



- Levens Playing Fields Association: grant £ 1,500.00
- Damson Consultancy Ltd: fees, Community Project £ 4,200.00

Councillors noted that the balance in the Parish Council current account as at 31 March 2016 stands at £37,942.36p.

#### 184/15: Planning Applications

- New Planning Applications**  
SL/2016/0251: 21/22 Nethercroft - No objection  
SL/2016/0227: Old Barn, Underhill - Papers not yet received
- To note Planning Applications determined since last meeting:**  
SL/2015/1046: Rose Cottages - Noted  
SL/2016/0215: Park View, Force Lane - Noted
- To note Planning Applications still outstanding**  
SL/2016/0149: Whinthwaite House - No comments  
SL/2016/0153: Land adjacent to Cragg Foot – **Resolved** to object on the grounds that the proposed cedar cladding and zinc roof are not compatible with the character of the village.
- Consultation period:** The Clerk was requested to liaise with SLDC to clarify the position when the consultation period technically expires before the next PC meeting. Councillors acknowledged the availability of on-line detail for consideration when necessary.
- Petition on Appeals against planning decisions:** Councillors **agreed** to support and sign an on-line petition to give parish councils a right to appeal planning decisions to the Planning Inspectorate.

#### 185/15: Levens Community Project

- Section 106 Agreement:** Cllr Mason reported that the draft Agreement had been returned to SLDC for the approval of a few minor amendments. It was **agreed** that, subject to the resolution of a couple of queries from Cllr Atfield, the Agreement should be signed and witnessed as soon as received back from SLDC.
- Allotments:** Cllr Mason reported on progress and that he was in direct liaison with the Levens Hall land agent. A few matters were still to resolve, including clarification from SLDC of whether planning permission for greenhouses is required. AR **agreed** to follow this up with Simon Fawcett. Discussions with Historic England were positive and the track round the outside of the Kitchen Garden had been agreed. Cllr Mason was continuing to organise groundworks, including rabbit / deer fencing and other requirements. There are at least 7, possibly 8 applicants for new allotments and the aim was to conclude the lease as soon as possible to get them in for the growing season.
- Working Group Meeting:** Cllr Mason reported that a meeting had been held on 4 April, when, in addition to the matters reported above, the general design principles for the new Village Hall were reviewed and agreed. He also confirmed that Tony Hill of Damson Design was preparing a specification to enable cost estimates to be prepared.
- Accountancy:** It was **agreed** that the Parish Council should appoint accountants in order that appropriate professional support would be in place for the establishment of the delivery structure. Following evaluation of quotes received from Armstrong Watson

and Dodd & Co it was **agreed** to appoint the latter to the role based on their fee quote of £2,500.00 + VAT.

- e) **Other Updates:** Cllr Mason provided the following additional information:
- i) Draft particulars of sale: Now received from Messrs C L Hodgson for Sizergh Fell Quarry and three plots of land at Cotes. These were with Tony Hill for initial comment and require updated photos to promote the plots. The final draft will be circulated to Councillors for comment, but will only be used in the sale process after the S.106 has been signed.
  - ii) Land at Cotes: Scrub has been removed from the plots at Cotes to tidy these up prior to marketing.
  - iii) Other plots of land: Cllr Mason reported that Bridget Lovell of Milne Moser would be writing to the Clerk with details of ancillary matters regarding land in which the Parish Council has an interest. This will include the plot currently in the registered ownership of the Women's Institute.

#### **186/15: Levens Institute**

Councillors were aware that there were currently no Office Bearers at the Institute and felt that, as a Trustee, this was of interest to the Parish Council. Mr A. Miller explained that although there were currently no officers elected, a Committee does exist and meets periodically, whilst the day to day administration of the Institute is in hand. Councillors were reassured that the Institute would have a competent officer to sign the Tripartite Agreement by the time this became necessary.

#### **187/15: Parish Elections**

It was confirmed that nomination papers had been successfully submitted in respect of six of the current Councillors (Cllr Hammond is not standing). In addition, the Clerk reported that he had delivered one additional set of papers. It appears therefore that there will be no election as the number of candidates does not exceed the number of Councillors required. The Clerk will check this with SLDC and confirm the position.

#### **188/15: Woodland Management**

Cllr Martin reported that work continues to identify sources of grant funding for the preparation of a woodland management plan and there was consideration of whether the Levens Charity might be used to support this purpose. The Clerk reported that the Forestry Commission was publicising its new grant programme at the Crooklands Hotel on 13 April and that he would advise Councillors of any opportunities this presents.

**189/15: Parish Seats:** Cllr Mason and the Clerk **agreed** to confirm the number, location and condition of the seats to enable maintenance proposals to be made.

#### **190/15: Open Actions Not Covered Elsewhere on the Agenda:**

- a) **B4RN:** The Clerk reported that he had received five expressions of interest directly, but it was felt that the potential interest was greater than this. It was **agreed** that the Clerk would contact Barry Forde to see if he would address a public meeting on the subject with a view to establishing a working group to take the initiative forward.
- b) **The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Beacon:** the Clerk reported that the Levens Beacon was registered as part of the nationwide chain and that it should be lit at 8.30p.m. Cllr

Mason reported that all was in hand regarding the site. The event had been publicised in the village newsletter, on the website and the Clerk undertook to put a poster in the noticeboard and ask Naomi Capstick if it was possible to include it in her Westmorland Gazette article. Other arrangements would be discussed nearer the event.

- c) **Levens Local History Group** - Councillors considered a grant application for £500 towards the publication of a history of indigenous malaria in the mosslands of south Lakeland. Representing the Group, Mr. S. Read confirmed that the grant would assist with the costs of publication, but that it might not in fact be required. It was agreed to approve the application in principle and make the grant available if requested.

### **191/15: Correspondence**

Members noted the correspondence received as detailed on the schedule circulated previously by the Clerk and discussed the following:

- a) Gateway Flood Relief – Providing support for those affected by recent floods and requesting advice on where to park a Mobile Exhibition Unit on a scheduled visit to the village on 11 May. The bus stop was recommended but the Clerk was requested to suggest that as the main flood-hit areas of the parish were in and around Sampool and Gilpin Bridge that it might be more appropriate to base itself in that area.

### **192/15 Future agenda items:**

- B4RN
- Woodland Management Plan
- Clerk's Contract
- Parish seats: painting and maintenance

### **193/15 Date of next meetings:**

- Annual General Meeting: Tuesday 10 May, 2016

In closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked Councillor Hammond for his valuable and much appreciated service to the Parish Council.

**The Meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.**

Signed ..... (Chairman)                      Date