



Colton Parish Council

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Clerk: Ms Mandy Lane
Lilac Cottage
Oxen Park
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The following are the minutes of the Colton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 26th July 2010 in Rusland Reading Rooms at 7.30 p.m..

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

Also present: Cllr Davies (SLDC) Cllr Wilson (CCC) Ms Julie Birkett (LDNPA) Mr Tony Hill (LDNPA) and 2 members of the public

ACTION

087/10 Apologies PC Diana Wilcock and PC John Baldwin

088/10 Minutes of Last Meeting

It was resolved that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st June 2010 as a true record.

089/10 Declarations of Interest None

090/10 Update on Issues and Actions from Last Meeting

- Phone Kiosks: Confirmation of Council ownership of both phone kiosks (Oxen Park and Nibthwaite) had been received, with information on maintenance. Residents had been asked for ideas on their use.
- Community Plan: A questionnaire had been included with the Summer 2010 newsletter, with responses requested by mid-August. Another event would be held in Finsthwaite this autumn.
- Bouth Playground Repairs: Mr Osborn (Chair BVG Committee) was reported to have had investigated drainage into the neighbouring field, but the owner was not agreeable. Alternative drainage options needed to be found. Cllr Dean and Cllr Cunliffe would liaise about asking the Lengthsman to view the site at the same time as Abacus who were repairing the surface.

**Cllrs
Dean &
Cunliffe**

091/10 Public Participation

i) Off-site camping and caravanning: Julie Birkett (LDNPA Compliance Officer) and Tony Hill (LDNPA Ranger) had been invited to speak about this topic, with particular reference to High Dam. The main points were as follows:

- Camping: Permitted development rights covered camping for up to 28 days per calendar year on private land without the need for planning permission; there were some conditions, for example, no camping on an SSSI.
- Caravans: Permitted development rights are more complex (*details available from the Clerk*). A caravan may be sited within the curtilage of a dwelling house, provided that it is 'incidental to the enjoyment' of the house. On other land, a caravan is likely to be in breach of permission if it is sited there for more than 28 days, unless in connection with seasonal agriculture, forestry or engineering/building works.
- High Dam (Tony Hill): The Council had expressed concern about problems caused by wild campers at High Dam, Finsthwaite. Bye-laws prohibited camping, but were blatantly ignored, and prosecution was difficult to pursue. There were growing pressures from tourism, the recent renaissance of camping, and the fact that most camp sites refused groups of young people. The promotion of the Park as the 'Adventure Capital of the UK' was not accompanied by any educational message as in the old 'country code' adverts. Wild camping was becoming a big problem everywhere, in terms of fires, tree-damage, litter and use of land as a toilet. He would like to see established camp sites set aside for young people, as they currently have nowhere else to go. There was a large gap in understanding especially concerning the more urban visitors and minority groups being encouraged to come. He is arguing for a 'pay and display' car-park at High Dam (possibly with permits for local people) and/or an ice-cream vendor who could be 'eyes and ears'. It was agreed that there was a need for better signage at High Dam; the Council would lobby for this. TH suggested that the Council also enquire about establishing sites for young people.

Clerk

ii) Springfield Depot: Julie Birkett had been asked to clarify the permissions at this site, as residents were still concerned about noise and numbers and types of vehicles using it. The permission granted in 2008 and the conditions attached related only to the building and activities 'in association' with it. Existing lawful planning use had been established over the past 10 years; the owner had been there since 1993, working on his vehicles, and this was now considered

lawful use. The owner's recent extension of this activity to other people's vehicles was not considered by the LDNPA as a 'material change of use'. Cllr Barr asked about the phrase 'in association with' and suggested that this type of wording was open to subjective interpretation. JB agreed that the phrasing was unhelpful; the compliance team were encouraging a tightening up of terms for planning permissions. She asked that the Council keep her informed of the frequency and type of vehicles using the site, particularly those over and above the owner's private use.

092/10 Comments from District and County Councillors

i) Cllr Davies (SLDC): He had attended a meeting about small-scale renewable energy schemes, planning policy and guidance. There were no representatives from the National Park present. Cllr Davies would forward the presentation and website links to the Clerk

Cllr
Davies

ii) Cllr Wilson (CCC): i) Road retaining walls at Rusland had now been repaired to some extent, though there were still some areas of concern, ii) There was still no County decision on the speed limit policy for villages, iii) Resources for highway maintenance in Cumbria were very low.

093/10 Accounts

It was resolved that the following payments be made:

- Cheque number 000506 - Finsthwaite Clock Committee, annual grant: **£150.00**
- Cheque number 000507 - A.Lane, Clerk's salary for Apr-Jun 2010: **£1093.00**
- Cheque number 000508 - A.Lane, Stationery and office expenses: **£106.14**

SLDC Remuneration Panel - annual invitation to make recommendations: None was raised.

094/10 Planning

Council policy on contacting neighbours about planning applications: A complaint had been received about lack of contact with neighbours for a planning application that the Council had considered to be minor. The LDNPA had not contacted the neighbours either (they were obliged **either** to contact neighbouring properties **or** put up a notice in a prominent place). The Clerk felt that a policy was needed, particularly in view of the new system for planning applications. The Clerk would find out more about expectations of Parish Councils, and report at a future meeting.

Clerk

The following planning application was discussed and a response agreed:

- 7/2010/5234 - Rusland Pool Hotel: change of use of adjacent land for tourism and recreation purposes. **Resolution**: No objection.

Responses to planning applications were noted as follows:

- 7/2010/5297 - Colton Beck Cottage, Nr Greenodd: Single storey extension, new windows to north and south and relocation of previously approved rear extension. Garden and garden shelter. *No objection*

The following grants of planning permission were noted:

- 7/2010/5160 - Ridding Bay, Lakeside: Replacement boathouse with dayroom above. Subject to condition that not to be used for overnight accommodation.
- 7/2010/5176 - Burn Knott, Bouth: Extensions and alterations to existing house.
- 7/2010/5196 - Charcoal House, Nibthwaite: Erection of garage

The following refusal of planning permission was noted:

- 7/2010/5160 - Ridding Bay, Lakeside: New timber jetty.

The following property naming was noted: Unit 2, Oxen Park Farm to 'Old Park Barn', Oxen Park.

The following withdrawn planning application was noted:

- 7/2010/5237 - 1, The Fold, Oxen Park. Subdivision of property into two dwellings. Mairi Lock (LDNPA Planner) had explained that no information had been provided regarding how the development would meet the affordable needs of the parish as identified in the housing needs survey. She had advised the applicant to submit plans again following adoption of the new Local Development Framework in the autumn. **It was resolved** to ask a member of the planning team to speak about housing policy at a future meeting.

Clerk

095/10 Highways

- Green Roads: South Lakeland Local Committee Colton Pilot Study Working Group meeting 26th July, Cllr Barr had attended. The group had also held a site visit to the worst of the tracks (U5051 Nibthwaite to Parkamoor). Key issues were: maintenance, investment and usage. The group established the aim of returning the tracks to a condition suitable for their original use. The CCC and the LDNPA agreed to seek funds for detailed surveys of two green roads that might be repaired using a 'Fix the Fells' approach. The Parkamoor route required more major works; a working party might be set up until funding can be found.
- Lengthsman: Cllr Cunliffe (the new contact) had already received a number of requests for work. He was having some difficulty contacting Mr Slater, but would try to establish regular meetings with him.
- Bouthrey Bridge: Despite some progress, works were unlikely to be completed within this

year's Environment Agency 'window' . It was resolved to write to the engineer and the Environment Agency urging them to extend the window.

- Skowbarrow Beck: The flooding situation was as bad as ever. Cllr Wilson would speak again to Highways.

Clerk

Cllr
Wilson

096/10 Natural England Landscape Partnership Project

Tony Hill (LDNPA Ranger) explained that Natural England (via Teresa Morris) had released some funds for a scoping study towards a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid for the Rusland Valley and surrounding fells. If successful the bid would 'enable a series of projects with the overall aim of regenerating the ancient heritage landscape of the area and provide new opportunities for community and local economic development' in this 'special part of the Lake District'. Cllr Barr and the Clerk had already attended a presentation by the consultant conducting the scoping study and provided some input. Community support was essential for the project; to this end an open community meeting was to be held on 18th August at The Yan, Grizedale. Cllr Barr explained that the three parish councils concerned (Satterthwaite, Colton and Haverthwaite) had been asked for their support. The Council agreed to support the project in principle but wanted to hear more details before deciding its degree of commitment.

097/10 Meetings

The following meeting reports were received. Cllr Barr asked that 'Barr's rule of 3!' be used to keep to a concise report of three key issues relevant to Colton Parish:

- CALC Open Spaces Meeting, 21st June: Cllr Fishwick: i) The meeting covered registration of village greens and common land, ii) the legal situation was complex, iii) she had an information pack and useful websites that she would forward to the Clerk.
- High Furness Neighbourhood Forum, 28th June: Cllr Cunliffe: Colton Parish now lay within the HF Forum area. The meeting covered i) discussion on legal issues concerning grey squirrel control, ii) poacher-watch, to start again this autumn, iii) recycling: Shanks, the public-private consultant appointed, aimed to reduce landfill by 80% to meet government targets.
- Windermere Catchment Restoration Programme, 14th July: Cllr Barr: i) this was a community meeting for an HLF bid, but was very poorly attended, ii) there were 22 projects under 4 themes, iii) Cllr Barr had suggested use of local knowledge and skills and community involvement through local newsletters and websites.
- High Furness LAP, 21st July: Cllr Barr: i) the meeting was much more positive than the last, ii) it was devoted exclusively to highways, and identified the top highways issues to form the basis for the LAP Action Plan, iii) he had agreed to produce a draft document for good practice liaison between Highway Stewards and Parish Councils.
- Visit to Abbots Reading Farm, agri-environment scheme, 12th July: Cllr Potts: i) Tony Wood gave an inspirational talk and tour around his farm demonstrating his participation in the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme (HLS), ii) his traditional beef and sheep farm included a variety of important wildlife habitats, working closely with the RSPB, iii) he grew 'whole crop silage' to provide some arable land for e.g. lapwings and was pleased with its success.
- Green Energy Working Group meeting, 8th July: Cllr Taylor: i) A second meeting would be held concerning solar energy and heat pumps on 16th October; the Council approved this meeting and asked the Clerk to find out costs ii) Tim Farron MP would be attending, iii) an email would be sent to all concerned with the May meeting on hydropower.
- Low Carbon Lake District Summit, 1st July: Cllr Davies: i) Small World consulting had been employed to develop a carbon budget to inform action on climate change, ii) he felt that there was significant conflict between the 'adventure capital of the UK' image promoted by the Lake District Partnership and a low carbon economy, despite attempts to address low carbon tourism iii) Sustainable transport for tourism in the new Local Development Framework was trying to address this to some extent.

Clerk

098/10 Consultations

The following consultation responses were noted:

- LDNPA Partnership Management Plan for the National Park: Cllrs Barr and Fishwick responded. The Plan was broadly supported, though some key concerns were: i) the emphasis placed on tourism and branding of the Park as the 'Adventure Capital of the UK', ii) omission of any need for tourists to contribute to the maintenance of the Park infrastructure, or for big business tourism to connect with local communities, iii) the lack of appreciation of the role of volunteers in supporting local communities, and iv) the lack of specific milestones.
- LDNPA Core Strategy: Revised wording: Cllr Barr and the Clerk responded to the tight deadline. Key points were i) Policy CS08, Windermere Waterfront Programme: a request that Colton PC be consulted on the enhancement of the 'southern node' and sustainable transport solutions to Grizedale Forest that might pass through the Parish, ii) concern over the reference to enhancing water quality only 'where appropriate', iii) Policy CS18, Housing: broad

agreement and welcome for the statement about working closely with Parish Councils, iv)
Policy CS22: Employment: a query about why 'banking, finance and insurance sectors' are being seen as the future important growth areas for the Park.

The following new consultations would be handled as follows:

- Local Transport Plan for Cumbria (by 3rd Sept): Cllrs Barr and Fishwick to draft a response
- Environment Agency consultation on new nuclear build design (by 18th Oct): The Council had responded to the nuclear site proposals, but felt unqualified to comment on design issues.

**Cllrs Barr
&
Fishwick**

099/10 Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted:

CALC/NALC

- NALC Guide 'Being a Good Employer'
- Retirement of Chief Officer, Guy Richardson, in August.
- Single Community Strategy Workshops 15th July.
- CALC Circular for July/August
- CALC - Free training events on management plans for green spaces

CCC

- High Furness Neighbourhood Forum, 28th June, Coniston Institute - notification.
- David Cathcart, Highways engineer: Bouthrey Bridge report and correspondence.
- LAP Administrators' recruitment event - Kendal, 19th July
- High Furness Neighbourhood Forum - Annual Newsletter
- Local Transport Plan - weblink for consultation draft 2010 - by 3rd Sept.
- Cumbria Library Service newsletter - July-August 2010
- Cumbria Landscape Guidance and Toolkit - (*Outside the National Park*) Consultation draft (by 13th Sept).
- Nominations invited for 'young volunteer of the year' - by 1st Sept
- High Furness LAP - Agenda for 21st July and minutes of last meeting

SLDC

- Parish Remuneration Panel - allowances for 2011/12 - inviting requests for recommendations - by 15th Sept.
- Agenda for Council meeting 29th June - for info
- Agenda and papers for Standards Committee 22nd June

LDNPA

- Invitation to comment on changes to Core Strategy following government policy changes (e.g. abolition of RSS)
- Response to Council's letter of concern about Buck Yeats development (7/2009/5064)
- Response to Council's comments on the LDNP Partnership Management Plan
- Low Carbon Lake District Meeting (1st July) Report

Cumbria CVS and ACT - Carl Glynn - invitation to Village Hall workshops during July

Other

- Unlock Democracy: Notification of passing into law the Sustainable Communities Act. Now urging councils to write to MP asking for early day motion to put these into effect.
- Commission for Rural Communities – Launch of the findings and recommendations from the inquiry into the future of English upland communities
- Invitation to workshop on Morecambe Bay Heritage Lottery Landscape Partnership Scheme
- Coniston PC - notification of designation of Walna Scar route as a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT)
- Satterthwaite PC - Agenda for Public Meeting on future of Hydro scheme, and minutes of last meeting
- Coniston PC - Minutes of 21st June PC meeting. Minutes of 19th July meeting
- Invitation to Barrow Police Forum meeting, 1st July, Walney
- Blawith and Subberthwaite PC - seeking new Clerk - poster.
- Cumbria in Bloom - questionnaire
- Haverthwaite PC - Agenda for 12th July
- Environment Agency - invitation to meeting on Windermere Catchment - Still waters Partnership, 14th July
- Environment Agency - consultation on new nuclear build proposals in Cumbria - by 18th October
- NW Air Ambulance - letter of thanks for ColtonPC donation
- Clerk and Councils Direct - July 2010
- Correspondence with Mr and Mrs Crabtree over planning application at The Swan Hotel, Newby Bridge.
- RoSPA - notification of playground inspection during August
- Coniston Parish Council - Agenda for 19th July
- Dept of Energy and Climate Change - re-consultation on Energy National Policy Statements in the autumn
- Haverthwaite PC - Minutes of 12th July
- Natural England - Furness Fells Landscape Heritage Project
- Coniston PC - resignation of Clerk - all correspondence to go to Chairman for time being

100/10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed as Monday 13th September 2010 in Finsthwaite Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.