



Colton Parish Council

Tel: 01229 861408
e-mail: coltonpc@btinternet.com
web: www.coltonparishcouncil.org.uk

Clerk: Ms Mandy Lane
Lilac Cottage
Oxen Park
Ulverston LA12 8HG

The following are the minutes of the Colton Parish Council meeting held on Monday 28th March 2011 in Rusland Reading Rooms at 8.00 p.m., following the Annual Open Parish Meeting.

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

Also present: Cllr Wilson (CCC) Cllr Davies (SLDC)

033/11 Apologies

Cllr Cunliffe (working)

ACTION

034/11 Minutes of Last Meeting

It was resolved that the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 21st February 2011 as a true record.

035/11 Declarations of Interest

None

036/11 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

037/11 Comments from District and County Councillors

Cllr Wilson (CCC) reported on the following matters:

i) Budget cuts: He had raised concerns with County about the proposed increase in ferry charges and cuts to rural bus services (although it was noted that there were no bus services in Colton). The result of the budget consultation was now on line.

ii) Bouth Speed Limits: A response was awaited from the Area Engineer, Keith Masser. Cllr Wilson would contact him about the proposed site visit.

iii) Grit bins: He had received no reply from Highways on Colton's request to paint its yellow bins green. There was support for the idea of numbering the bins.

iv) Field of pigs, Ealinghearth: He was awaiting a progress report on the flooding situation. He had asked for warning signs for the flooded pothole.

v) Bouthrey Bridge: He would check with the Highways Engineer on plans for starting work in June. The Clerk would write to the Chief Executive with a reminder of this commitment.

vi) Electoral Review of Cumbria: The Boundary Commission had decided to retain the same number of Councillors for Cumbria, although their constituencies would be reviewed.

Clerk

Cllr Davies (SLDC): Although elections for his district ward were to be held in 2012, the current election purdah period prevented him from making political comment. He reported that the government had issued new requirements for the management of local authority housing.

038/11 Accounts

It was resolved that the following payments be made:

- Cheque 000544 - Rusland Reading Room Hire 09/10 - **£51.00**
- Cheque 000545 - Rusland Reading Room Hire 10/11 - **£36.00**
- Cheque 000546 - Bouth Village Hall Hire 09/10 - **£24.00**
- Cheque 000547 - Bouth Village Hall Hire 10/11 - **£36.00**
- Cheque 000548 - North-west Air Ambulance grant - **£50.00**
- Cheque 000549 - CALC subscription for 11/12 - **£192.00**

No invoices had been received for Finsthwaite Village Hall hire. Cllr Potts would chase this up.

The following cheques received were noted:

- Blawith and Subberthwaite Parish Council - share of CALC training course fee: **£36.00**
- Lowick Parish Council - share of CALC training course fee: **£18.00**

The bank reconciliation for April 2010 - Feb 2011 was approved.

The review of the Terms of Reference and Audit Plan for Internal Audit (April 2011) was noted

The new HMRC requirement for Councils to register for PAYE from 6th April was noted. The Clerk had registered the Council for PAYE; she would learn the procedures and download the software for quarterly payments. She would check with CALC about requirements for the Clerk's contract and statutory employment rights.

Cllr Potts

Clerk

Clerk

039/11 Planning

The following planning application was discussed and a resolution made:

- 7/2011/5079 - Boaters Restaurant, Lakeside. Extension of time period for application 7/2007/5729: Demolition of existing hotel and reconstruction of new. **Resolved:** Not to object, since the Council's original objections had been already expressed and the LDNPA had granted permission to the original application. Concerns would be expressed about insufficient parking and the need for adequate disposal of waste for the 16 rooms.

Clerk

The following responses to planning applications were noted:

- 7/2011/5046 - 1, Kiln Cottages, Bouth. Replace timber garage with timber garden room. *No objection.*
- 7/2011/5051 - Plot 1, Landing Close. Extension of time limit to permission 7/2008/5052 for 2 houses on vacant plots. *Original objections re-sent with comment about 2009 flooding.*

To note the following grants of planning permission:

- 7/2010/5607 - Boater's Restaurant, Lakeside: Internal refurbishments, new porch and canopy.
- 7/2010/5555 - Snows Heights Outdoor Centre: Redevelopment of Centre on condition that full details of sewage treatment system be submitted before construction.
- 7/2010/5619 - The Syke, Rusland: Fell pony trekking business

To note the following refusal of planning permission:

- 7/2010/5553 - Land at Bandrake Head - Erection of storage building.

040/11 Notice Boards

It was resolved to buy a new notice board for Nibthwaite using the allocated funds, and to apply to Neighbourhood Forum for a grant for a replacement notice board at Lakeside. The Clerk would review the quotes received earlier in the year.

Clerk

Subject to permission being obtained, the Nibthwaite board would be placed on the wall of the barn near the phone box. Cllr Fishwick would write to the owner of the barn.

Cllr
Fishwick

The Lakeside notice board would be better placed near to the entrance to the car park by the Lakeside Hotel. Cllr Robinson would speak to the Lakeside Hotel owner about siting and possible financial support.

Cllr
Robinson

041/11 Green Roads

Cllr Barr summarised the history of the Council's attempts to improve the condition of Colton's damaged green lanes. The Colton Green Lane Pilot Study, involving Cumbria Highways and the National Park, had surveyed two green lanes and derived estimates for repair of each. Cllr Wilson had allocated £5K from his own budget, but significant further funds were needed. The Parish Council were not in a position to contribute financially, but could offer help with liaison, fund-raising, and volunteers for monitoring and survey.

Cllr Wilson explained that the County's South Lakeland Local Committee recognised that these roads needed ongoing maintenance which might be funded; the problem was funding the initial repair to bring them up to standard. Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) were a possible option to control use, although the legal costs could be as high as £3K.

Cllr Barr would re-convene the Colton Parish Green Lanes Working Group.

Cllr Barr

The Clerk would update the website with Cllr Barr's summary of progress to date.

Clerk

042/11 Highways

Lengthsman: The Clerk had posted advertisements for a Lengthsman, with a closing date of 21st April. **It was resolved** to offer a rate of pay up to a maximum of £13/hr, depending on skills and experience. The Clerk would draw up a model contract and application form.

Clerk

'Better Highways': CALC's South Lakeland District Association had asked Highways for an update on the new 'Better Highways' project, why the roads were in such a poor condition and when the promised liaison with Parish Councils would begin. Cumbria Highways said that teams were still reacting to the back-log of problems and that "ideally, by late spring they will moving more towards a proactive and scheduled work programme that can be shared with parish councils". The Clerk had emailed a list of the worst problems in the Parish to the Highways Hotline; Cllr Robinson reported that work had recently started along the Rusland Beeches road.

043/11 Meetings

The following meeting reports were received:

- CALC - South Lakeland District Association (Cllr Dean had attended): A credit union in the South Lakes had been proposed. Parish Councils were now required to implement PAYE for employees. Kendal Auction Mart was to be moved to J36 of the M6, despite objection from the local Parish Council.
- Neighbourhood Forum meeting, 8th March (Cllr Cunliffe had attended). Cllr Cunliffe had

- forwarded to the Clerk a consultation document from the NW Ambulance Service.
- Stott Park Bobbin Mill meeting with English Heritage, 10th March (Cllrs Barr and Potts had attended): English Heritage (EH) were considering the way forward. Visitor numbers had dropped dramatically since the 1990s, despite it being the only working Bobbin Mill in the country. The site was closed at weekends and was poorly advertised. EH were encouraged by local enthusiasm, and were now planning to recruit a manager with a marketing background. They were keen to increase liaison with local people.
 - High Furness LAP Broadband meeting, 14th March (Cllr Barr had attended as Broadband Hub Coordinator for the LAP): The meeting had been convened by County, and began with the dismissal of attending non-coordinators and County Councillors, as the Coordinators were to be told information in confidence. Cllr Barr was therefore not yet at liberty to report any information, but referred Councillors to the relevant website: broadbandcumbria.com
 - SLDC Housing Conference (Cllr Dean had attended): The meeting included Tim Farron MP, and was informative, but with no significant decision-making. SLDC had 3000 people on their housing list and a large shortfall in available housing. All new housing had now to allocate 1/3 as 'affordable'. There was widespread concern that the government was planning to change the rules to force Council rents to be increased to 80% of the local market rent. The Clerk reported that the LDNPA had agreed to send a Planner to the Council's June or July meeting to speak about affordable housing and local occupancy arrangements. Councillors were asked to consider key questions for the meeting.
 - LDNPA Working Group on illegal off-road vehicles (the Clerk had attended): The main focus was increased illegal activity on commons by trail bikers. Routes on Blawith Common had been mapped. The same would be carried out for Bethacar Moor in liaison with the Clerk. Parish Councils had been asked to seek volunteers to survey and report incidents to provide intelligence on when and where to focus police campaigns. Signage was being considered to educate and deter illegal off-roaders.

All Cllrs

Attendance to the following meetings was approved:

- Coniston Water Users Group: Cllr Fishwick would try to attend the meeting to be held on either 12th or 19th April.

Cllr
Fishwick

044/11 Consultations

NW Ambulance Service: Cllr Robinson would respond to this consultation by 1st April. The Clerk had complained that this consultation had not been circulated to Parish Councils.

Cllr
Robinson

045/11 Correspondence

Receipt of the following correspondence was noted:

- Cumbria in Bloom competition details for 2011
- Larger Town and Parish Council survey (for those serving key service centres)
- Feedback on 'Cumbria Alert' Neighbourhood Watch system workshop.
- Notification of requirement to operate a PAYE system from the new financial year
- Notification of Lake District Parishes meeting, 18th April, Keswick
- Training courses on DPA and Freedom of Information - Keswick and Crooklands
- CALC Circular for March 2011
- Cumbria Choice - launch for choice-based lettings system. Kendal/Barrow 5/6th April

CCC

- Changes to X25 bus service Kendal-Barrow from April 11. New stop at Greenodd.
- Cumbria Affordable Warmth Project info
- Neighbourhood Forum meeting poster and Agenda, 8th March
- Letter (to Mrs J Dove!) on failure of Bouth Village Green registration application. (repeated information - nothing new, but invitation to speak to solicitor.)

SLDC

- Seminar on developing play areas, 21st March, Windermere
- Notification of Council meeting, 22nd Feb
- Notice of Referendum on UK Parliamentary Voting System - 5th May

LDNPA

- Agenda for off-road vehicles meeting, Water Yeat, 21st March.

Central Government

- Dept of Energy and Climate Change. Workshop for business and community leaders. Ulverston, 24th Feb. Received indirectly via a resident.
- Forestry Commission - cancellation of Forest Sale consultation meeting 8th March
- Environment Agency - Still Waters Partnership: Water management in the Lake District. Invitation to meeting 2nd April, Windermere

Cumbria CVS and ACT

- ACT Gazette - Spring 2011

- State of the Sector conference, Rheged, 31st March

Other

- Satterthwaite Parish Council. Agenda for 28th Feb and minutes of last meeting
- Clerks and Councils Direct - Newsletter March 2011
- Blawith PC letter to Office of Fair Trading concerning off-grid energy market survey, urging contact with rural Parish Councils.
- Emails from Stott Park residents on flooding and lack of response from Highways.
- Haverthwaite PC - Highways to start work on Backbarrow footbridge in June.
- Blawith PC - Notice of meeting 10th March
- Haverthwaite Parish Council website
- Haverthwaite PC - Agenda for 14th March
- John Ruskin School - seeking views on whether to apply for academy status
- South Lakeland Tour of Classic Cars, 25th June. Through Spark Bridge and Bouth.
- Audit Briefing - BDO auditors
- Cumbria Community Foundation - Jennings Rivers Cycle Challenge 18th September
- Blawith and Subberthwaite PC - minutes of meeting 10th March
- Coniston PC - Agenda for 21st March and minutes of last meeting
- Haverthwaite PC - Minutes of 14th March
- Rural Carbon Challenge Fund - Free event, Lancaster. Writing business plans for renewable energy projects
- Envirolink - Cumbria On-Farm Renewables - grant opportunity for farms.
- RSPB - Training Event - Farming and Wildlife. £90. Abbots Reading Farm, 26th Oct.
- Society of Local Council Clerks - Branch Conference, Kendal, £60

046/11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed as the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Monday 9th May in Bouth Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.