

Lindal and Marton Parish Council

Chairman
A Waite
4 Silver Street
Marton
Nr Ulverston
Cumbria LA12 0NQ
Tel 01229 462922

Clerk
J Smith
7 East View
Lindal-in-Furness
Cumbria LA12 0LG
Tel 01229 467261

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, 1st September 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Buccleuch Hall, Lindal.

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

Apologies; Councillors D Howarth; Mrs S Glover.

Also present:- 4 members of the public.

In attendance:- Mr Denis Bell, Borough Councillor, Dalton North Ward.
PC D Knott, Cumbria Constabulary.

85/11 Urgent business. Items normally needing to be publicised but received too late for the agenda. (Section 100B (4) (b) Local Government Act 1972)

None.

86/11 Disclosure of interests.

None

87/11 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 4th August 2011.

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 4th August 2011, were taken as read, and APPROVED.

PROPOSED:- Councillor Waite. SECONDED:- Councillor Lord .
Carried unanimously.

88/11 Matters arising.

- a) 78/11 Councillor Lord asked if anything more was known about the suggestion that parishes might like to organise celebratory beacons on the occasion of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and, in particular, whether Councillor Howarth had been able to consider the matter on behalf of the Buccleuch Hall. The Clerk reported that there was no further information at the present time.
- b) 80/11 (d) Councillor Lord enquired as to the situation regarding the footpath adjacent to the proposed site of the wind turbine at Lindal Cote Farm. The Clerk confirmed that the Council's concerns had been passed to Barrow's planning department and he was awaiting the outcome.

89/11 Attendance of Officer from Cumbria Constabulary.

PC Knott reported that there had been two instances recently of outhouses at the rear of properties in Lindal having been broken into and bicycles stolen. He urged all residents to ensure that all such buildings were kept securely locked and indicated that the Police would be arranging for a leaflet to be distributed making the same recommendation. It was also AGREED that the Clerk should prepare a suitable article for inclusion in "Aspects".

From the floor came a report that there were still too many occasions when vehicles were seen to be speeding through Marton, despite the village having a 20 mph speed limit. The vehicles often appeared to be tractors or other farm vehicles which was particularly regrettable, given that farmers and their families were clearly part of the local community. PC Knott undertook to raise the matter with his traffic colleagues.

90/11. Report of School Governors. Submission of minutes, if any.

There were no minutes for consideration.

91/11 Cumbria County Council. Consultation on adult care services.

The Clerk introduced a consultation document from Cumbria County Council on the subject of Day Services for people who require care and support. The Council was proposing to go out to tender for the supply of such services in the future and was anxious to determine the types of service provision required. It would appear that the use of conventional Day Centres was not as popular as it had been, with many clients preferring help and support within their own homes or within their local neighbourhoods, utilising the latest concept of the Council providing individual clients with their own personal budget with which to purchase their preferred type of help. This could range from carers taking clients to the cinema, cafes, shops etc, to clients having support to enable them to continue in supervised employment.

The Parish Council recognized that circumstances were evolving so that many more people would prefer individualised care for themselves as opposed to the more institutionalised form of care normally associated with Day Centres, and was happy to support this trend. However, it was also pointed out that there would always be a need for whole-day care and attention which could only be properly provided in a Day Centre and the development of individualised services should not be at the expense of the traditional Centre.

The Council also commented on the recent examples of mistreatment and "benign neglect" which had been highlighted in certain Centres in other parts of the country (albeit that these all appeared to be residential Centres) and made the point that the lack of stimulating activities and other rehabilitative measures was probably contributing to the decline in popularity of the traditional Day Centre.

It was AGREED, therefore, that the Clerk should respond to the consultation by confirming that the Parish Council was happy to support the concept of individualised services for clients provided that all those clients who preferred the services provided by a Day Centre were able to continue to receive them. In addition, the County Council should satisfy itself that the standard of care provided in its Day Centres was at its optimum level.

92/11 Planning applications relating to the Parish.

- a) *B16/2011/0567 Extension and new car-parking (retrospective) Crooklands Garden Centre.* It was noted that the proposed extension was at the rear of the site, between existing buildings. In addition, the car-parking spaces were already in existence at the front of the Centre and did not appear to be over-intensive. It was PROPOSED by Councillor Lord and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Kelly that the Council express “no comment” on this application. Carried unanimously.
- b) *Notice of a successful appeal against the refusal of planning permission for the development of a chicken farm at Maidenlands, Marton. (vide minute 31/11, March 2011 et al)* The Clerk reported that he had received a copy of the Planning Inspector’s decision regarding the chicken farm whereby Barrow Council’s refusal to allow the development had been overturned. It was accepted that the development could now proceed but it was noted that one of the Inspector’s conditions referred to the need for an Environmental Management Plan, covering manure management (collection, storage, transport, spreading) pest prevention and odour control, the Plan to be approved by the Local Authority before the farm was commissioned. It was AGREED that the Clerk should contact Barrow Council to emphasise its continuing concerns about the potential for this development to create a nuisance for local residents, with a request that any such plan should be supplied to the Parish Council for its observations.
- c) *Update re the proposed extensions to the Wild Animal Park. (vide minute 83/11 (d) August 2011 et al)* The Clerk confirmed that the application to extend the Park had been considered by Barrow’s planning committee on 23rd August when the decision was that the committee was “minded to refuse”. The matter was scheduled to be considered again at the next committee meeting (now arranged for 20th September, to allow time for further discussion with Highways officials) when it was assumed that a final decision would be made. However, the applicant had now appealed to the Planning Inspectorate for that body to make a decision, on the grounds that Barrow Council had exceeded the normal time-limit for the determination of planning applications. A Planning Inspector would now make the decision irrespective of what Barrow’s planning committee finally decided to do.

93/11 Planning applications outside the Parish. (within South Lakeland DC)

Notification had been received from South Lakeland District Council regarding a proposal by the owners of Ewedale Farm, Pennington, to erect 10 holiday lodges on the site of the farm, which was outside the Parish boundary. The residents of the properties on Snipe Ghyll, who were within a mile or so of the site, had been notified of the proposal by SLDC even though they were not within SLDC’s area, and would be able to comment if they so wished.

During the ensuing discussion it was pointed out that Ewedale Farm lay within the boundaries of Pennington Parish Council who would, no doubt, be making their own observations. However, whilst the proposed development did not seem unreasonable, concerns were expressed about the way in which traffic would travel to and from the site, the assumption being that this would be via Lindal and Marton, and Snipe Ghyll, with there being a measurable increase in traffic generally. Given that the exit from Snipe Ghyll involved a T-junction, with extremely restricted visibility in both directions, the Council wished to draw the attention of SLDC to the increased potential for accidents, should the development be given approval.

It was then PROPOSED by Councillor Mrs Kelly and SECONDED by Councillor Lord that the Council express “no comment” on the principle of the development but with a recommendation that attention be given to the impact that the additional traffic could have on the Snipe Ghyll junction. Carried unanimously.

94/11 Correspondence.

There was no correspondence for consideration.

95/11 Finance.

- a) Cash balances:- Current account - £50. Reserve account - £2494.49.
- b) The Clerk submitted a request for part of his honorarium to be paid, in the sum of £300. It was PROPOSED by Councillor Lord and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Kelly that such payment be approved.
- c) Reference was made to the problems being experienced in ensuring that the two Information Points (the ex-BT kiosks) were kept clean and tidy, with any minor maintenance issues seen to promptly (*vide minute 83/11 (c) August 2011*). Councillor Lord hoped that the repairs carried out on the Lindal kiosk would be sufficient to keep the contents free from wind and water but he noted that, despite the Council asking for volunteers (in “Aspects”) to look after the two kiosks, it had only been possible to find one volunteer, to look after the Marton kiosk.
He suggested that a note be prepared for “Aspects” confirming that the kiosk was now once again suitable for use as a library and that books could be deposited there, and borrowed, as before. It might also be appropriate to offer some form of financial inducement to ensure that the kiosks were attended to on a regular basis. It was AGREED that gift tokens to the value of £10 be offered, per quarter, per kiosk, to anyone who accepted the responsibility for the routine cleaning and tidying of the kiosks (this offer to include the local resident currently looking after the Marton kiosk). The Clerk undertook to create an appropriate “advert” for inclusion in “Aspects”.
- d) Councillor Lord drew attention to the parlous state of St Peter’s Church finances and he asked that the Council give consideration to providing some financial support. It was recognized that this situation was not unique to St Peter’s, with most churches suffering similarly from a fall in attendance and a lack of interest generally, the consequence being a disastrous decline in church finances. However, many local residents still rely on St Peter’s Church at key moments in their lives and would greatly regret it if the Church had to close completely because of lack of funds. It was, however, accepted that not all residents will be members of the Church of England, some being of other persuasions and others with no religious beliefs at all, making no use of the Church whatsoever.
The general view was that if some form of financial assistance was considered, it should be in the form of a grant towards a specific need or project, rather than a simple donation. A figure of possibly £300 - £400 per year was suggested as being not inappropriate.

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

- the Council give consideration to donating a sum of around £300 to St Peter’s Church:
- this be considered as an annual commitment:
- this be further considered at the October meeting when all Councillors should be present, together with any residents who may wish to comment:
- the Clerk prepare a brief note outlining the Council’s proposal for inclusion in the next edition of “Aspects” in order that all residents can be aware of the details.

Carried unanimously.

96/11 Any Other Business.

Councillor Waite reminded those present that Barrow Council only provided one Christmas Tree for the Parish and that this was always erected on Lindal green. Last year, the Parish Council funded the provision of a small tree for the park at Marton and it was AGREED that similar arrangements could be made this year.

97/11 Date and Time of Next Meeting.

It was AGREED that the next meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Thursday, 6th October 2011, 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.)