transparency of the CCAP. iv) He had been contacted about repair of a wall that had fallen down on the Rusland Beeches road; Highways were declining to repair it. Cllr Robinson would liaise with Cllr Wilson

Clerk

**Cllr
Robinson**

Cllr Davies (SLDC): SLDC had allocated £2000 per District Councillor to be spent on the Local Area Partnerships. It was likely that this money would be spent on capital projects and probably where there was matching funding. Cllr Barr asked Councillors to think about what type of large-scale project would benefit both the LAP as a whole and Colton Parish.

All Cllrs

043/10 Accounts

It was resolved that the following payments be made:

- Cheque number 000495 - CALC subscription for 10/11 - **£188.50**
- Cheque number 000496 - Blawith and Nibthwaite Village Hall hire part fee for 11th March - **£9.00**
- Cheque number 000497 - A.Lane, Clerk, stationery, print cartridges, village hall heating - **£57.57**
- Cheque number 000498 - C. Potts, travel to LDNPA-LDF pre-hearing meeting - **£14.20**

044/10 Planning

The following responses to planning applications were noted:

- 7/2010/5085 - The Nook, Finsthwaite - retrospective permission for replacement septic tank and new sewage treatment plant. *No objection.*
- 7/2010/5079 - Ridding Bay, Lakeside - proposed alterations and extension to existing dwelling to form private pool/recreation area. *No objection.*
- T/2010/0014 - Tree Preservation Order Number 5 - Fell and replace 17 badly damaged (by

grey squirrels) Rusland beech trees, planted in the last 20 years. *No objection*

045/10 Highways

- Winter Maintenance of Roads: It was resolved that the Clerk would respond to the consultation on behalf of the Council
- Bouthrey Bridge: The Council had now responded to Capita Symond's consultation on bridge repair at its extraordinary meeting on 11th March. The letter had been circulated and was also on the website. The Clerk had sent a copy of the letter and application forms for support funding to Mr Hodgson at Arklid Farm. Cllr Wilson had also send him forms and information earlier in the year.
- Flooding in Finsthwaite: Four cottages in Finsthwaite had been badly flooded in November, exacerbated by historic drainage systems in the area and under the road, in bad repair. One resident had discovered that SLDC were offering help with remedial works, and officers had been sent to the area to investigate. The Council asked Cllr Davies why SLDC had not been in touch with Parish Councils about flood victims and offers of help, as there were other areas of the Parish that should have been informed. He suggested that the Clerk follow this up and keep him informed.

Clerk

046/10 Review of Internal Audit Procedures

A new document: 'Scope of Internal Audit' - had been drawn up by Cllr Potts and the Clerk setting out terms of reference for internal audit procedures. It was resolved to approve this document.

This year's annual review of 'effectiveness of the internal audit' would be conducted by the Finance Working Group for approval at the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May. The Clerk asked the Council to note for future years, the Auditors' recommendation that the review of internal audit and the risk assessment be conducted and approved before the end of the financial year at the March meeting of the Council.

Clerk

047/10 Consultations

The following consultation responses were discussed and approved:

i) Cumbria Community Energy Trust: Consultation on community-owned renewable energy sources. Cllr Taylor's drafted response had been circulated to Councillors. There were no substantial comments and it was resolved to approve and submit the draft.

Clerk

ii) LDNPA: Proposed creation of new footpath from the YMCA at Lakeside to High Dam. It was resolved to support this proposal.

Clerk

iii) Choice-based Lettings for social housing: Cllr Potts reported that the proposals seemed a sensible scheme that would enable people to apply for the housing that interested them; there would be no change to the points system for priority housing. It was resolved that the Council support this change.

Clerk

iv) Natural England: Proposed extension of the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks: It was resolved not to express an opinion on the extension proposals, but to state that the Council wished to defer to the opinion of the communities directly affected by the proposals.

Clerk

v) Forestry Commission: Design Plan for Rigg Wood: The Council had been invited to attend a site meeting about plans for felling of conifers at Rigg Wood, on the east side of Coniston, and express an opinion on the subsequent design plan. The Clerk had expressed concern at the visit about the apparent conflict of conservation interests in wholesale removal of all conifers - particularly the larches - having an adverse affect on some bird species and on red squirrels which were under severe threat in the area. This same concern had been expressed about the felling on Bessy Bank two years ago. The subsequent Rigg Wood design plan had approved the retention of a few mature larches, subject to their appearance, but had endorsed the felling of the stand of younger larches. The Council resolved to approve the Clerk's proposal to express concern at the apparent conflict of conservation interests.

Clerk

vi) Coniston Records Week: The Council resolved to approve the proposed dates during autumn half-term in 2011 to 2013.

Clerk

048/10 Meetings

The following meeting reports were received:

i) LDNPA Pre-hearing meeting for the Local Development Framework, 12th March: Cllr Potts had attended. The Government Planning Inspector had confirmed that every comment submitted would be considered and that she would decide the Agenda for the hearings in May. The Clerk had received an Agenda which included Colton Parish Council's concerns about the omission of Lakeside from the lakeshore conservation policy. Cllr Potts was to attend this meeting on behalf of the Council. It was suggested that another Councillor be present to listen to and record proceedings. Cllr Taylor volunteered. The Clerk would ask if a second person could be present.

Clerk

ii) CALC South Lakeland District Association meeting, 15th May: Cllr Dean had attended. A presentation had been given on proposals for choice-based lettings for social housing. There was little remaining of direct interest to Colton Parish. Cllr Barr suggested that Councillors send ideas for items for the next SLDA meeting agenda (17th June) to the Clerk, which she would forward to CALC.

The following forthcoming meetings were noted:

iii) Hydro-power meeting: Cllr Taylor confirmed the date for the hydro-power meeting as Saturday 15th May at John Ruskin school, Coniston, 11.00 am.

iv) LDNPA Parish Tours: Clive Wickham (LDNPA Community Enabler) had been in touch with Cllr Barr asking if Colton would host the next 'Parish Tour'. A date had been confirmed of 23rd September, in Rusland Reading Rooms, with local site visits.

049/10 Correspondence

The following item of correspondence was noted in particular:

Kevin Bavistock, a cartographer at Satterthwaite had been asked to quote for producing a Colton Parish map similar to that produced for Satterthwaite. His quote had been £500, which was very reasonable for the production of a high quality map, but the Clerk had written back to explain that it was unlikely to be within Colton's budget; this was confirmed by the Council.

Receipt of the following correspondence was noted:

CALC/NALC

- High Furness LAP Meeting Notes - 9th Feb and Action Plan
- CALC Circular for March
- Advert for new Chief Officer
- Reminder - South Lakeland District Association meeting 4th March
- Information about renewable energy seminar at Casterton, 10th March
- Training courses in SW Cumbria - Spring 2010
- Clerks and Councils Direct - March 2010
- Hydro Schemes in South Lakeland - list and contacts
- NALC Networking Lunch Programme 2010

CCC

- Flood Bulletin
- Low Furness Neighbourhood Forum - notes from 19th Jan meeting
- Resource Cumbria - 'Review' newsletter - Jan 2010
- Letter on Winter Maintenance in South Lakeland. Invitation to meeting in Kendal (Tues 23rd) and notification of impending consultation
- Correspondence with David Huck, Capita Symonds on erosion of roadway at Bandrake Head
- Low Furness Neighbourhood Forum - Agenda for 23rd March, Stainton
- High Furness Neighbourhood Forum - notes of meeting on 3rd March and list of grants given in 2009/2010
- Flood Bulletin March 2010
- Response to Blawith PC from Capita and from the Environment Agency on Blawith's letter about Bouthrey Bridge reconstruction.

SLDC

- Invitation to bid for 'Playbuilder' playground grant. Deadline 1st March (2 weeks' time)
- Choice-based Lettings consultation - new system for allocation of housing lets - response by 30th April
- SLDC - Council meeting agenda 23rd Feb 2010
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme consultation
- Consultation on public toilets extension to 11th April

LDNPA

- Core Strategy Pre-hearing (12th March) and Hearing meetings (early May) - information.
- Consultation on creation of footpath from YMCA to High Dam - by 9th April
- Coniston Records Week 2011-2013 consultation. (Autumn half term)

Cumbria CVS and ACT

- ACT Gazette, Spring 2010
- Cumbria CVS News - Feb/March 2010 and March/April 2010

Other

- Coniston Parish Council minutes of 15th Feb.
- Blawith Parish Council - copy of response to government consultation on nuclear power station sites.
- Satterthwaite PC - Agenda for 1st March and minutes of last meeting
- Spinal Injuries Association posters for NBs
- 'Village Hub - community access and information points' project. See www.westdevon.gov.uk/villagehubproject
- Kevin Bavistock - re Colton Parish map - quote
- Coniston Parish Council - notice and Agenda for meeting on 15th March

- Natural England - Lakes to Dales Landscape Designation Project - public consultation on extension of National Parks. By 21st May
- Forestry Commission - design plan for Rigg Wood
- Friends of the Lake District - response to consultation on extension to National Parks
- Energy Savings Trust - sign up to 'Green Communities' -
- BDO - Auditors - Audit briefing for 2010
- NW Region - Partial Plan Review (Gypsy & Traveller sites) - Report of examination in public - weblink
- Cumbria in Bloom - invitation to seminar, 20th March
- Defra - letter informing that new Circular and Vision Statement is on Defra website at www.defra.gov.uk/rural/national-parks/index.htm
- South Cumbria Rivers Trust/Coniston and Crake Catchment Partnership - notes of core-group meeting on 9th March
- Natural England's response to F.C. Rigg Wood Design Plan
- Blawith Parish Council's response to Capita on options for Bouthrey Bridge reconstruction
- Commission for Rural Communities - report on the impact of the recession on rural housing.
- Blawith PC - Agenda for meeting 25th March
- Request from 'Unlock Democracy' to lobby Harriet Harmon to give the Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill sufficient parliamentary time.
- Coniston Parish Council - draft minutes of meeting on 15th March

050/10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed as the Annual Parish Council meeting on Monday 10th May 2010 in Bouth Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.