

Levens Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 April 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, S.Roberts, J.Thacker + P.Davidson (clerk) + District Cllr A.Rawlinson + PCSO Boak + 7 members of the public

238/14 Apologies for absence: none

239/14 Declarations of interest: none

240/14 Minutes

It was **resolved** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 10 March 2015, as a true record.

241/14 Public Participation

Laying of broadband cable at roadside in Cinderbarrow: this has resulted in a mess, with topsoil now spilling onto the road. Clerk to contact BT Openreach.

242/14 Reports

a) Police

- There have been 50 reported incidents in the area that includes Levens parish since the last meeting, resulting in five crimes being recorded. Of note was a burglary at Damson Dene and the theft of fuel from an address in Helsington.
- Fish sellers in white vans have been back in our area in recent weeks. Residents should contact the Police on 101 if they have any suspicions.
- Police are also investigating reports of possible deer poaching in some rural areas. Again, contact 101 if anything suspicious is seen.

b) Relevant matters from District and County Councillors

District Cllr Rawlinson advised that she was making efforts to help progress the planning application for the old carpet shop, and was in communication with both SLDC and the owner. She also advised that Building Control had deemed the building not to be in an unsafe condition.

243/14 Finance

a) Receipts: none

b) Payments

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

- | | |
|---|---------|
| • Levens central Stores: refreshments for Annual Parish Meeting | £22.39 |
| • B.E.Nelson: cutting of grass verges | £222.60 |

244/14 Planning Applications

a) **New Planning Applications**

It was noted that the Levens Community Project planning applications are now on the SLDC website, with a closing date for comments of 16 April.

SL/2015/0280: Bridlecroft, Levens. Erection of stable building, menage and access from private lane.

Council **resolved** that it had no objections to this application.

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

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

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

SL/2015/0087: Bridge End, Levens. Installation of underground package treatment plant with steel kiosk above to handle domestic sewage from operational depot.

245/14 Levens Community Project (LCP)

a) Homes & Communities Grant Funding

The clerk advised that he had submitted a “nil return” for the last tranche of funding.

b) Site of new village hall: removal 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 submitted an application in February for funding from SLDC’s Locally Important Projects fund. Outcome still awaited. Clerk to chase SLDC.

d) Way forward for village charities

Cllr Mason reported that a meeting had been held with Paul Davies of Milne Moser. The key points which emerged were:

- An agreement would need to be drawn up, which mapped out the future direction for the village charities.
- The Parish Council needs to seek independent financial advice.
- The Parish Council should engage with SLDC to discuss Asset Transfer.

e) Allotments

Cllr Mason reported that a kitchen garden site at Levens Hall is potentially on offer as allotment land. This would be an excellent site for allotments. It was agreed that Cllr Burrows would organise a meeting, inviting residents to discuss this exciting opportunity. This meeting is arranged for April 28th, 7.30pm, at the Methodist Church meeting room.

246/14 Resignation of the clerk

The clerk advised that he had been offered a role of town clerk in the south of England. He had therefore, with regret, tendered his resignation as clerk to Levens. Council agreed that the process of recruiting a replacement clerk should begin immediately. The clerk’s proposed wording for a vacancy advert for the CALC website was agreed. The clerk would also place the vacancy notice on local notice boards.

247/14 Parish Council/village website

The clerk reported that he had obtained an estimate from Designworks for implementing a new website. The quote was competitive, although there is a significant cost for transferring the large amount of existing material to the new website.

The clerk also reported that the current webteam had agreed to assist with the management of a new website.

It was agreed that the clerk would seek a second quotation. It was also agreed to ask the webteam to ask users to review the material on the current website, and remove all old and out-of-date content.

248/14 “No cold calling” signs

Cllr Burrows reported that some of the “no cold calling” signs have come off at the entrances to the village. The clerk will contact Trading Standards.

249/14 Open actions not covered elsewhere on the agenda

- Land adjacent to Wayside Cottage
Colin Tomlinson of M.Hodgson has had an initial discussion with Mrs Mallinson, who is understood to be seeking her own valuations. Ongoing.

- Offer from Mr Bannister of purchase of land
Registration of the land is being pursued. Ongoing.

- Twinning
Mr & Mrs Barton are visiting French Levens in May. The clerk of Levens has recommended accommodation and intends to meet them.
The clerk of French Levens has also reported that his mayor is keen to make closer ties between the two villages, and has asked for more details of our village. Councillors agreed that a “welcome pack” should be put together, and Mr & Mrs Barton be requested to take this with them, to give to the French Levens clerk.

- Woodland management
Cllr Mason advised that he is to talk to Cumbria Woodlands about their offer of free woodland management advice. Ongoing.

- Defibrillator for Levens
A member of the public had proposed at the last meeting, that the Institute purchase a PAD. This had not been universally accepted by Institute members. However, it is now understood that the proposal is to be re-submitted at the next Institute Committee meeting, with the recommendation that the Institute purchase the PAD. Councillors agreed to await the outcome of the Institute’s deliberations.

- Levens Charity grant application from Revd.Crossley
Revd. Crossley has requested a meeting with trustees to discuss the detail of the application. Clerk to arrange a suitable date.

250/14 Correspondence

Nothing additional to note.

251/14 Future agenda items

- Parish maintenance tasks

252/14 Date of next meetings

- The next meeting is the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, on 12 May 2015.

Signed (Chairman)

Date