

# Levens Parish Council

## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10 March 2015 in the Methodist Meeting Room, Levens at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs R.Atfield (Chairman), S.Bagot, H.Burrow, C.Hammond, D.Martin, R.Mason, J.Thacker + P.Davidson (clerk) + Sue Cox (First Responders Coordinator) + 2 members of the public

**223/14 Apologies for absence:** Cllr S.Roberts + County Cllr J.Bland + PCSO M.Boak

**224/14 Declarations of interest:** none

### 225/14 Minutes

It was **resolved** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 10 February, as a true record.

### 226/14 Public Participation

- Public Access Defibrillator (PAD): Sue Cox, the coordinator of the Milnthorpe and Heversham First Responders, explained to councillors that the nearest First Responder was in Milnthorpe, so response time was a real issue if a medical emergency arises in Levens. Sue recommended that the village was equipped with a PAD, as these devices require only a short amount of training to use. If the village was equipped with a PAD, then Sue offered to provide basic life support training to villagers, including use of the PAD. The British Heart Foundation can provide part funding for a PAD, so the cost to the village would be £400, plus a small amount of electrical work to install it. Councillors agreed that it would be very beneficial to have a PAD in the village. It was agreed that the Institute should be asked if they would be prepared to fund the cost of the PAD. Once a way of procuring a PAD is agreed, then efforts could be made to find volunteers willing to be trained to use it. Clerk to write to the Institute.

### 227/14 Reports

#### a) Police

- There have been 40 reported incidents in the area that includes Levens parish since last meeting, resulting in five crimes being recorded, four of which relate to criminal damage to the burger van that parks by Heaves hotel. One male has now been arrested in connection with this.
- There is currently a Schools road safety initiative being rolled out county wide, endeavouring to educate the public about dangers of inconsiderate parking around schools. Holme village is one of the areas being focussed on. The clerk will inform the primary school of this.

b) Relevant matters from District and County Councillors: none.

### 228/14 Finance

#### a) Asset Register

It was **resolved** to endorse the clerk's updated Asset Register.

#### b) Risk Assessment

It was **resolved** to endorse the clerk's update to the Risk Assessment.

#### c) Receipts

- Homes & Communities Agency: LCP grant funding £15611.40

The clerk advised that the latest view of LCP pre-planning costs from the architect was that outturn costs were anticipated to be significantly less than anticipated. The clerk had informed the Homes & Communities Agency of this fact, and was awaiting advice on what this meant in terms of grant funding.

#### d) Payments

It was **resolved** to authorise the following payments:

- CALC: training course £29.50
- Stramongate Press: newsletter printing £57.00
- Clerk's salary & expenses: Jan + Feb + March £970.70
- Clerk's charity allowance for 2014/15 £500.00

e) Levens Community Project (LCP)

It was **resolved** to authorise the following payments:

- SLDC: detailed planning application fee for village hall and Institute £2502.50
- SLDC: outline planning application fee for Cotes £557.50
- SLDC: outline planning application fee for Sizergh Fell Quarry £770.00
- SLDC: outline planning application fee for Church Hill £192.50
- SLDC: outline planning application fee for Underhill £192.50
- R.G.Parkins: drainage surveys £4440.00
- Damson Consultancy: LCP design work £3360.00

## 229/14 Planning Applications

### a) New Planning Applications

**SL/2015/0087:** Bridge End, Levens. Installation of underground package treatment plant with steel kiosk above to handle domestic sewage from operational depot. Council **resolved** that it had no objections to this application.

### b) To note Planning Applications determined since last meeting

**SL/2014/1234:** Land to south of Cragg Foot, Levens. Single dwelling. Approved.

**SL/2015/0010:** Green Hollow, Levens. Erection of dwelling. Approved.

### c) To note Planning Applications still outstanding

**SL/2014/0370:** Change of use, extension, refurbishment and partial demolition of former carpet showroom and site to form nine self-contained apartments. The clerk was asked to (again) urge SLDC for a response.

**SL/2014/1154:** Levens Brow, Levens. Conversion and alterations of existing dwelling to create two dwellings.

**SL/2015/0008:** Bridge End Garage, Levens. Installation of 6 replacement fascia signs

## 230/14 Levens Community Project (LCP)

### a) Designs and plans

Cllr Mason advised that the planning applications had been submitted to SLDC on 9 March.

### b) Site of new village hall and encroachment of trees

The clerk has written to Revd. Crossley, requesting the church's agreement to the removal of three trees. Reply awaited.

### c) Grant application in support of production of a business plan

The clerk has submitted an application for funding from SLDC's Locally Important Projects fund, in support of generating a business plan. Two quotes had been submitted, one from Wingspan Consulting (for £1600 + VAT) and the other from Jackson & Graham Accountants (for £3500 + VAT). The outcome of this application is awaited.

### d) Amalgamation of charities

Cllr Mason reported that an informal working meeting had been held to discuss the way forward. It was agreed that the next step was to arrange a formal meeting with an experienced solicitor. It was **resolved** that Paul Davies of Milne Moser should be approached. Clerk to arrange a meeting.

## 231/14 Processes

### a) Equal Opportunities policy

It was **resolved** to adopt the Equal Opportunities policy presented by the clerk.

### b) Publication Scheme

It was **resolved** to adopt the updated Publication Scheme presented by the clerk.

### 232/14 Parish Council/village website

The email was noted from Elaine Hodgkinson, advising that hosting of the current village website is going to end this summer. Councillors agreed that the website was an important facility for the village. The clerk was asked to investigate costs from web designers to establish a new, user-friendly, website for the village. It would obviously be vital to continue to have volunteer support to maintain and update the different website pages. The clerk will therefore contact Elaine, to gauge the level of voluntary support that might be expected.

### 233/14 Annual Meeting

It was noted that the calling notice had been issued and community groups invited.

### 234/14 Open actions not covered elsewhere on the agenda

- a) Land adjacent to Wayside Cottage  
Awaiting feedback from Colin Tomlinson of M.Hodgson.
- b) Offer from Mr.Bannister of purchase of land  
Cllr Mason has engaged the support of Stephen Read, to assist in registering the land.
- c) Twinning  
The clerk reported that he had received an email from Chris Crorie, offering support in coordinating twinning activities. Mr Crorie also has a good friend in Heversham who speaks fluent French and is happy to help.
- d) Woodland management  
Cllr Mason has asked for advice from Luke Steer, and is awaiting feedback.
- e) Sewer pipe at Underhill  
The clerk reported that he had contacted UU, who had been to investigate the sewer pipe and manhole cover. The clerk will attempt to get feedback from UU on the outcome of their visit.

### 235/14 Correspondence

Levens Charity grant application from Revd. Crossley: for support to the project to repoint the exterior south wall of the church. Members of the Trustees committee advised that they had reviewed this application and, whilst supporting the application in principle, had the following concerns:

- o There was no evidence of own funding
- o There was only one quotation. Given the large amount of money involved, trustees would expect a minimum of two quotes and preferably three.

Councillors endorsed these recommendations, and it was **resolved** that the clerk would provide feedback to Revd. Crossley, and invite her to re-submit the application.

### 236/14 Future agenda items

- RSPB consultation on the future of the Lyth valley.

### 237/14 Date of next meetings

- Next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on 14 April 2015 and the Annual Parish Meeting is on 17 March.

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date