

Lindal and Marton Parish Council

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Councillors:-

Mr A Waite (462922) Mr R Lord (464034) Mrs S Glover (462383) Mr D Howarth (463304) Mrs S Kelly (465343)

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 2nd February 2012, at 7.30 pm in the Buccleuch Hall, Lindal.

Present:- Councillors A Waite; R Lord; Mrs S Kelly.

Apologies:- Councillor Mrs Glover.

Also present:- 1 member of the public.

In attendance:-

PC Michelle Jones, Cumbria Constabulary.
Barrow Borough Councillors Mr John Murphy (The Mayor) and Mr Denis Bell.

12/12 Urgent business. Items normally needing to be publicised but received too late for the agenda. (Section 100B (4) (b) Local Government Act 1972)

None.

13/12 Disclosure of interests.

None.

14/12 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 5th January, 2012.

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 5th January 2012, were taken as read and APPROVED

PROPOSED:- Councillor Lord. SECONDED:- Councillor Mrs Kelly .

Carried unanimously.

15/12 Matters arising.

5/12 Councillor Mrs Kelly asked PC Jones whether there was any progress regarding the problem of car-parking outside her property. PC Jones reported that whenever a police officer had visited, there had been no vehicles wrongly parked and that it might be better if Councillor Kelly contact the police direct when the problem occurred again.

16/12 The Mayor's Charity, 2011/2012

Councillor John Murphy, the Borough Council's Mayor, was in attendance to give more information regarding his Charity Appeal, which was for the provision of defibrillators throughout the Borough.

Mr Murphy explained that his involvement with "First Responders" – people in the community with a basic understanding of first-aid techniques, sufficient to assist those suddenly taken ill until paramedics arrived – had led him to the conclusion that heart-attack victims would benefit if defibrillators could be used as soon as possible.

These were small portable devices which, when attached to a patient, provided an electric stimulus to the heart and could literally be life-saving where time was of paramount importance. They were extremely simple to use – "even a child could use them".

The First Responders organisation on Walney had funded a total of ten defibrillators on Walney and Mr Murphy's Mayor's Charity had funded ten in Barrow, in places like Boots' The Chemist, Forum 28, the Park Leisure Centre etc., and had ordered another ten for use in other parts of the Borough.

He was currently looking for suitable places where additional defibrillators could be sited as well as wanting to encourage the community to help raise funds for the overall project. He was happy to allocate one for Lindal and/or Marton but would like to see what the local interest was in the idea.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Murphy for his presentation and after Mr Murphy's departure the matter was discussed in more detail, with the following points being agreed.

- On the face of it, the project was one which should be supported.
- A firm commitment from the local community was required.
- The Clerk would put together a special and separate insert for "Aspects" giving a full resume of all the facts relating to the project.
- The local Residents Association should be invited to form a co-ordinated approach.
- A Special Meeting of local residents would be called to determine the level of interest in the community. Following the Parish Council meeting it was decided that such Meeting would take place in the Buccleuch Hall on Wednesday, 21st March 2012, at 7.30 pm. Mr Murphy would be invited to attend.

17/12 Attendance of Officer from Cumbria Constabulary.

PC Jones reported that there had been a theft of scrap metal from a garden in Lindal but the theft was seen by a neighbour who contacted the Police. The culprits were apprehended and charged. Residents were reminded of the need to be observant and to be wary of anything suspicious such as old vans patrolling the streets as if they were looking for items to steal.

18/12. Report of School Governors. Submission of minutes, if any.

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2011 were NOTED.

19/12 Cumbria County Council. Consultation re waste recycling centres

The County Council's recommendations regarding waste recycling centres were discussed and it was noted that the need for economies was forcing the County Council into a rationalisation programme, with a) certain centres being planned for closure; b) a limited mobile service to be introduced; c) a reduction in opening hours; d) charges for certain types of waste.

NB District Councils are responsible for the routine weekly or fortnightly collections of waste from individual households and there are currently no plans for any changes to these arrangements.

The subject was discussed in detail and whilst it was considered to be dubious practice to curtail the waste collection/recycling service in any way, the Council AGREED that the following specific observations be made:-

- The nearest centre suggested for closure was at Grange-over-Sands, ie., not affecting this Parish: it was thought that would be a retrograde step for those residents but equally, it was considered to be more appropriate for the Grange Council to make their own representations on the matter. The sites at Barrow and Ulverston would remain open.
- Communities whose centres were to close eg., Grange, would be provided with a mobile service, with a vehicle attending a fixed point on a quarterly basis, for a weekend. Residents would be expected to accumulate items (re-cyclable: garden waste: general waste) which were not collected by the weekly service and take them to the vehicle on the appointed day. This was thought to be very unhelpful and would undoubtedly tempt people into “fly-tipping”, particularly as the District Councils often appeared reluctant to remove additional items during the weekly collection rounds. The County Council should be challenged on how it is liaising with District Councils on this point.
- The proposal to reduce the opening hours for the centres which will remain is confusing. On the one hand there is reference to the opening times to change during the winter months whilst remaining open every day: on the other hand, there is a proposal to close completely on Thursdays and Fridays. The Parish Council considered this latter idea to be totally inappropriate and again, would encourage fly-tipping. Even if there was a 7-day service, the suggested reduction in hours, with closure no later than 4.30 pm, would be counter-productive.
- The suggestion that there should be a charge for the disposal of rubble, asbestos sheets, plasterboard and car tyres was thought to be unrealistic and guaranteed to encourage people to dispose such items where they could – ie., fly-tipping.

The Parish Council was sympathetic to the County Council’s budgetary difficulties but felt that more could be done to develop the weekly/fortnightly collection service provided by District Councils into a more comprehensive service. In addition, more consideration should be given to reduced manning of the centres in order to facilitate longer opening hours or non-closure: anecdotal evidence suggested that customers using the centres disposed of the materials themselves whilst operatives frequently stood by and watched without helping. Centres could also remain open un-manned, with staff sorting any refuse during their normal duty hours.

20/12 Cumbria County Council. Consultation re budget reductions.

The Clerk confirmed that the correspondence on this subject had been received too late for the January meeting but that any responses had been needed by 31st January. In view of the time constraints it was AGREED that no action be taken.

21/12 Planning applications relating to the Parish.

- a) *B21/2012/0026. Extension at “Swallows’ Nest”, Marton.* It was PROPOSED by Councillor Lord and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Kelly that the Council express “no comment” on this application. Carried unanimously.
- b) *B21/2012/0015 Listed building consent and sun lounge to rear of 24 The Green, Lindal.* The Clerk reminded councillors that a similar application had been considered in the summer of 2011 when the applicant had requested permission for a conservatory. The Parish Council had offered no objections and the Borough Council had given listed building consent along with permission for the conservatory. The applicant now wished to erect a sun lounge rather than the conservatory, the shape and size being identical. It was PROPOSED by Councillor Lord and SECONDED by

Councillor Mrs Kelly that the council express “no comment” on this revised application. Carried unanimously.

22/12 Correspondence.

- a) Planning applications relating to the whole of the Borough. NOTED.
- b) Barrow Borough Council minutes , 11/10/11 to 17/1/12. NOTED.
- c) Campaign to Protect Rural England. Guidance regarding planning applications. NOTED.
- d) “Love Barrow” Community Awards. Presentation, 9th March 2012.
- e) Cumbria Community Foundation. Winter Warmth Fund. It was NOTED that this fund was a possible source of financial assistance for those who might be having difficulties with such things as emergency repairs to heating systems etc. Further details can be obtained from 01900 825760 or enquiries@cumbriafoundation.org NOTED.
- f) The Clerk also reported on similar information regarding home heating efficiency checks with residents invited to contact 08454 040506 or www.cumbriawarmhomes.org.uk for further information. NOTED.
- g) The Clerk commented on a “round-robin” email which he had received regarding the proliferation of wind turbines. The author, who gave no personal details, invited parish councils to petition the Government via the email petitioning system to register their objections to such an expansion. It was accepted that the Parish Council had no formal position regarding wind turbines or wind farms and would not, therefore, comment. However, any individual could take advantage of the petitioning arrangements which, on this occasion, could be found at <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/22958> NOTED.

23/12 Finance.

- a) Cash balances:- Current account - £50. Reserve account - £1519.30.
- b) Requests for financial assistance were considered viz: “Aspects” – (£250 last year) and “The Great North Air Ambulance” – (£75 in 2010).
- c) The Clerk requested payment of the balance of his honorarium - £300, and the Internal Auditor’s fee - £37.
- d) Consideration was given to a quotation from an alternative insurer in respect of the Council’s mandatory insurances. For the year commencing 1st June 2012. The quotation was some £40 less than the current year’s premium.

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Lord and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Kelly that

- An amount of £300 be authorised in respect of “Aspects”: £100 in respect of the Great North Air Ambulance: the Clerk and the Internal Auditor be paid their outstanding honoraria.
- The Clerk be authorised to determine the most appropriate insurance premium in accordance with quotations received.

Carried unanimously.

24/12 Any Other Business.

Councillor Lord enquired as to the current situation regarding the looking-after of the Information Kiosks. It was confirmed that the Kiosk at Marton was being seen to but the one in Lindal did not appear to be getting any attention. It was disappointing that no local resident seemed to be willing to give a few moments each week to this responsibility but it was left to the Clerk and the Chairman to follow up.

25/12 Date and Time of Next Meeting. It was AGREED that the next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Thursday, 1st March 2012, at 7.30 pm in the Buccleuch Hall, Lindal.

(All residents of the Parish are reminded that the Council meetings are open to the public and that all are welcome to attend.)