

STANTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th Jan at 7.30 p.m. At Crosscraze School.

Present: Councillors John Stott, Tot Mason, Thomas Nelson, Geoff Wilson, Julie Knowles, Gill Lawson (outgoing Clerk). Sheila Eccles, District Councillor, Karen Wells (new clerk) and a number of members of the parish.

75.15 APOLOGIES – Rev Ian Swift, Linda Fletcher

76.15 MINUTES – the minutes of the meeting dated 24th November 14 were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

77.15 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS- None

78.15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – No declarations were made.

79.15 OPEN SESSION - a query was raised from a member of the public around a planning application which had not appeared on the agenda. The clerk had seen no papers for this particular application and it was deemed necessary for further investigation to be carried out. Since the time of the meeting enquiries have been made and feedback and an apology has been provided to the council as it is not possible to establish at which point the process has broken down on this occasion. SLDC planning department had previously been using the old council email address to send the weekly list too which meant no back check was in place. This has now been rectified so that the new clerk will have an additional electronic copy of the application which will hopefully prevent this oversight happening in the future.

80.15 - Upper Kent Lap – No meeting held since last meeting. Next meeting is 25th February and the main agenda items will be parish communication and highways matter.

On communication, the clerk advised that confirmation had been received from the producers of the parish magazine that it was acceptable to place information around the councils' activity and business in the community magazine. A discussion took place around the amount of the donation but it was agreed that this amount would be decided when it was established how much information was going to be placed. Existing and new clerk will get together and produce a summary update including past activity and dates for next meetings to start the ball rolling. The option of putting a double spread newsletter within the magazine was also discussed and will be considered further at next meeting.

It was also discussed that the LAP had a small amount of money remaining from this years' budget and it was agreed to try and obtain a grant of £50 to assist with the costs of producing and printing the newsletter. This may be in conjunction with the parish magazine or on a standalone basis. It was felt that this was relevant with communication being one of the laps priorities. It was also discussed that funds should be applied for to pay for training for the new clerk. Clerk will check with Simon Blyth, Co-ordinator of the Upper Kent Lap, and if necessary complete and forward paperwork.

81.15 POLICING IN THE COMMUNITY– No police attended (Crime report came through when clerk chased it up). Will be passed around with the box prior to next meeting.

82.15 HIGHWAYS

Parking –the letter regarding unsafe parking that had been approved by a number of councillors and school head teacher. This will be forwarded to all relevant school users asap. Linda has also confirmed that she would like the clerk to instigate the discussed action regarding speeding activities between the school and PCSO s. Clerk will contact PCSO's.

Highways Reporting- Clerk had updated highways reporting list and forwarded to councillors prior to meeting. Clerk advised that all highways issues had gone very quiet with very little contact being received from anyone within the department. Councillor Knowles advised that our contact within highways (Steve Jeffries) had moved on to a different section and no notification as to new contacts has been received.

Clerk to chase outstanding items -

Grit bin at High Birkrigg –Councillor Nelson has confirmed that since the meeting this has now been delivered and placed in situ.

Hedges on Commonmire Lane – Not showing on system, re- reported -9/2/2015

Packhorse Bridge – clerk spoke to Martin Elveson, Engineer in charge. Work order overlooked last year. Checked that all consents have been obtained and will put forward for completion in the relevant window between June – August 2015.

Surrounding kerbs in the laybys in Shyreakes Lane. The banking is proving to be unstable and when cars pass each other they are knocking the banking into the road. A request has been put in for retaining kerbs in both laybys – not showing on system, re-reported- 9/2/2015

New item raised – pot holes on stretch of road between A65 to Shyreakes – reported 9/2/2015.

Email sent to Guy Timperley asking for activity taking place on previously reported problems regarding footpaths and stiles.

83.15 PLANNING – PLANNING- Notice of Appeal – CU/2014/0019 – Mr & Mrs D H Coates, The Old Stables, Stainton Court, Stainton Kendal. Change of use of building.

Notifications Received-

SL/2014/1058 – Steps End, Stainton, Kendal - Grant with conditions

SL/2014/0840 – Helm mount Farm, Barrows Green, Retention of stable building and all weather exercise area to allow for riding lessons. = Refused

84.15 FINANCE- (i)Schedule of payment were authorised as follows.

Payments made between meetings

None

Payments to sanction during the meeting-

Clerks Jan wage/expenses = £148.50

Clerks Feb wage/expense = £148.50

Hire and associated costs of meeting payable to School - £20.00

Grant agreed previous meeting = Air Ambulance - £25.00

“ “ “ “ = First Responders - £25.00

Payments received - None

- (i) Precept Figures- Clerk had re-done the proposed precept figures bearing in mind that personnel will be changing with effect from March 2015. This will mean a saving in costs of salary for this year. A number of other costs were also discussed and it was further agreed to end the payment for broadband. A larger amount was placed in the admin budget which can be utilised to cover clerks general expenses. These changes meant that a new figure could be put forward to the council with a slightly lower increase proposal. With this in mind and the fact that the council has received a bigger grant this year from SLDC it was agreed by the council that the precept figures comprising of a 3% increase should be accepted. By increasing the precept by a small amount the council can look to increase the services and facilities provided such as winter gritting on local B roads (which will not happen from SLDC). It means that less reliance is then placed on goodwill or fundraising to meet the needs of the parish although the council still see s this as an important part of what the council is about and aims to utilise this whenever possible. Clerk to forward acceptance of figures to SLDC by 31st January.

- (ii) Whilst discussing costs it was noted that the new clerk does not currently have access to a windows package. It was agreed that as the salary budget is going to be slightly lower for 2015/16 it was possible for the council to fund the purchase of a Word package for the clerk. This had been sourced by Councillor Knowles at a price of £64.00. It was agreed that the clerk needed the tools to do her job and therefore it was proposed by Councillor Knowles and seconded by Thomas Nelson that the council purchase a Word package for the new clerk.
- (iii) It had also been brought to the councils attention that NALC had revised hourly rates wef Dec and it was agreed by the council that the current clerks hourly rate should increase with effect from January and the new clerks wage will be taken from the higher figures of £8.61 ph.

85.15 CONSULTATIONS & FUNDING REQUESTS - None

86.15 –AOB

- a) District Councillor Sheila Eccles is likely to have an amount of £250 to grant to the parish for projects/purchases agreed by the council. It was agreed that the money would be put towards replacing the railings alongside the path in Underhelm Wood. The existing railings are rotten and worn and pose a safety issue. This was accepted by Councillor Eccles as a valid project (Underhelm Safety Project) and clerk was asked to email details to Councillor Eccles when contacted
- b) The issue of common land and the complaint which has been received regarding bags of silage on common land at Barrows Green was discussed by the council. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that Councillor Stott would approach the occupier at Barrow Greens Farm to confirm that if the bales in deed belong to the farm that the council would be grateful if they could be moved. Councillor Knowles also expressed a request to the council that the council persue the option given by Cumbria County Council to send a notification to landowners who have broken the common land rules. It is felt strongly that these areas of land should be maintained as open spaces available to members of the public for generations to come.
- c) The annual litter pick was discussed and the date of April 11th was agreed on for this to take place. Councillor Wilson agreed to contact SLDC to organise the tools, bin liners, hi vis jackets etc and also to book the collection on the following Monday morning. Clerk will amend posters and ensure that they are forwarded to new clerk for distribution nearer to the date.

87.15 – The next meeting will be held on Monday 24th March –7.30pm at Crosscrake School,

Meeting Closed at 9.15pm