

Levens Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10 February 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, J.Thacker, S.Roberts + District Cllr A.Rawlinson + County Cllr J.Bland + PCSO M.Boak + P.Davidson (clerk) + 8 members of the public

209/14 Apologies for absence: None

210/14 Declarations of interest

Cllr Hammond declared an interest in planning application SL/2015/0008.

211/14 Minutes

It was **resolved** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 13 January, as a true record.

212/14 Public Participation

- Levens Community project ecology survey for Cotes: a member of the public asked about the plans shown in this report, which showed the southern extent of the development extending beyond the end of Box Tree wall. This was counter to the statement made by the Parish Council in July 2014, where an assurance had been given that the development would not extend further than the end of Box Tree wall. Councillors explained that the design information available in July of last year was very preliminary. Since then, detailed design work had been carried out by the architect, taking account of the need to work around the power line and the stream which run across the site. This design work now shows that the southern boundary of the development does extend beyond the end of Box Tree wall.

213/14 Reports

a) Police

- PCSO Boak reported that crime within the area remains low and continues to be focussed on acquisitive crime, typically targeting lock-up business premises and outbuildings, power tools and machinery.
- Reported crimes in this period:
 - o 5 persons arrested, having been found inside the Villa development at Brettargh.
 - o Ornamental concrete figures stolen from a Witherslack property.
 - o Cash stolen from a property adjacent to the A590 at Levens.
 - o Snack bar at Heaves targeted.

b) Relevant matters from District and County Councillors

Cllr Bland advised that Highways issues such as the repair of potholes were necessarily being delayed, as the Highways staff are concentrating their efforts on winter road gritting.

214/14 Finance

a) Grants/donations

It was **resolved** to provide a donation to Levens Methodist church of £520, in support of running the Post Office service.

b) Payments

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

- B&J Metals: disposal of oil drum £240.00

c) Levens Community Project (LCP)

The clerk reported that outturn costs for the LCP remain on track. The next tranche of the Homes & Communities grant has been applied for, amounting to £15,600.

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

- Envirotech: LCP habitat surveys £1680.00

- Damson Consultancy: design work £6000.00
- Spatial Data: topographical survey of Sizergh Fell Quarry £468.00

215/14 Planning Applications

a) New Planning Applications

SL/2015/0010: Green Hollow, Levens. Erection of dwelling (revised scheme SL/2014/1186)

SL/2015/0008: Bridge End Garage, Levens. Installation of 6 replacement fascia signs

Council **resolved** that it had no objections to these applications.

b) To note Planning Applications determined since last meeting

SL/2014/1112: Brettargh Holt, Levens. Removal of existing bay on south elevation to rebuild on west elevation. Approved

SL/2014/1186: Garden of Green Hollow, Levens. Erection of dwelling. Withdrawn.

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. The clerk was asked to contact SLDC Planning, to ascertain the status of this application.

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

SL/2014/1234: Land to south of Cragg Foot, Levens. Single dwelling.

216/14 Levens Community Project (LCP)

a) Designs and plans

Cllr Mason showed large prints of the finalised plans to councillors and members of the public. All of these plans would be available shortly on SLDC's Planning website, as part of the planning process.

Cllr Mason advised that the architect was finalising the application, which was expected to be submitted in the second half of February.

b) Site of new village hall and encroachment of trees

Cllr Mason advised that he had had a discussion with the church warden, who suggested that the church would be amenable to the proposal to remove three trees. The clerk had sent a written request and a formal response was awaited.

c) Outline planning for Church Road allotment site

The clerk had a written to Faye Morgan, as agreed at the last meeting. Cllr Mason reported that he had now spoken to Faye Morgan, who was happy for the Council to submit outline planning for the Church Road allotment site, with the Council's assurance that there was no intention to use this land as part of the Master Plan and that there was no intention of closing her tenancy agreement.

d) Institute conversion

The clerk reported that he had received the following statement from the Institute Committee: *"The Village Institute Committee supports an application by the Parish Council to demolish the Institute and rebuild it as three affordable dwellings"*.

e) Amalgamation of charities

Cllr Mason reported that the planned meeting had been delayed due to illness, but was now planned for week beginning 16 February.

217/14 Sewer pipe at Underhill

Cllr Mason reported that there are occasions when sewerage seeps out of the manhole cover of the sewer pipe at Underhill. The clerk was asked to contact United Utilities.

218/14 Annual Meeting

Tony Hills, the LCP architect, has agreed to be the guest speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting.

219/14 Items for the March newsletter

It was agreed that the following items were suitable for inclusion in the March newsletter:

- Chairman's report
- closure of the gate on the Green
- twinning with the other Levens
- promotion of the Cumbria Community Messaging service
- money scam fraud - remind to people not to divulge personal details over the phone.
- First Responders: call for volunteers in Levens
- arrival of superfast broadband in Levens

220/14 Open actions not covered elsewhere on the agenda

a) Land adjacent to wayside Cottage

It was resolved to approve the business terms for the services of Michael Hodgson agents, in the negotiation of the sale of the land.

b) Offer from Mr.Bannister of purchase of land: ongoing.

c) Twinning

The clerk reported that the French teacher at the Primary School was very interested in making contact with the Primary School at the French Levens. The clerk was attempting to facilitate this.

d) Woodland management

Cllr Mason will obtain an estimate for a woodland management plan.

221/14 Correspondence

- Letter from Sue Cox, the CFR coordinator for Milnthorpe & Heversham, offering assistance with purchase of a Public Access Defibrillator. Clerk to follow up this email and obtain costs and training requirements.
- Email ref. SLDC grant funding opportunity: funding is available from SLDC, although grant applications must be submitted by 20 February. Councillors agreed that a grant application should be submitted for support to the generation of a LCP business plan. Cllr Mason will obtain estimates and the clerk will complete the grant application form.

222/14 Date of next meetings

- Next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council is on 10 March 2015 and the Annual Parish Meeting is on 17 March.

Meeting closed at 9.12pm.

Signed (Chairman)

Date