

LEVENS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 9 October 2018 in the Methodist Meeting Room, Levens at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. R Atfield (Chairman), S. Bagot, H. Burrow, J Fitch, K. Holmes (and as District Cllr.), R. Johnston, R. Mason, D. Rogerson, + County Cllr. J. Bland, PCSO J. Park, M. R. Curry (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

50/18 Apologies for absence: No apologies were received

51/18 Declarations of interest: None

52/18 Minutes: It was **Resolved** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11 September 2018 as a true record.

53/18 Public Participation: Mr S. Bavin said that feedback had indicated much appreciation for the display of poppies in commemoration of the ending of World War 1.

54/18 Reports:

a) Reports from Councillors on Meetings Attended: Cllr Rogerson reported on the AGM of the South Lakeland District Association of parish councils held on 20 September. Items included a presentation on 'Great Place: the Lakes and Dales Partnership', the status of 3rd party agreements with Cumbria County Council and a forthcoming staff restructure at SLDC.

Cllr Burrow reported on a recent meeting of the A590 Working Group which heard that an outside agency has been commissioned to report on current problems and potential solutions. This is likely to be a lengthy process. Cllr Burrow and the Clerk had looked at the profusion of unapproved roadside signs from Levens Bridge westwards onto the A590 and the Clerk confirmed that he had written both to SLDC and the County Council in respect of these.

b) Police: PCSO Park advised Members that there were no incidents of note to report. She confirmed that following a request from the Parish Council she had that day laid out a number of police cones in the vicinity of the entrance to the playing fields. It was confirmed that this was intended to be a trial only to see if restricting some parking at this narrow stretch of Levens Lane would improve visibility for traffic. PCSO Park confirmed that the cones could be used flexibly in this area to understand their impact.

c) District Councillor: Cllr Holmes (KH) reported that staff restructure at SLDC was part of its Customer Connect initiative which, along with other actions was designed to improve services to the public. There was no new update on the status of the Carpet Shop. Cllr Holmes reported that he had had confirmation of his Members' Budget of £1,000 which he is to share between three Parish Councils. He asked Members to consider what project or activity they might wish to recommend to him for support from the fund.

d) County Councillor: Cllr. Bland reported that work to repair Sampool Bridge had been delayed pending final approvals from the Environment Agency

55/18 Finance:

a) Receipts: Councillors noted that there were no receipts for the period 1-30 September.

b) Payments: Councillors **Resolved** to authorise the following payments:

- i. M R Curry: Salary and Expenses – September 2018: £679.36
The Clerk asked Members to note a duplicate payment of expenses to him of £15.49 which he would arrange to reimburse.
- ii. HMRC: PAYE for Quarter 2: £381.02
- iii. D. Preston: Woodland Management Plan: £600.00
- iv. SLDC Street lighting, maintenance & repairs from Precept £1,132.99
- v. Councillors **Approved** the payment of £117.99 (previously agreed) to Cllr Burrow for the costs of World War 1 commemorative items including poppies and bunting.

c) **Financial Report:** The Clerk presented the bank reconciliation to 30 September showing a balance of £34,108.63. Within this are ring-fenced sums due to Cumbria County Council and previously allocated sums for work carried forward and that the underlying position therefore was a balance of £15,745.63p. The Clerk advised that this was in-line with the current year budget which he had reviewed at the end of Quarter 2 (30 September). There were no matters of exception to bring to the Council at this stage and the Chairman signed-off the bank reconciliation.

56/18 Levens Community Project: Cllr. Mason reported that following a public consultation at the Strickland Arms on 19 September, submission of new plans for Sizergh Fell Quarry by Mr Tom Leahy of PARTI was imminent. If approved this would trigger the sale of the site for £750,000 under the Option to Purchase. This in turn would trigger the commitment to build the new village Hall under the Section 106 Agreement and it was agreed that the Project should ask the Levens Institute to take professional advice on the previously drafted Tripartite Agreement in preparation for signature. On 18 September the Project Working Group was joined by the full Management Committee of the Levens Institute and all Parish Councillors for a well-received update on progress with the Project. Although recent applications to the Big Lottery and Walney Wind Farm Extension Fund had been unsuccessful, very significant progress has been made toward securing major funding from the Community Led Housing Fund and from Homes England. In respect of the former Cllr. Mason asked the Council to confirm its commitment to build 7 affordables (3 apartments in the Institute and 4 houses at Underhill) for inclusion in the bid for Scheme Grant. There was also discussion about committing to self-builds at Church Hill and Cotes and the Council agreed to consider the best options pending advice from SLDC. Cllr. Mason advised that as matters develop it will be desirable for the management structure for the Project to be transferred to a limited company set up for this purpose and asked council for authority to explore this with the Project's solicitor.

It was **Resolved:**

- i) To commit to the building of 7 affordable units;
- ii) To authorise discussions with Tony Whittaker of SLDC to explore the options available for the requirement for Church Hill and Cotes to be sold as 'self-builds' and to report back by email;
- iii) To ask the Institute to take professional advice on the Tripartite Agreement;
- iv) To ask the solicitor to advise on next steps for the establishment of a limited company.

It was agreed to await the outcome of the above before:

- i) Instructing Tony Hills to put together an application for detailed planning permission for the sites at Cotes, Church Hill and Underhill;
- ii) Requesting Tony Hills to put together tender packs for building the new hall and Church Hill and for groundworks at the new hall site. In the meantime, tree and scrub clearance was scheduled for the 19-20 October.

Report on Project Finances: The Clerk reported that despite much recent activity the Project remains in funds by over £6,000 with further Capacity Grants to be received. A new bid for Capacity grant is being prepared.

57/18 Levens and Savin Brow Charities: The Clerk as Secretary to the Charities gave a verbal report on the meeting of Trustees held on 25 September which reviewed the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018. The review of Levens Charity indicated an overall asset figure of £122,803.23 including an accrued income figure from interest of £17,609 which is available for distribution. Savin Brow Quarry assets stand at £2665. The Secretary had also reviewed the investment policy and recommended that there be no change for the time being. He pointed out that in the year 2018-19 to date there had been a payment from Levens Charity of £7,113 to Pandora Signs for speed indicator devices and a further commitment of £1,100 for work to the plot of land on Brigsteer Road bringing the funds available for distribution down to around £9,000.

The Trustees recommendation to offer up to £1,000 to the Bowling Club subject to the receipt of additional quotes was **agreed**. A request from a resident to assist funding a gap-year did not meet Charity criteria and was refused.

58/18 Planning Applications

- a) **New applications:** Members noted that there had been no new applications received since the last meeting.
- b) **Applications determined since the last meeting:** Members noted conditional approval for a single storey rear extension at Royal Oak Cottage, Main Street and also conditional approval for outline planning permission at the Langdales, Underhill. Council noted that it had objected to the latter application. Tree work at 20 Nethercroft had also received conditional approval.
- c) **Applications still to be determined:** The Clerk reported that applications made by Lakesway Holiday Home and Lodgepark had not yet been scheduled to go to Committee. It was **Resolved** that when a committee date was fixed, a representative of the Parish Council should attend and consideration be given to making a statement to the Committee.

59/18 World War One Commemorations:

Councillors were pleased to note the very positive reaction to the field of poppies in the centre of the village. Thanks were recorded to all concerned and special thanks in writing would be sent to Hal Bagot for his calligraphy work. Continental Landscapes were praised for their sensitive approach when mowing the area recently. The following plans for 11 November were **approved**:

- i) A beacon to be organised by Cllr. Mason will be lit on Hying Field at 7.00 p.m. as part of the national Beacons of Light Commemoration. This will be preceded by a roll-call for the fallen and the Church bell will be rung at 7.05 p.m.
- ii) Publicity will be in the form of a poster for display in the noticeboard, with laminated copies to be attached to salient points in the village. The Clerk will include an item in the upcoming Newsletter and submit information to Naomi Capstick for inclusion in the Gazette and to the website. Cllr Rogerson will post on Facebook.
- iii) It was noted that as there is pedestrian access only to the site this should be made clear in all publicity

60/18 Levens Parish Council Newsletter

The Newsletter will be required for distribution by 24 October. Items agreed included the WW1 commemoration details; production of the Woodland Management Plan and appointment of Andy Banks as Maintenance Contractor, together with the announcement of new Parish Councillors alongside other regular items.

61/18 Open Actions Not Covered Elsewhere on the Agenda:

- a) **B4RN:** The B4RN Group has discussed requirements for the release of the LIPs Grant from SLDC and will action this when necessary. They have a work programme proposed. Cllr Mason raised some concerns about the bringing of cables into the village given the depth of soil locally and will raise this direct with B4RN as an individual.
- b) **Levens Village Traffic Management:** Cllr Rogerson reported that the SIDs were working well though no downloads of data had been taken from them yet. Other locations for the future were discussed and it was **agreed** that a number of Councillors would get together and walk possible sites. It was **Resolved** to procure three new posts in total for future use.
- c) **Village Maintenance:** In addition to the appointment of Andy Banks, Councillors noted the comprehensive Maintenance Plan prepared by Cllrs Burrow and Mason and thanks were recorded to them for this work. The Plan would now be implemented in liaison with Andy Banks. The Clerk would write to SLDC and County Highways regarding issues that fall within their remit.

d) Woodland Management: It was **Resolved** that the Clerk should recommend a contractor to conduct a tree health and safety report as the start of implementation of the Plan. It was also agreed that the Plan should be sent to Andy Bennett, the local Forestry Officer to see if it was likely to fulfil criteria for Woodland Management Grant.

62/18 Correspondence

Correspondence received was noted, including a request for a donation from the Great North Air Ambulance. It was **Resolved** to make a grant to them of £100 from the Parish grant budget.

63/18 Future Agenda Items:

- i. Precept and 2019-20 budget
- ii. Outstanding legal matters relating to Parish and other land in the village

64/18 Date of Next Meeting:

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council is on Tuesday 13 November, 2018

The Meeting closed at 10.08 p.m.

Signed (Chairman) Date