

Lindal and Marton Parish Council

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Councillors:-
Mr A Waite (462922); Mr R Lord (464034). Ms S Rainbow (462383). Ms M Richards (588699)

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 2nd February 2006, at 7.30 pm in the Buccleuch Hall, Lindal.

Present:- Councillors A Waite (Chairman); R Lord; Ms S Rainbow; Ms M Richards

In attendance:- WPC K Harris, Cumbria Constabulary.

Also present:- 12 members of the public.

13/06 Disclosure of Interests.

Councillor Lord declared an interest in Agenda item 12 (d) in that he was a friend of the person who was behind the proposals for the nursing home development.

14/06 Vacancy for Parish Councillor

The Clerk reported that an application for an election had been requested by at least 10 electors and that the Returning Officer would now be arranging for an advertisement to appear, inviting candidates to stand for the vacancy. The election was scheduled for Thursday, 16th March 2006.

Reference was made to the need for poll cards, with the Town Hall indicating that these would cost £150. It was AGREED that there was no need to arrange for poll cards.

15/06 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 5th January, 2006.

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 5th January, 2006, were taken as read and APPROVED.

PROPOSED:- Councillor Lord.

SECONDED:- Councillor Waite.

Carried unanimously.

16/06 Matters arising

- a) 7/06 Councillor Lord indicated that he had not yet been able to complete the form in respect of his suggested new footpath but confirmed that this was in hand.
- b) 11/06 (d) Councillor Lord asked whether the Clerk had written to Mrs Morgan to thank her for her services as a Parish Councillor. The Clerk confirmed that this had been done.

17/06 Attendance of Officer from Cumbria Constabulary.

WPC Harris reported on the results of her investigation into the 999 call, placed by the landlord of the New Inn, Marton, when he was trying to report an incident of vandalism to his car. The log of the call suggested that it had not been seen as an immediate problem, necessitating an emergency response, and it would seem, therefore, that there had been some misunderstandings as to the urgency of the message.

WPC Harris was asked whether she felt that her routine attendance at the Parish Council meetings was appropriate, given that there were occasions when very little was brought to her attention. During discussions *with the floor* it was apparent that the presence of a police officer was seen to be beneficial from both sides, with the officer given the opportunity to routinely “show the flag” and residents able to mention even the most minor of problems.

Reference was made to the desirability of police officers walking through the villages as opposed to merely driving through in their cars. However, it was pointed out that one of the inhibiting factors was the need for an additional police presence in Dalton and Askam during recent weeks because of a growing habit of schoolchildren to congregate during the evenings in crowds of up to 150 or more. This was seen to be threatening and intimidating for the residents of Dalton and Askam and efforts were being made by the Police and Social Workers to contain the situation. It was pointed out that letters had been sent from Dowdales School to all parents advising them of this phenomenon and asking parents to exercise more control over their children.

18/06 Report of School Governors. Submission of minutes – if any.

The minutes of the Governors’ meeting held on 21st November 2005 were tabled.

19/06 Lindal Village Green.

The Clerk reported that there had been further discussions with the Director of Regeneration at the Town Hall, Steve Warbrick, about the lack of action in implementing the approved works to The Green. However, there had been assurances that the invitations to tender were to be despatched to selected contractors by Friday, 3rd February 2006.

20/06 Training event for Parish Councillors.

The Clerk referred to an event held in the Town Hall in October 2005 to enable advice to be given to all parish councillors within the Borough about the Standards Board and the Code of Conduct. This had been poorly attended and consequently it was being suggested that another event should be organised. Councillor Lord pointed out that he had attended the previous event and that he had found it very useful. It was AGREED that the Clerk advise the Town Hall that Lindal and Marton’s councillors were anxious to participate in any future event and that further details be sought. It was further AGREED that the Clerk discuss with Mr Phil Huck, Assistant Director of Regeneration, the possibility of him being able to talk to the Parish Council about planning issues generally, in order to enhance the Council’s ability to make meaningful comments on those planning applications which came before it.

21/06 Environment Agency. Consultation re atomic power stations.

Reference was made to correspondence from the Environment Agency and their intention to consult on the renewal of the Agency’s authorisations for nuclear power stations in respect of the disposal of low-level nuclear waste. It was noted that the Agency had completed its assessment of what such power stations should be authorised to do in this regard and that interested parties could have sight of the recommendations either by accessing their web-site; examining documents at local libraries; viewing a CD-ROM or by examining paper copies of

documents (up to 2,000 pages). Councillor Richards suggested that she would be interested in assessing the recommendations to be found on the Agency's web-site and this was accepted.

22/06 Barrow Borough Council Development Plan Document.

The Clerk referred to the latest correspondence from the Borough Council regarding the Development Plan and the need to determine the scope and content of the Plan. It was intended to cover the whole of the Borough within the Plan but side-by-side with this document the Borough Council were also involved in producing a Plan to cover the Barrow Port Area. It was noted that both Plans would be published in draft form, at which time the Parish Council and others, would have the opportunity to make representations. It was AGREED that no action be taken at this time and that the Council await the publication of the draft.

23/06 Planning applications relating to the Parish.

6/06/66 *Erection of agricultural building for animal housing. Field at rear of Glebe Farm, Marton.* It was PROPOSED by Councillor Ms Richards and SECONDED by Councillor Waite that the Council offer no objection to this proposal. Carried unanimously.

24/06 Correspondence.

- a) Planning applications outwith the Parish. NOTED.
- b) Cumbria County Council. Police Service Re-structuring. NOTED.
- c) Cumbria Community Foundation. Annual Review. NOTED.
- d) Proposals for a nursing home in Lindal. A letter from architects suggesting that proposals were being formulated for a nursing home and other accommodation, on land adjacent to London Road, Lindal, had been received. The Clerk had confirmed to the architects that their suggested public meeting to discuss the matter would be welcomed and a reply had been received indicating that a planning application had now been lodged with the Borough Council. The architects had been further advised that the Buccleuch Hall was currently available on Friday nights and confirmation was awaited as to when any such meeting was to be arranged. *From the floor*, reference was made to discussions which had already taken place amongst local residents and a list of concerns was passed to the Council for consideration. It was AGREED that further debate should be deferred until more information was available. **NB Subsequent to the meeting confirmation was received that the public meeting would be held in the Buccleuch Hall on Friday, 10th February 2006, at 7.30 pm.**
- e) Barrow Borough Council. Minutes – 25.10.05 to 18.1.06. NOTED.
- f) Furness Partnership. Minutes re 20.1.06. NOTED.
- g) Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. Meeting 2.2.06 NOTED.

25/06 Finance.

- a) Cash balances :- Current account:- £72.94. Reserve account:- £1001.59.
- b) The Clerk referred to a report previously circulated regarding his office equipment which was used for council business. A heavy-duty printer was required, together with a copying machine and scanning equipment. He had been advised that a Canon MP780, a combined printer/copier/scanner and fax would be appropriate. This was available at £219 and he had recommended that one such machine should be purchased via the Council's funds so that vat (£33) could be reclaimed in the normal way. He requested a donation from the Council in the sum of £100, leaving a net amount payable by the Clerk of £86. It was confirmed that the Chairman and Councillor Lord had authorised this purchase. It was PROPOSED by

Councillor Waite and SECONDED by Councillor Lord that the above action be approved. Carried unanimously

c) The Clerk confirmed that the balance of his remuneration for 2005/06 was £250. The amount due to the Council as the Clerk's share of the cost of the new printer/copier (item b above) was £86 and, therefore, a net amount was due to the Clerk of £164.

d) The Clerk reported that the honorarium of £30 was now due in respect of Mr John Bentley, Honorary Auditor.

e) The Clerk confirmed that the invoice in respect of the electrical feeder pillar, recently installed in Marton Park for a future Christmas Tree installation, in the sum of £376.74, had not yet been received, although all the details were available. (The net amount (vat will be reclaimed) is £320.63 and it had been agreed that the Council fund £200 of this amount, the balance of £120.63 being paid by the Residents Association.) It was AGREED that payment of the amount be deferred until receipt of the invoice.

f) The Clerk requested cheques to be authorised in respect of items (c) and (d) above i.e., £164 and £30. It was PROPOSED by Councillor Ms Richards and SECONDED by Councillor Lord that the aforementioned cheques be duly authorised and signed. Carried unanimously.

26/06 Any Other Business.

a) Councillor Ms Richards drew attention to the problem of black plastic being left by farmers in certain areas after they had opened silage bags, pointing out that this was littering the countryside. It was AGREED that the Clerk would try to determine what the legal position might be on this matter.

b) The Chairman drew attention to the work currently being undertaken by United Utilities in Marton whereby the electricity supply to certain properties was being channelled underground as opposed to the original overhead wires. The Clerk undertook to make enquiries to determine why this work was not being extended to the whole of the village.

c) The Clerk reported that he had received papers in respect of two planning applications too late to be identified on the agenda. In view of the need for an urgent reply, the Chairman decreed that, in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the items could be discussed and decisions reached in respect of both items viz:-

1) *6/2006/0086 Listed building consent, demolition and rebuilding of highway boundary wall to provide improved visibility splay, Marton Hall and Glebe Farm, Marton..* This was a re-submission of application 2005/1522 and was meant to have been accompanied by another re-submission, of application 2005/1521, which was for a housing development to the rear of Marton Hall/Glebe Farm. (Both applications had originally been considered by the Parish Council in October 2005.) Unfortunately, the latter application had not yet reached the Parish Council although the drawing accompanying application 0086 also illustrated the changes proposed by the applicant in respect of the housing development.

Reference was made to the fact that firstly, the residents adjacent to the proposed development would all be notified of the proposals and would be able to comment directly to the planning authority and secondly, in view of the time-scale for replies, the Parish Council's immediate opinion would be appropriate, notwithstanding that they had not yet had the official application. Accordingly, after discussion, it was PROPOSED by Councillor Lord and SECONDED by Councillor Waite that firstly, on the basis of what could be seen from the drawing in the way of revisions to the housing development, the Council decline to support the amended proposals for a housing development, and should re-iterate its resolution passed in the meeting of 6th October 2005 whereby the Council had declined to support the application for housing for the reasons outlined (minute 114/05 (b)). Secondly, in respect of *6/2006/0086* the Council should re-iterate its resolution passed in the meeting of 6th October 2005 whereby it had expressed "no comment" on the application to re-site the boundary wall (minute 114/05 (c)) Carried unanimously.

- 2) 6/2006/0077 *Proposed water pipe-line from Poaka Beck to Highfield Reservoir*. It was PROPOSED by Councillor Lord and SECONDED by Councillor Waite that the Council express “no comment” on this application. There were three votes in favour with one abstention. The proposal was carried.
- d) The Clerk reported that notification had been received from Royal Mail regarding the temporary cessation of the part-time Post Office based in the Anchor Inn, due to an inability to secure a post-master. Efforts were being made to secure a replacement.
 - e) The Clerk submitted the latest minutes from the Residents Association. These would be circulated to councillors.
 - f) *From the floor*, reference was made to the tipping of hard-core off the track leading to Bell Hill. It was suggested that this was done with the agreement of the land-owner.

27/06 Date and Time of Next Meeting.

The next meeting was AGREED as Thursday, 2nd March, 2006, at 7.30 pm in the Buccleuch Hall, Lindal.