

# Levens Parish Council

## Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 October 2015 in the Methodist Meeting Room, Levens at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs R.Atfield (Chairman), S.Bagot, H.Burrow, C.Hammond, R.Mason, J Thacker + S Roberts (Clerk ) + County Cllr J.Bland & District Councillor A Rawlinson + 5 members of the public

**77/15 Apologies for absence:** Councillor D Martin

**78/15 Declarations of interest:** None

### 79/15 Minutes

It was **resolved** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on 8 September 2015, as a true record.

### 80/15 Public Participation

Two neighbours to the Old Carpet Shop (Shepherds Mill) attended the meeting raised the issue on behalf of other neighbours. They were unhappy with the new plans for this development which is on SLDC web site. District Cllr A Rawlinson stated that Simon Fawcett, SLDC Planning Officer, was in discussions with the owner and at present the plans are not validated. The Councillors requested that a site visit be made and Cllr A Rawlinson said if neighbours had objections along with the Parish Councillors she can request the application go to SLDC Cabinet Committee.

The Parish Council wish to raise objections to the new proposal and will notify Simon Fawcett.

### 81/15 Reports

a) Police: Since the last meeting 40 incidents had been reported with 5 recorded. Everyone is reminded to be vigilant with regard to security. Be aware of any suspicious activity in the neighbourhood and if concerned call 101. (The full Police Report is displayed on the Noticeboard)

Councillors noted that Cold Calling was happening in the Village and people need to be aware and report incidents to the Police ( call 101)

b) Relevant matters from District and County Councillors

District Councillor A Rawlinson Lyth Valley & Witherslack Proposed Water Level Management Board have extended the Notice period to 30th June 2016. There are mixed responses from residents as to the pumps being operated or not and both Cllr Rawlinson & Cllr Bland are aware that false information is being circulated. Cllr Rawlinson will be holding consultation meetings in Levens & Brigsteer and she will also leaflet all residents with regards to this issue. She will then be able to take her findings to Cabinet. It was reported to the meeting that before the pumps were activated villagers living on the flood plain experienced flooding of their properties. Consideration must be given to these residents.

County Councillor J Bland: Nothing to report

### 82/15 Clerk Contract

Agreed by all Councillors and to be signed by Chairman & Clerk at the next meeting.

The vacant post of Parish Councillor will be advertised and it was agreed that it would be placed in the Parish Newsletter.

### 83/15 Finance

a) Receipts None

b) Payments

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

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| • Website – Treble3   | £72.00  |
| • Clerk to contact Webteam to confirm this is correct & forward reply to Parish Councillors |         |
| • Printer   | £180.00 |
| • Postage   | £12.96  |
| • SLCC membership   | £48.00  |
| • Printing Plus   | £96.80  |

## 84/15 Planning Applications

a) **New Planning Applications:**

1) **SL/2015/0844 Wayne Gap, Heaves**, Extension to form 2 self-catering units, reception & washing facilities, site 12 camping pods, detached storage unit & new access track & sewage treatment plant.

**No Objection**

2) **CTIL 122393 VF89037** Proposed upgrade to Telecommunication Radio Base at Bridge End.

**Local Map - the mast incorrectly sited in Levens Village, Clerk to contact Clarke Telecom and request revised Plan.**

b) **To note Planning Application, still to be determined**

**SL/2014/0370:** Change of use, extension, refurbishment and partial demolition of former carpet showroom and site to form nine self-contained apartments. **New plans being submitted for 5 flats & 2 affordables Available on SLDC web site but not validated by SLDC Planning Officer.**

## 85/15 Levens Community Project

- a) S106: Cllr Mason reported that SLDC had not yet issued the final terms of the S106. This was imperative for the project to commence. Tony Hills is in discussions with Simon Fawcett and when the final S106 is received the project can proceed.
- b) Business Plan: Cllr Mason advised that the contractor had almost completed work on the Business Plan but further information was being updated. Colin Turner stated that if a Business Plan working group was required he would be pleased to offer his services.
- c) Charities Commission: Solicitor Paul Davies had written to the Commission for approval of the Village Project. Without this approval the project could not commence.
- d) Institute Meeting: Cllr Mason had held a meeting with members of the Institute Committee, the Working Group and Parish Councillors to update them on progress of the scheme which will require a tripartite agreement between these groups.
- e) Demolition & Site Clearance Sizergh Fell Quarry The councillors agreed that L & W Wilson Contractor complete this work in preparation for the sale of the site. Councillor Mason presented an itemised quote that was acceptable to all.
- f) Cllr Mason also highlighted the need to remove some timber at SFQ, in preparation for the sale. It was discussed that we are allowed to remove 5 cu mtrs per calendar quarter ie 5cu mtrs in September 2015 followed by 5cu mtrs in the next quarter, beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> 2015.

## 86/15 Offer of purchase of land at Cinderbarrow, from Mssrs Bannister & Proctor.

At present the registration of the land is being carried out. Currently no decision has been agreed.

## 87/15 Land adjacent to Wayside Cottage

No progress to date as the Parish Council's Solicitor has been on holiday. Cllr Mason to follow up progress and report at the next meeting

### **88/15 Parish Maintenance Report**

Cllr Burrows queried several updates on the action sheet – It was agreed that Pete Tideswell Area Steward be contacted as the Councillors did not agree with some of the findings. Update at the next meeting

### **89/15 Woodland Management:**

Cllr Martin has reported that he has obtained maps of the Parish Council Woodland to establish the acreage. If the acreage is less than 3 hectares then funding will not be available. He will update the Council at the next meeting

Cllr Hammond suggested that to find out the acreage this could be measured on Google Map.

### **90/15 Allotment Update**

Cllr Mason had arranged a meeting with Richard Bagot; the preliminaries had gone really well. Funding had been applied for and approval had not yet been received.

The October Newsletter had an article explaining about this venture and offering residents the opportunity to be Allotment Holders.

### **91/15 French Levens**

The Council has had correspondence from our namesake in France requesting that the schools communicate with each other. Cllr Bagot had contacted Levens School and is in contact with Patrice in French Levens. At present nothing to report. It was agreed that a working party to be organised by Cllr Bagot to enhance our links with French Levens

### **92/15 Standing Orders:- Update**

It was agreed that the Standing Orders were correct and that 13/10/15 would be added to the document as the review date.

### **93/15 Correspondence**

- a) Letter from Levens Charity: change of signature – Clerk has received paperwork with the correct signatures
- b) Letter from WI: Offer of plot of land for Allotments – Clerk to send a letter explaining that this land was not required
- c) Letter from M&G Charities: Savin Brow – add recipient- agreed by Councillors and signed by signatories
- d) HSBC Levens Parish Council Accounts: International tax compliance- Cllr Hammond agreed to advise the Clerk but needed account information , which the clerk agreed to supply
- e) Letter: Complaint- Councillors not registering an interest- The Councillors position was of no disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of the Lyth & Witherslack Water Level Management Board but in the interest of openness & fairness it was agreed that any interest must be declared in future. The Parish Council collectively apologise for the oversight. Clerk to reply to this complaint.
- f) Transparency Funding: £2,000.00 available to Parish Councils- Clerk to apply for funding
- g) Letter –South Lakeland Community Energy Support: Levens Project has been successfully selected- Meeting to be arranged, the outcome will be brought to the next meeting.
- h) Letter - Houses at Nethercroft: All councillors sympathised with the owners who have major issues with faults in their houses. Whilst it is difficult for the Parish Council to influence this matter the Chairman will write to SLDC voicing our concerns. It was recommended that the owners contact Cllr A Rawlinson who will try to support their cases with SLDC.
- i) LAP Meeting: Cllr Hammond attended the meeting, which was about the Connecting Cumbria Strategy with superfast broadband. There are important changes to Recycling Collections, which householders will be notified of when they commence. It was noted that SLDC apologised with regard to the new collection dates not being met - this was due to the new vehicle not being able

to access houses in the early mornings because parked cars had blocked the roads thus causing a delay in collections.

- j) It was agreed that The Village Project needed to be further advanced before the Westmorland Gazette would be contacted as they have agreed to do an article on the project. This will raise the profile of the building plots for sale.

**94/15 Future agenda items to date:**

- a) New Allotments
- b) Implementation of Planning Application Form
- c) Implementation of the Village Maintenance list
- d) Update Land adjacent to Wayside Cottage
- e) Budget & Precept
- f) Village Project

**95/15 Date of next meetings:**

Next ordinary parish council meeting: Tuesday 10 November 2015.

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date

Meeting closed at 9 43 pm