

LEVENS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 09 April 2019 in the Methodist Meeting Room, Levens at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. R Atfield (Chairman), S. Bagot, H. Burrow, J. Fitch, K. Holmes (also attending as District Councillor), R. Mason, D. Rogerson, + County Cllr. J. Bland, M. R. Curry (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

122/18 Apologies for absence: Cllr. R. Johnston

123/18 Declarations of interest: None

124/18 Minutes: On item 111/18(c)i (Highways Matters) Cllr. Fitch made the point that the issues referred to were not defects and could not therefore be logged on the HIMS system. The draft Minutes were amended, following which it was **Resolved** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12 March 2019 as a true record.

125/18 Public Participation: No items were raised by members of the public.

126/18 Reports:

a) Reports from Councillors on Meetings Attended:

- i. Cllr. Atfield reported his attendance at a lunch-meeting of the Kent Estuary Mission Community Development Group on 25 March which highlighted the good work being done through the Kent Estuary Youth Project. Cllrs. Holmes and Bland had also attended.
- ii. Cllr. Bagot reported her attendance at a meeting of the Levens Village Institute (LVI) Management Committee where there had been discussion about acquiring a new PA system for the Hall (which could be transferred to the new village hall). It had also been confirmed that the Committee would like the bench outside the LVI to be renovated along with others in the village. A further meeting was scheduled for the 10 April.

b) Police: PCSO Park reported on several minor incidents, in particular a burglary at an out-building on 11 March. There had also been recent concern about an increase in doorstep-selling (cold calling). The latter had been associated with reports of intimidating behaviour and also the disappearance of a number of "No Cold Calling" signs. Cllr. Burrow has asked Trading Standards for replacements. Incidents had occurred on different dates, including on the 19th March when a 101 call to the police had been made, but had remained unanswered after more than 10 minutes. Cllr. Bagot felt that residents should be given advice, perhaps through the Parish Newsletter and PCSO Park was asked what parishioners should be told. She acknowledged the current difficulties with the 101 service, but confirmed that this was the most appropriate route to report incidents *unless* individuals felt threatened in which case it was legitimate to phone 999. Trading Standards should also be informed and it was **Resolved** to mention procedure in the next issue of the Newsletter with contact details for Trading Standards. PCSO Park asked if anyone could advise on the whereabouts of the police road-cones recently lent to the village.

c) District Councillor: Cllr. Holmes reported that SLDC's Customer Connect initiative designed to bring efficiencies to its public services was continuing.

d) County Councillor: Cllr. Bland confirmed that work on Sampool Bridge is complete and recent work to culverts on the dual carriageway was finished. Work on Hutton Lane was close to completion and plans for work at Gilpin Bridge and raising the level of the carriageway on the A6 by Levens Bridge were progressing. Consideration of a footpath/cycleway along Levens Lane to Levens Bridge was taking place. Discussion ensued about an advertising trailer near Levens Bridge, the inappropriateness of which has already been raised with CCC Highways and SLDC. Neither authority has yet accepted the responsibility for dealing with it. Cllr. Holmes undertook to discuss this direct with John Barwise, SLDC's Enforcement Officer.

127/18 Finance:

- a) **Receipts for the period 01 to 28 February 2019:** The following receipts were noted:
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| i.08/03/19: VAT refund: | £ 846.04 |
| ii.19/03/19: Allotment Rent: | 70.00 |
- b) **Payments:** It was **Resolved** to authorise the following payments:
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| i. M R Curry: Salary March 2019: | £ 791.10 |
| ii. HMRC: PAYE Months 10-12: | 506.61 |
| iii. Cllr. S. Bagot: Expenses Annual Parish Meeting: | 26.07 |
| iv. Mitchinsons Accountants: Payroll services 2018-19: | 72.00 |
| v. CALC: Annual Subscription 2019: | 225.48 |
- c) **Financial Report and draft Budget 2019-20:**
- Bank Reconciliation at 31 March: The reconciled balance of £19,965.93p was noted. The usual caveat regarding ring-fenced funds amounting to £16,164.29p was received leaving a balance of £3,801.64. After taking into account a refund due from the Community Project, the underlying balance of Parish funds is £13,714.14p.
 - Budget Review 28 March: The Clerk reviewed the income and expenditure positions and reported that the 2018-19 budget appeared to have been satisfactorily concluded.
 - Audit Matters: Preparations are now underway for the annual audit which will commence with the deposit of papers with the Internal Auditor on 8 May.

128/18 Levens Community Project: Cllr Mason reported as follows:

- a) **Sale of Sizergh Fell Quarry:** The Lake District National Park Authority had approved detailed plans submitted by PARTI on 3 April. PARTI now has several weeks in which to exercise their option to purchase.
- b) **Sale of Plots at Cotes:** A prospective purchaser who withdrew several months ago has renewed her expression of interest. The new occupier of Fiddlers Cotes has also expressed interest in purchasing land rented by the previous occupant.
- c) **Report on Financial Position:** The Clerk was pleased to confirm:
- The award of £40,000 from SLDC's LIPs Fund;
 - The award of £64,471 as a Capacity Building Grant from the Community Led Housing Fund;
 - Plans for a bid to the Infrastructure Fund from Homes England via SLDC are being considered;
 - A significant bid for Revenue Grant from Homes England remains under preparation with assistance from outside sources.
- d) **Project Working Group and any other Updates:** There was nothing to report from the Project Working Group other than a further meeting of the group tasked with internal design of the kitchen. Cllr Mason reported that matters relating to the Tripartite Agreement are still outstanding and Mr S Read commented that the Village Institute Management Committee must be assured about liabilities and guarantees in the contracts proposed for the building of the new hall. The Clerk was asked to coordinate the flow of information to relevant parties to conclude this matter as soon as possible. Mr Read also reported that the LVI had sent back the revised Section 106 Agreement to LDNPA unsigned raising a point of principle. On behalf of B4RN, Mr Read further reported that he had asked Tony Hills for observations on the proposal to run a cable across the back of the property. It is unlikely that this will be an issue.
- e) **Levens Allotments:** The Clerk confirmed that he had received verbal confirmation from the 10th and final tenants that they wished to renew. It was also agreed that a long-term tenant could continue despite moving to Grange and **Resolved** that the Clerk should write to him to confirm this.

129/18 Levens and Savin Brow Charities

- a) The Clerk reported that the nominated Trustees, with the Chairman in attendance, had met immediately prior to the Parish Council meeting to consider the request for grant for £20,000 from the Levens Playing Fields Association. The Trustees had declared support for the re-development proposals, but also noted the significant scale of the application. The Trustees had concluded that they should support the Playing Fields application, but in phases rather than as an outright award and subject to further discussion with the Association as to its governance structure and adherence to it. Further discussion with the Association was proposed and this was agreed.
- b) It was **Resolved** to authorise the withdrawal of £1,000 from the Charity Deposit Account to the HSBC current account to cover the Clerk's Honarium (repayable to the Parish Council) and to leave a small working deposit.

130/18 Planning Applications: the following planning applications were considered:

a) New Planning Applications

Application No.	Address	Proposal	Applicant	Type & Status	Comments
TR/2019/0037	1 Greengate Gdns	Reduce yew		TPO	No Objection

b) The following Planning Applications determined since last meeting were noted:

Application No.	Address	Proposal	Decision
TR/2019/0016	Ringing Stones, Levens LA8 8NQ	Fell 1 sycamore; 1 beech	Approved conditionally (ACON)
BE/2019/0002	1, Hyning Court, LA8 8NS	BE= Big Extension under permitted development.	Prior approval not required
TR/2019/0029	20 Nethercroft LA8 8LU	TPO – thinning	ACON 27/03
SL/2019/0072	18 Beathwaite Gardens LA8 8NG	Rear extension / first floor balcony with glass balustrade	Approved Conditionally 25/03

c) To note planning applications still to be determined

BE/2019/0005	Pasture View, Nelson Sq LA8 8PR	Large rear extension	Mr G Middleton	Received. No decision	Target decision date 04/04/19
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SL/2018/0592 / 0619: Lakesway Holiday Homes and Lodgepark: The Clerk confirmed that he had written to SLDC in response to their initial reply which the Parish Council had not considered satisfactory. A reply is awaited. Cllr. Mason reported that as a private individual, he had written to the proprietors explaining that they are not entitled to use the route from the A590 to their site as it is a bridleway and as such not open to unauthorised use by motorised vehicles. He had had a response which did not appear to have acknowledged the point and proposing the erection of 'polite' signs asking their customers to keep their speed to no more than 10 mph. Cllr. Mason confirmed that this was not acceptable to him or the other owners of the bridleway and that gates previously supplied by Cumbria County Council will be erected. It was agreed that the bridleway should not become a 'road' and to support the position taken by Cllr. Mason and the other owners.

131/18 Highways Matters: Cllr. Fitch circulated an updated copy of his Highways Defect Monitoring spreadsheet on which several new entries were reviewed. It was noted that the resurfacing of Hutton Lane is a great improvement. Cllr. Bland confirmed that there is nothing in the current programme for work at Whitegates, but reminded the Parish Council of the amount of work undertaken in the Parish and surrounding area in the recent past. It was confirmed that road markings are classed as highway defects if sufficiently worn to warrant renewal, but that matters relating to street signs are not highway defects and should be dealt with separately by SLDC. Signs at Hyning Court, The Green and Beathwaite close were identified for the Clerk to bring to SLDC's attention.

132/18 Christmas Decorations in the village: Cllr. Burrow confirmed that she, Cllr. Rogerson and Cllr. Johnston had met and had some early discussion on the initiative. In the absence of Cllr. Johnston, however, it was agreed to defer this item to a future meeting.

133/18 Open Actions not covered elsewhere on the Agenda:

- a) Annual Parish Meeting - 19 March 2019: It was agreed that it had been a positive meeting with informative contributions from a wide range of village interests. The Chairman noted:
 - i) Cllr. Burrow's review of the position regarding the Old Carpet Shop which was encouraging and well received. Cllr. Burrow confirmed that her positive links with Mr Bowker continued and the Chairman thanked her for her efforts.
 - ii) A request from the floor that the finances of the Project and the Parish Council should as far as possible be separated. The Clerk confirmed his statement to the Annual Meeting that this was happening and that the opening of a Project bank account and commitment to an audit of Project finances was part of this process.
- b) **Highways Matters:** already dealt with.
- c) **Levens Traffic Management:** Cllr Burrow reported that the establishment of a sub-group of the CRASH Team to consider Levens issues was still awaited.
- d) **Maintenance Plan:** Cllr Mason reported that Andy Banks had commenced refurbishment of the village benches, but that the one at the Methodist Church had suffered recent damage and required repair. He thought he could find suitable stone locally - perhaps from Sizergh Fell Quarry. Andy Banks had also been asked to remove roadside saplings on lower Church Road and other locations.
- e) **Woodland Management:** The Clerk reported that further estimates for a tree health and safety survey have not yet been sourced. Councillors noted his observation that there was obvious use of a short-cut, probably by a quad, across the piece of ground at the Crossings. This area has been identified as a very significant site for the quality of its ground flora which is potentially at risk.
- f) **Property Matters:** Hedge on Hutton Lane: Cllr. Holmes has inspected the hedge and recommended that as a road safety matter, up to 30 to 40 feet of the hedge should be removed or reduced in height. As a matter of courtesy to the neighbouring property, it was **Resolved** to advise the occupant of the intention to undertake this work sometime after the elapse of a six-week period from the date of the letter to him.
- g) **B4RN:** The Clerk reported that he had been in discussion with SLDC who required the Parish Council to review and confirm the contents of a Funding Agreement relating to the award of the 2018 LIPs Grant. There was discussion about the proposed location of the cabinet and it was **Resolved** to seek a meeting with the B4RN Group to discuss the amelioration of its visual impact nearer to the time of installation.

134/18 Correspondence: Councillors noted the schedule of correspondence circulated by the Clerk. Two items were discussed:

- i) A request from Mr S. Read for Levens History Group for permission to conduct archaeological investigations at Church Hill in advance of possible development. Mr Read confirmed that the Parish Council is not under obligation to give permission. It was **Agreed** to give permission for metal detection (1 day) and to dig two trial trenches if required.
- ii) A request for advice from a parishioner about dogs running loose on the highway. Cllr. Holmes confirmed that he had seen the enquirer and Cllr. Burrow confirmed that dogs must be on a lead no longer than 4 metres in the 30mph zone. It was agreed to advise the correspondent that if she could provide evidence such as a photograph then the Parish Council would inform the dog warden. It was **Resolved** to put an item on this in the next Parish Newsletter.

135/18 Future agenda items: Christmas decorations in the village

136/18 Date of next meeting:

The next Meeting of the Parish Council is its Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday 14 May 2019.

The Meeting closed at 9.54 p.m.

Signed (Chairman)

Date: