

## LEVENS PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10 October 2017 in the Methodist Meeting Room, Levens at 7.30 p.m.

**Present:** Cllrs. R Atfield (Chairman), S. Bagot, H. Burrow, K. Holmes, R. Mason, + County Cllr. J. Bland, M. R. Curry (Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

**42/17 Apologies for absence:** Cllrs. S. Hargraves, D. Rogerson, J. Thacker, District Cllr A. Rawlinson.

**43/17 Declarations of interest:** None.

**44/17 Minutes:** It was **resolved** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12 September, as a true record.

**45/17: Public Participation:**

Mr J Watson asked if there were any plans to address road repairs in the village. The question was noted to be addressed by Cllr Bland in his report.

**46/17: Reports:**

- a) **Reports from Councillors on Meetings Attended:** Cllr Atfield reported his attendance at the CALC AGM from which there was nothing substantive to report. He also reported that he and Cllr Burrow had conducted an appraisal review with the Clerk to be discussed as an agenda item at the next meeting.
- b) **Police:** No report was available for consideration from the Police
- c) **District Councillor:** On behalf of Cllr Rawlinson the Chairman reported that the owner of the Carpet Shop had been contacted by the SLDC Enforcement Team and also that the property had been placed on the market via Milne Moser, Estate Agents.
- d) **County Councillor:** Cllr Bland reported that road repairs were programmed for attention in Levens as priorities and resources allowed. There was currently work on the A5074 at Foulshaw and plans in hand to replace the bridge at Sampool.

**47/17: Finance:**

- a) **Receipts:** Receipts totalling £60 for rents were noted.
- b) **Payments:** Before authorising payments, the Clerk reported that the Annual Accounts had been approved by the external auditors (BDO), who had issued their certificate. The Council was required to formally to approve and accept the Annual Return. It was **Resolved** to accept the Annual Return for the year 2016-17. Council then **Authorised** the following payments:
  - i. BDO: Fees for External Audit 240.00
  - ii. CALC: Clerk's Forum 6 June 2017 5.00
  - iii. SLDC: Street lighting, repairs, energy as per precept 915.60
  - iv. M R Curry: Salary September 2017 319.50
  - v. HMIT: Clerks PAYE 75.80
- c) **Financial Report:** Council noted and accepted the bank reconciliation presented by the Clerk. Consideration of the budget out-turn was deferred to the November meeting.

#### 48/17: Annual Charity Reports:

The Clerk reported that at a meeting immediately preceding the Parish Council meeting Cllrs Bagot, Burrow and Mason, with Cllr Atfield in attendance, had considered and accepted the Annual Charity Reports for 2016-17. It was noted that the Annual Return to the Charity Commission was being prepared. The reports and Minutes of the meeting will be posted on the Levens website. The following resolutions were **Agreed**:

- a) To refer the financial accounts to an external audit;
- b) To revise the Charity Scheme where matters of detail can legitimately be updated;
- c) To advise Mrs Farraday of Levens School that Trustees would consider an application for funding for the toddlers play-area for the benefit of the wider Levens community.

#### 49/17: Levens Community Project

- a) **Sale of Plots at Cotes:** Cllr. Mason confirmed that the selling agents had received an offer for Plot 1 and had asked for instructions. Parish Councillors had been advised of the offer, which is currently being treated in confidence for reasons of commercial sensitivity. Taking into account the guide price for the plot, it was **Resolved** to instruct the Agents to accept the offer.

In relation to land at Cotes, the Clerk reported that Mr Nigel Edmondson, who rents roadside land for parking, had submitted a request to resurface that land, which has become trenched and muddy, at his expense. Coincidentally, Cllr Mason reported that there had been interest in Plot 3 with an associated request to consider making an additional small strip of land to the south of the plot available to add amenity value to the plot. Councillors agreed that Mr Edmondson's request was not unreasonable, but **Agreed** to modify it by extending the car-parking area by a car's length southwards in lieu of an equivalent space at the north end which the Council should take back in hand. Part of this decision rested on recent observations about potential safety issues associated with the nearby road junction. It was **Resolved** that the work would be undertaken at the Council's expense. The Clerk was instructed to write to Mr Edmondson accordingly.

- b) **Sizergh Fell Quarry:** Cllr Mason reported that a written proposal had been received from a London-based developer who wished to negotiate an Option to Purchase the site. A meeting had been held with the Council's Agent to take advice. It was **Agreed** that the Clerk should draft a note and circulate to Councillors for agreement in which the Agent would be instructed to advise the developer that the Council was willing to consider an Option subject to agreement on terms and conditions relating to a deposit (non-returnable should the option not be exercised), a maximum time period and a minimum purchase price.
- c) **External Funding:** Cllr Mason reported that a meeting had been held with Chris Hutton of SLDC earlier in the day when further advice had been received on a bid to the Community-Led Funding Scheme. A bid for Capacity Grant is in hand and one for a full-Scheme Grant is being prepared.
- d) **Project Working Group:** There was nothing to report from the Working Group.

#### 50/17: Planning Applications

The following details were noted:

- a) New Planning Applications – none received

b) Planning Applications determined since last meeting

Planning Ref	Address	Proposal	Applicant	Type & Status	Decision
TR/2017/0104	Beathwaite Gdns	Fell Whitebeam		TPO	Refused
7/2017/5398	Lords Plain Farm	Farm bldg. Extension	Mr D Martin		Granted
7/2017/5453	Sunnyside Levens	Agricultural bldg	Mr R Handley		Granted
7/2017/5454	Sunnyside Levens	Replacement dwelling	Mr&Mrs Handley		Granted

c) Planning applications still to be determined

Planning Ref	Address	Proposal	Comment
TR/2017/0143	20 Nethercroft	Prune Beech Tree	Mr T Mason: TPO – No decision to date

**51/17: Open Actions Not Covered Elsewhere on the Agenda:**

- a) **B4RN:** Progress with securing wayleaves continues and there is to be a meeting on 28 October to consider positioning of distribution boxes. It was **Agreed** in principle to allow access across Parish Council land, subject to confirmation of detail and clear mapping of the ducting routes.
- b) **Levens Village Traffic Management:** the Chairman reported that he had met PCSO Jayne Park recently who had commented that a blanket 20mph limit ought to be considered as it does have the effect of slowing traffic down. The Clerk was instructed to write to Highways to request flashing lights for the school, particularly as lights had been noted flashing on a Sunday at Heversham School – now closed.
- c) **Ex-WI Land at Brigsteer Road:** The W.I has welcomed proposals for the site prepared by Cllr Holmes, including suggestions for a commemorative tree, and it was **Agreed** to proceed with improvements during the winter .
- d) **Roadside Verges and Woodland Management:** A meeting has been arranged with the local Forestry Officer for the 24 October to visit and assess condition of the woodland plots with a view to securing management grants. It was **Resolved** to request a meeting with Highways to discuss possibilities whereby the Parish might take over verge maintenance similar to arrangements negotiated recently by other Parishes.
- e) **Newsletter:** Content and delivery arrangements were confirmed. Cllr Burrow referred to her item on the allocation of affordable housing on the Story Homes development. It was **Resolved** to write to Tony Whittaker at SLDC to press for priority to be given to applicants from, or with strong connections to, Levens village.
- f) **Dog Control Orders:** Submission to on-line survey noted.
- g) **BT Payphone:** it was noted that confirmation had been received from SLDC that the Levens payphone is not to be de-commissioned and therefore provisions for the adoption of the phone-box are not relevant.
- h) **Access to Sizergh Castle:** The Clerk reported on details received from the local National Trust Ranger clarifying that recommendations to access to the estate would focus on improvements to paths around the visitor centre and in Brigsteer Wood for wheelchairs and buggies. It was **Agreed** to invite Mr Sharples to give a brief presentation on developments at Sizergh to the next meeting.

**52/17: Correspondence:** Members noted other correspondence received as detailed by the Clerk.

**53/17 Future agenda items:**

- Clerk's Appraisal
- Budget Review
- W.I. request for settlement of solicitor's fees for transfer of land at Brigsteer Road
- National Trust and Sizergh castle

**54/17: Date of next meeting:**

- The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council is on 14 November 2017

**The Meeting closed at 9.13 p.m.**

Signed ..... (Chairman)                      Date