

## LEVENS PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 September 2016 in the Methodist Meeting Room, Levens at 7.30 p.m.

**Present:** Cllrs. R Atfield (Chairman), R. Mason, H. Burrow, J. Thacker, S. Bagot, S Hargraves and following Item 42/16b Cllrs Holmes and Rogerson; + District Cllr. A. Rawlinson, County Cllr. J. Bland (part), M. Curry (Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

**40/16 Apologies for absence:** None

It was **agreed** to consider the Minutes of the previous meeting ahead of the item on Parish Vacancies. The latter item proposed the co-option of new Councillors who were not in office at the previous meeting and that therefore it was procedurally appropriate to agree the Minutes before the potential co-option of new Members.

### 41/16 Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2016

It was **resolved** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 12 July 2016 as a true record **subject to** amendment of the first sentence of the first paragraph to read: "The meeting was preceded by an informal meeting at which Cllr. D Martin indicated his wish to resign" in place of "...*tendered his resignation*".

### 42/16 Parish Vacancies

- a. To note the resignation of Cllr. David Martin: The Chairman confirmed that since the previous meeting Cllr. Martin had formally resigned. It was **resolved** that a formal note of appreciation for his contribution to the Parish Council should be recorded. It was also **resolved** to review his Council responsibilities and appointments on outside bodies and to reallocate these within the Council.
- b. To consider the co-option of new Councillors: The Chairman reported that following advertisements and requests for expressions of interest, Mr Kevin Holmes and Mr David Rogerson had put their names forward for the one Parish vacancy that remained after the elections in May. Furthermore, that David Martin's resignation had created a second vacancy and, following advice from CALC, Councillors were advised that they could co-opt to both vacancies should they wish. The Chairman proposed that Mr Holmes and Mr Rogerson be co-opted *en bloc* and the proposal was unanimously **agreed**. Cllrs. Holmes and Rogerson were welcomed to the Council.

**43/16 Declarations of interest:** Cllr. Bagot referred to the planning application from Levens Hall. It was **agreed** that this did not require a declaration of interest by Cllr. Bagot.

**44/16 Public Participation:** Mr Allan Steward raised concerns about the lack of information on the programme for the replacement of sodium street lights with LEDs and the failure of a number of the latter since installation. The long-standing confusion over the respective responsibilities of agencies was discussed and it was **resolved** that the Chairman would use his contacts to elicit information on the overall programme and anticipated timescales.

### 45/16: Reports:

- a) **Police:** No report received

**b) District Councillor:** Cllr Rawlinson reported:

- that the old Carpet Shop was to be put up for sale and that a sale-board would be evident very soon; Councillors welcomed this development, but agreed to monitor progress closely;
- that she had given active support to the Project Working Group in its objection to SLDC for the payment of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on the Community Project
- that in a national survey to identify the best areas in which to raise children, SLDC had been placed 14<sup>th</sup> and she attributed this success to initiatives such as the Levens Community Project;
- that notwithstanding this achievement, there remained many issues to address including waste disposal, recycling, parking and dogs. It was generally agreed that kerbside recycling was working, though reservations about the blue bags were noted. On dogs, Cllr Rawlinson offered to explore input from SLDC dog warden;
- that £330 would be allocated to Levens from the her Members Budget Scheme and Councillors recorded their thanks for this contribution.

**c) County Councillor:** Cllr. Bland reported ongoing work to address deteriorated road surfaces, but that work over recent weeks had prioritised roads used by the Tour of Britain.

**46/16: Finance:**

- a) Annual Accounts:** The Clerk reported on verbal confirmation from the external auditors that the audit of the 2015/16 accounts had been completed. Councillors thanked the Clerk for his efforts in bringing this matter to a satisfactory conclusion.
- b) Budget: 2016-17:** The Clerk reported that he had revised the budget for 2016/17 and stripped out finances directly attributable to the Community Project. The operational budget for normal Parish business stood at £122 in surplus.
- c) Bank Reconciliation:** A bank reconciliation to the 30 September would be presented at the October meeting.
- d) Receipts: (1 July – 31 August)**
- HMRC VAT Refund 2015-16: £ 5,814.82
- e) Payments:** Council approved the following payments:
- M R Curry: Salary & expenses (April-August 2016) £ 1,273.11
  - HMRC: Clerks NI & PAYE/Employers NI: £ 572.11

**47/16: Planning Applications**

**a) New Planning Applications**

- SL/2016/0796: Levens Hall - No objection

**b) To note Planning Applications determined since last meeting:**

Full planning consent, granted conditionally in respect of the following applications relating to the Levens Community Project was noted:

- SL/2015/0237: Levens Village Institute - demolition and erection of 3 local occupancy / affordable apartments
- SL/2015/0241: Allotments, Quarry Foot Underhill - erection of 4 affordable dwellings
- SL/2015/0242: Land at Wayside Cottage, Cotes - erection of 3 dwellings
- SL/2015/0257: Sizergh Fell Quarry – erection of 8 dwellings

- SL/2015/0260: Church Road allotments – erection of 3 dwellings
- SL/2015/0262: Land north of Parish Church – construction of new Village Hall

Determination of the following applications was also noted:

- SL/2016/0638: 37 Greengate - Single storey side extension: Granted conditionally
- SL/2016/0857: Land off Greengate Crescent - Discharge of Condition 7 (Archaeological Investigation SL/2014/0822): Invalid, No decision
- SL/2015/0309: Land at Bridge End Garage - erection of industrial unit: Withdrawn

**c) To note Planning Applications still to be Determined**

- SL/2016/0718: Cragg Foot Levens - erection of single dwelling. Having taken amendments to the application and the building material samples placed on site into account, Councillors nonetheless agreed that the design and proposed materials, particularly the zinc roof, are totally inappropriate to the built environment of the village. **The Clerk was instructed** to advise SLDC of its strong objection to this application.

**48/16: Levens Community Project:** Cllr. Mason reported as follows:

- a) Section 106 Agreement and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL):** Following frustrating delays prior to the eventual sign-off of the S.106 Agreement, the Project Team were dismayed by advice from SLDC that elements of the Project would be liable to pay significant sums under CIL regulations, despite assurances at the outset to the contrary. Following hard discussion between representatives of the Project and SLDC officers, focusing not least on delays caused by SLDC which had brought the Project within the scope of CIL, the latter finally confirmed that the Project would not be liable for the levy. This is a major relief to the viability of the Project.
- b) Sale of Plots at Sizergh Fell Quarry and Cotes:** Following resolution of the S.106 and CIL issues, Colin Tomlinson will now commence the marketing of these two components of the Project.
- c) Story Homes:** Lack of response from Storys on the proposal to offset their obligation to build affordable housing at Greengate by enabling the Parish Council to provide this is disappointing. Whilst this undermines confidence in their stated objective to engage with local communities, Cllr. Bagot pointed out that, following representations, they have made changes to aspects of landscaping to more appropriately reflect village character.
- d) Tripartite Agreement:** Representations from Stephen Read on behalf of the Institute have been noted and Paul Davis of MilneMoser is considering these and other aspects in order to advise the Council on how it should proceed.
- e) Allotments:** Most of the available allotments have now been let. The Clerk will work with Cllrs Mason and Burrow to confirm the Allotments Agreement and invoicing of tenants for the year. In response to Cllr Thacker, it was **resolved** to take advice from our insurers on covering the risk of a major water leak and associated costs.
- f) Update from Project Working Group and next steps:** It was noted that the Project Working Group, the Parish Council and the Village Institute Committee are to meet on the 14 September to discuss next steps and it was **agreed** that a request for clarification on the matter of confidentiality contained in a letter from Mr Read on 22 July would be discussed

**49/16: '20s Plenty' – Speed Initiative:** Councillors noted the ongoing concern about this issue and that Mr Darren Wilson, who had hoped to talk to the matter was unable to attend this meeting. He had however indicated availability for October and it was **agreed** to retain this as an agenda item for that meeting.

**50/16: Open Actions Not Covered Elsewhere on the Agenda:**

- a. **Woodland Management:** the Clerk reported that he was awaiting information on the availability of woodland planning and management grants.
- b. **B4RN:** The Clerk reported that Barry Forde had been in touch to confirm his willingness to attend a further meeting and it was **agreed** that the Clerk should ask him to propose dates in early November. Once a date had been confirmed this would be advertised widely in the village to boost attendance with a view to establishing a working group to take the initiative forward.
- c. **Transfer of WI Land:** The Clerk reported that solicitors for the WI had confirmed verbally that the Transfer had been completed, and, it would appear, registration. The Clerk **undertook** to confirm the latter point.
- d. **Environmental Partnership Fund – grant for maintenance of benches:** The Clerk reported that the sum of £970 had been awarded following an application for a grant to refurbish benches in the village. Quotations for the work would now be obtained.
- e. **Parking at Causeway End (representation from Ann Arnfield):** The Chairman reported that he had discussed this with Ann Arnfield and that the use of bollards had resolved her immediate problem. There was however much discussion about parking in this general area including on the unadopted road and on the nearby bend which obstructed access for wagons. The Clerk and Cllr. Bland agreed to engage County Highways to see if a solution to the general problem could be found.
- f. **Dog Faeces at Cinderbarrow and Marsh Road (complaint: Glynis Bland):** In addition to publicising concern in the Parish Newsletter, Cllr. Rawlinson undertook to consider what might be done. Cllr Holmes referred to the scheme devised in Windermere where schoolchildren had designed a poster with a strap-line and it was **agreed** that the Clerk would make enquiries about this initiative via the Community Police Officer.
- g. **Parking of cars on land next to Wayside Cottage (complaint: Glynis Bland):** The complaint was noted and it was agreed to consider wording for a sign restricting parking.
- h. **Overhanging lilac tree at Boxtree, Cinderbarrow and noticeboard; cherry tree top of Hutton Lane:** Cllr. Mason reported that the lilac had been brought to the attention of the owners and would be dealt with; it was **agreed** to budget for repair of the noticeboard in 2017-18. Consideration of the cherry tree however prompted discussion about the general state of verges and hedges and Cllr Burrow promoted the case for the preparation of a whole village maintenance plan. It was agreed to consider this proposal at a future meeting.

## 51/16: Correspondence

In addition to correspondence discussed, Members noted additional correspondence received as detailed by the Clerk and in particular:

- a) Local Area Partnership Flooding Conference – 24 November at 10.00 am, Kendal Town Hall
- b) Kendal AAC 10k run commencing at the Hare and Hounds on 24 May 2017

## 52/16 Future agenda items:

- B4RN
- Village Maintenance Plan & Parish seats: painting and maintenance
- The Parish Newsletter
- Following the resignation of David Martin to discuss the appointment of Vice-Chair and the re-allocation of Mr Martin's representations on outside bodies.
- 20's Plenty initiative
- Revised Financial Regulations

## 53/16 Date of next meeting:

- 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016

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

Signed ..... (Chairman)                      Date