

LEVENS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 9th February 2016 in the Methodist Meeting Room, Levens, at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. R. Atfield (Chairman), R. Mason, H. Burrow, John Thacker, S. Bagot.
County Cllr. J. Bland and District Cllr. A. Rawlinson together with 4 members of the public.

149/15 Apologies: Cllrs. D. Martin and C. Hammond.

150/15 Declarations of Interest: None

151/15 Minutes of previous Meeting: Signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

152/15 Public Participation: No comments.

153/15 Reports:

a) **Police:** No report

b) **District Councillor:** Cllr. Rawlinson reported on various matters. Firstly the two meetings that she had organised at Levens and Brigsteer to discuss the proposed Land Drainage Board for the Lyth Valley. Representatives from the NFU and RSPB attended the Levens Meeting, and the Environment Agency and the National Trust the Brigsteer Meeting. Both meetings were well attended and vote taken showed an overwhelming majority in favour of a Drainage Board for the Lyth Valley. A report will be compiled to be discussed by SLDC Cabinet in June.

Cllr. Rawlinson continues to receive correspondence regarding the floods. Pressure is being put on O2 to restore broadband communication. Ongoing talks are being held to discuss the matter of community resilience in face of local disasters.

Plans for The Carpet Shop in Levens are still being discussed by Simon Fawcett of SLDC and the owner's architect.

Cllr. Rawlinson is considering allocating a grant towards the new village allotment scheme.

c) **County Councillor:** Cllr. Bland reported that the Morecambe Bay Cycle Way is progressing. Highways have installed a new bridge for Sampool and have dealt with potholes at Foulshaw.

d) 154/15 Finance:

Receipts: £480 for Transparency Funding,

£181.46 from Electricity NW.

£24,991.00 from sale of land adjacent to Wayside Cottage.

Payments: £100 to Marcus Knipe for grass cutting etc.

£410 to Chairman for Westmorland Gazette Ad. for Clerk

£520 Grant to Methodist Chapel to cover costs of Post Office.

All approved by the Parish Council

155/15 Appointment of new Parish Clerk: The Chairman reported that following interviews Martin Curry has accepted the position of Clerk to Levens Parish Council commencing immediately.

156/15 Levens Community Project:

- a) 106 Agreement: This has still not been issued by SLDC and awaits meetings between various parties to agree some hypothetical values for the affordable houses. The method used to calculate the number of houses was discussed fully at the meeting with the hope that it can be accurately decided upon.
- b) Business Plan: Some changes have still to be made before it can be put on the village website.
- c) Demolition and Site Clearance at Sizergh Fell Quarry: The garages and asbestos has been removed with some trees still to be cleared.
- d) With some income from the recent sale of land at Wayside Cottage, it was agreed that the architect should be asked to progress plans for the new village hall. It was suggested that the architect be asked to structure costs until the final agreements are in place. Costs to be agreed at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Stephen Read brought up the question of the tripartite agreement with the Institute committee and this will be progressed just as soon as the 106 agreement is in place, bearing in mind that the Institute committee may change after their AGM at the end of February.

Cllr. Mason reported that a meeting had been held with Armstrong Watson (accountants) regarding CGT and VAT. The accountants will come back with future costings for their advice. There is evidently no problem with putting proceeds from the sale of land into the Parish Council Account.

158/15 Mr. Bannister's Land: Stephen Read has prepared a Statement of Truth from Fred Martin. Milne Moser is proceeding with this matter.

159/15 Wayside Land: Sale completed.

160/15 Annual Parish Meeting:

- a) Speaker: Martyn Welch of B4RN Broadband or a representative has accepted an invitation to come to the meeting to discuss the extension of Broadband into Levens Village.
- b) New Clerk to contact Village organisations as per previous list.
- c) Refreshments to be discussed at next meeting.

161/15 Newsletter: It was decided that this should be issued in April to allow the new Clerk time to prepare it. Issues to include were discussed.

162/15 Correspondence: A letter had been received from Stephen Roberts of the High Sampool Residents Group regarding flooding. Their concerns were reported to the County Councillor and Cllr. Mason will speak with Mr. Roberts. It was noted that his comments on not being informed about the Lyth Valley Drainage Board Meeting were not justified as it had been advertised through notice boards, the village website and in the Westmorland Gazette.

163/15 Future Agenda Items: Clerk to examine outstanding annual procedures. Those wishing annual grants will be written to and asked to apply.

164/15 Date of next meeting:

Next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on 8th March, 2016

Annual Parish Meeting is on 15th March, 2016

The Meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

Signed..... (Council Chairman) Date.....