

Levens Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8 September 2015 in the Methodist Meeting Room, Levens at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs R.Atfield (Chairman), H.Burrow, C.Hammond, D.Martin, R.Mason, Cllr J Thacker +Mrs S. Roberts (clerk) + County Cllr J.Bland + 5 members of the public

55/15 Apologies for absence: Annie Rawlinson District Councillor (arrived late), Councillor Susie Bagot

56/15 Declarations of interest: None

57/15 Minutes

It was **resolved** that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on 7 July 2015, as a true record.

58/15 Public Participation

- a) Mr Johnson raised the issues of the land for sale near Cherry Cottage. The Council informed him the land title ownership was being investigated until that was established the request by the interested parties could not progress. Mr Johnson wishes to be kept informed of any further progress, because he had a right of way over part of the land in question.
- b) Mr Watson wanted the Council to know that the Defibrillator/First Responders was well attended on Thursday 3rd September and a successful evening.
- c) Several residents requested clarification on the Lyth Valley Water Level Management Board, Councillors stated this would be discussed in item 14 on this agenda.

59/15 Reports

- a) Police: We are reminded to be vigilant with regard to security. Westmorland County Show is taking place this week which will have an impact on the roads. The police advise to plan ahead and to look for alternative routes. Two crimes in Levens Parish: 1 drug offence related and the other theft of cables from Force Lane. Be aware of any suspicious activity in your neighbourhood, concerns call 101.
- b) Relevant matters from District and County Councillors
District Councillor A Rawlinson Residents to be aware of the change of Refuse Collection day from Friday to Monday, from Monday 28th September. Internal Drainage Board: the proposals will be formally considered by SLDC Cabinet on 28th October Several residents have contacted her about their concerns and she will arrange a meeting if necessary. Carpet Shop: new plans have been drawn up and will be submitted soon for 5 flats & 2 affordable flats. Also other plans are being drawn up for The Old Stables on Brigsteer Road. Mobile Library: Annie & Rev R Crossley are considering other alternatives to allow the service to continue by ordering books online & having a collection point in the Village.
County Councillor J Bland Highways Department are in the process of repairing pot holes in the village, the plan is to fill in the holes this year and surface dressed next year. The A590 at Heaves Hotel Junction has been highlighted as a possible safety hazard although measures have already been put into place. Further measures are recommend by Highways and awaiting approval.

60/15 Clerk Three Month Contract

Agreed by all Councillors and Signed by Chairman & Clerk

The vacant post of Parish Councillor will need advertising, agreed to be placed in the Parish Newsletter.

61/15 Finance

a) Receipts None

b) Payments

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

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| • Room Hire | £110.00 |
| • Website – Treble3 | £1,380.00 |
| • Treescape Consultancy | £1,209.24 |
| • Safety Tec | £395.00 |

All VAT will be reclaimed at a later date.

62/15 Planning Applications

a) **New Planning Applications:**

1)SL/2015/0649 Park View, Force Lane, Levens. Single dwelling (revised scheme SL/2012/0547)

Plans resubmitted height issue. Plans believed to be passed before Sept. PC meeting.

2)SL/2015/0480 57 Greengate, Levens. Alterations and single storey rear extension.

Passed – before meeting of PC in September

3)SL/2015/ 0534& SL/2015/0535 Levens Hall, Kendal. Erection of restaurant building with associated landscaping siting of replacement polytunnel and erection of replacement garden shed.

On hold Heritage England request time to consider

4) CTIL 128824 VF37707 Proposed upgrade to Telecommunication Radio Bases at Milnthorpe

Councillors viewed the plans

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**

c) Cllr Burrow reported on a grid method of recording Planning Applications, as used by other PC's. It was agreed to adopt this method to ensure easy referral for PC and Public.

63/15 Levens Community Project

- a) S106: Cllr Mason reported that SLDC had not yet issued the terms of the S106. This was imperative for the project to commence. Tony Hills contacting SLDC & Councillor Mason. Also Clerk to sign an undertaking that the Parish meets costs of approximately £1,200.00 for the agreement to written by SLDC.
- b) Costs and timescales for village hall detailed design: Councillors had agreed that cash flow would be a key factor, prior to the sale of any land. Therefore until the revenue of the sale of Sizergh Fell Quarry becomes available, this could not be established
- c) Business Plan: Cllr Mason advised that the contractor almost completed work on the Business Plan and had acquired information from Tony Hill, RMn & HBw.
- d) Sizergh Fell Quarry tenancies: it was noted that letters had been sent to the tenants, confirming that the 6 months' notice given on 25 January remains valid. Further letters had been sent to all tenants stated that a gate would be erected week commencing 14th September so work could begin on the site. Councillor Mason had inspected the site and noted that a boat belonging to Paul Crook was still there and it was agreed a further letter would be sent to him asking for its removal.
- e) Demolition & Site Clearance Sizergh Fell Quarry The councillors agreed to L & W Wilson Contractor to complete this work in preparation to the sale of the site. Councillor Mason presented an itemised quote that was acceptable to all.
Councillor Mason would contact the contractors to establish how much notice they would require, to enable notice to be given to the Residents of Sizergh before the work commenced.
- f) Cllr Mason also highlighted the need to remove some timber at SFQ, in the above preparation for 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 1st 2015.

g) He will investigate an appropriate person to carry out the job before the next PC mtg.

64/15 Offer of purchase of land at Cinderbarrow, from Mssrs Bannister & Proctor.

At present the clarification of land ownership is being established. Currently no decision has been agreed.

65/15 Land adjacent to Wayside Cottage

Ratcliffe & Bibby Solicitors sent two letters of correspondence 1 letter with an offer of £25,000.00 for the land another offering to purchase part of the parcel of land, pro rata. It was agreed not to sell part of the land, as that is not in the best interest of the village. If the Parish Council's legal advice agrees, then: - the sale of the land for £25,000.00, - plus payment of PC legal fees and - an early date agreed for the sale, would be acceptable to the Parish Council.

66/15 Parish Maintenance Task – Village Walk

The Parish walk took place Monday 10th August. Road repairs were listed and reported to the Highways Department. It was noted at the meeting some of the repairs had been done. The clerk would update Councillors at the next meeting any outstanding repairs. If Councillors wish other repairs to be reported, it was agreed they would email details to the Clerk. These would then be added to the Maintenance List for the Parish.

The Chairman noted that signage in the village was in need of replacing and the sign at Bell Hill was unreadable, making the narrow road extra hazardous. District Councillor J Bland would investigate these issues with Highways Department and report back.

67/15 Woodland Management:

Cllr Martin has contacted the woodland trust and told no funding left but was in contact with Luke Steer. This is on going and information will be updated at the next meeting.

68/15 Lyth and Witherslack Proposed Water Level Management Board:

Councillor Martin & Councillor Thacker had attended the meeting; The PC are in agreement with the proposal. Cllrs Martin & Thacker have completed the voting papers on behalf of the Parish Council.

69/15 New Website update

Paul Calland – Web designer has activated the new website. An excellent training session took place Monday 7th September. The new site would now be updated by the web team. The web team & Parish Councillors would like to thank David Cook for the support of the previous website.

70/15 Allotment Update

Cllr Mason had arranged a meeting with Richard Bagot; the preliminaries had gone really well. A meeting was held at the new site by Cllrs Mason & Burrow for all current allotment holders and prospective ones. It was agreed that Cllr Mason would contact Richard Bagot to move the project further. The sites need preparing, fruit trees need to be moved etc & ground preparation completed, prior to Spring.

71/15 Parish Council Insurance – renewal date

Levens Parish Council present insurance is due for renewal on 1st October

Quotes as follows: Hiscox £539.32, Aviva £897.88 (current Insurer) Zurich (3 year contract) 1st yr £447.91 thereafter £420.91. Clerk to check the policy covers the same, other than not requiring car business use. Parish Councillors agreed to accept the Zurich policy on a 3 years term.

72/15 Input for Parish News Letter

Chairman's report, Installation of the Defibrillator, Land Drainage Proposal, Refuse Collection, Mobile Library discontinued, Vacancy for Parish Councillor

73/15 Correspondence

- a) Letter from Levens Charity Agreed & completed forms to change signatures
- b) Letter from Andrew Taylor This was discussed by the Councillors who agreed to forward the letter to County Councillor Jim Bland who agreed to raise it further with Cumbria County Council.
- c) Email from St Johns Church Thanking the Councillors for the Church grant of £6400.00
- d) Email from K Graham Ms Graham stated her concerns over the clearing of Sizergh fell Quarry. The Parish Councillors advised The Clerk on an appropriate response.
- e) Star Council Award Longlist Cllr Hammond received an email congratulating the Council, it had been successfully shortlisted and the three finalists out of the 10 selected, would be announced by Thursday 1st October.

74/15 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) Standing Orders Update.

75/15 Date of next meetings:

Next ordinary parish council meeting: Tuesday 13th. October 2015.

Signed (Chairman)

Date

Meeting closed at 9 30 pm