

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 March, 2006, at 7.30 pm in the Buccleuch Hall, Lindal.

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

Apologies:- Ms M Richards.

In attendance:- WPC K Harris, Cumbria Constabulary.

Also present:- 20 members of the public.

28/06 Disclosure of Interests.

Councillor Lord declared an interest in item 10 (c) in that he was a friend of one of the applicants.

29/06 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 2nd February, 2006.

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 2nd February, 2006 were taken as read and APPROVED.

PROPOSED:- Councillor Ms Rainbow

SECONDED:- Councillor Lord.

Carried unanimously.

30/06 Matters arising.

- a) 20/06. The Clerk reported that Mr Phil Huck was willing to talk to the Council on the subject of planning matters and was asking for a suggested date. It was AGREED that any Thursday, at 7.30 pm, would be useful.
- b) 26/06 (b). The Clerk submitted correspondence from United Utilities regarding the re-cabling work in Marton. The reason for the provision of underground cables was the building of a new property on land where overhead cables had previously stood. No further underground work was anticipated as the remaining overhead cables were in good condition. NOTED.
- c) 7/06. The Clerk reported that a reply had been received from Cumbria County Council on the subject of the Countryside Access Strategy, following the Clerk's submission of comments, confirming that an increase in funding for Rights-of-Way maintenance had been approved for 2006/07. Much of this was to be targeted outside

the National Park and as a consequence, many local paths should see improvements. It was stressed, however, that funds were still limited and that not everything would be done.

- d) 26/06 (a) Councillor Lord asked whether there was any further information regarding the removal of waste plastic from the countryside. The Clerk confirmed that he was still awaiting a reply from the Environmental Health department but also pointed out that it looked as if the waste which Councillor Ms Richards had noticed had apparently been very largely removed. It was AGREED that Councillor Richards would be asked to look at this area to see whether she felt there had been any improvement.

31/06 Vacancy for Parish Councillor

The Clerk reported that, despite a request for an election by ten electors, nobody had expressed an interest to the Returning Officer in becoming a candidate. Unfortunately, once such a request is made, the Parish Council is no longer able to co-opt, and the Returning Officer is now making arrangements to re-advertise the vacancy and this is scheduled to begin on 24th March. The election will take place at the same time as the borough elections, i.e., Thursday, 4th May 2006.

32/06 Attendance of Officer from Cumbria Constabulary.

WPC Harris reported that questionnaires would be sent to every household in the next few weeks in order to determine what kind of service the general public would prefer from their local neighbourhood police officers.

She also confirmed that the school children “gang” problems recently experienced in local villages seemed to be subsiding.

She was asked whether she anticipated any differences in local policing once the merger of the Cumbria and Lancashire forces had taken place. Her opinion was that there would be little to see at local level.

From the floor, reference was made to the excess speed of many vehicles travelling through local lanes and the desirability of Marton having the use of the speed monitoring device – similar to that used in Lindal – and WPC Harris promised to raise the matter with Mr Mallett, the Traffic Officer.

33/06 Report of School Governors. Submission of minutes – if any.

There were no minutes for consideration.

34//06 Lane to the side of Hempland Cottages.

The Clerk reported that he had been reminded by a local resident that there was still a problem with the use of the lane to the side of Hempland Cottages. This lane runs from the road adjacent to the Church down to the main A590 and is used as a short-cut to and from the main road. The Parish Council had previously drawn the attention of the County Council to the problems of vehicles trying to leave the A590 via this route, only to meet other vehicles coming down. This resulted in vehicles having to reverse out onto the main road and the Parish Council had requested that the lane should be made one-way only. The County Council had been reminded of the problem and the Clerk had been informed that the work was still not included in any programme of improvements but MouchelAmey have been contacted “who have confirmed that they will investigate as part of their work in the area.”. It was AGREED that the Clerk would check in a month’s time to see whether MouchelAmey had anything to report and this would include contacting the firm direct.

35/06 Lindal Village Green.

The Clerk confirmed that tenders for the work had been due to be returned by Wednesday, 1st March with the contract being awarded to the successful tenderer very soon thereafter. Reference was made to the need for the Parish Council and the Residents Association to have a meeting with the Borough Council and the contractor before any work started and the Clerk undertook to pursue this.

36/06 Barrow Borough Council Development Plan Document.

Reference was made to the document previously circulated, the “Draft Statement of Community Involvement”, produced by the Borough Council. It was AGREED that this seemed to fulfil all the requirements of the Parish Council insofar as public consultation was concerned (*vide* minute 138/05, December 05) and that no particular comments were needed.

37/06 Planning applications relating to the Parish.

- a) *6/2006/0085 Outline consent for 4 houses to rear of Marton Hall, Marton.* It was NOTED that this application had already been discussed by the Parish Council at its February meeting in the absence of the official papers. The Clerk reported that the Council’s action in considering the application at that time had been confirmed as being appropriate by the Borough Council’s staff.
- b) *6/2006/0181,2,3,4,5. Removal of various lengths of hedge within the Parish to facilitate the installation of water pipe-line.* These were further submissions by United Utilities and were similar to those previously considered by the Parish Council in January. It was PROPOSED by Councillor Lord and SECONDED by Councillor Waite that the Parish Council offer no objection to these proposals. Carried unanimously.
- c) *6/2006/0250. Outline consent for a 40 bed nursing home, 30 sheltered housing units and 4 affordable homes, London Road, Lindal.* A widespread discussion took place, involving the floor, and reference was made to a range of issues, including
 - the need for clarification as to whether the affordable housing would be for sale or for rent.
 - the veracity of the traffic analysis. This had been commissioned by the applicant and there was concern about possible bias.
 - the potential for even more traffic in that area due to the proposed transfer of work from Colony Candles at Barrow to the Lindal site.
 - the proposed method of surface water drainage from the already-approved (but not yet built) new road, with the applicant apparently suggesting soakaways although the Council had been told that this would not be allowed by the County Council.
 - The proposal to connect the foul sewer to that running along London Road, with residents concerned that this might not be capable of further loading.
 - The addition of 30 units of sheltered housing might bring an imbalance to the overall population mix within the village.
 - The possible installation of traffic lights at the main crossroads might precipitate an adverse reaction from local industrialists, concerned about the potential for delays on the A590. Such lights could also be the cause of more pollution from the increase in stopping and starting of vehicles. Conversely, lights would facilitate the passage of traffic out of the side roads onto the A590

- The possibility that the new road to the rear of the allotments would only be built if and when this new development took place, and would not be built if the development was refused.
- The growing demand for additional nursing home beds, as well as sheltered housing and affordable houses and the consequential benefits to the community if the development went ahead.

It was then PROPOSED by Councillor Lord that the Council offer “no comment” on the application, with the caveat that the Council had major reservations about the arrangements for surface drainage; sewerage disposal; and the Traffic Impact Analysis. There was no seconder.

It was then PROPOSED by Councillor Waite that the Council decline to support this application on the grounds that

1. It was not clear what would be approved regarding the disposal of surface water from the roads.
2. There were doubts about the accuracy and also the impartiality of the Traffic Impact Assessment.
3. There were doubts as to the capacity of the London Road sewer to take any additional loading.
4. The site was a “greenfield” site and should be protected from such development.
5. There appeared to be no consideration given to those residents in London Road, adjacent to the Public House, who would lose their car parking spaces as and when the new road to the rear of the allotments was built.
6. There was insufficient information regarding the affordable houses and whether these would be built for sale or for rent.

This was SECONDED by Councillor Ms Rainbow. There were two votes in favour, with one abstention. The PROPOSAL was carried.

38/06 Correspondence.

- a) Planning applications outwith the Parish. NOTED.
- b) Highways Agency. Re-surfacing works at Lindal A590. NOTED.
- c) Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. Minutes of meeting 2.2.06 NOTED.

39/06 Finance.

- a) Cash balances :- Current account:- £571.00. Reserve account:- £61.10
- b) The Clerk requested 1) a petty cash cheque in the sum of £16.40; 2) submitted an invoice from Barrow Borough Council in the sum of £376.74 in respect of the electrical feeder pillar in Marton Park and; 3) reported that the amount of rent due for the use of the Buccleuch Hall was £110. He also submitted a request for a donation from “Childline” but pointed out that the Council had received a similar request in June 2005 when a sum of £38 had been donated. It was AGREED that the Clerk should suggest to “Childline” that they re-submit their request in the summer. It was PROPOSED by Councillor Lord and SECONDED by Councillor Ms Rainbow that items 1, 2 and 3 above be approved and that cheques be duly authorised and signed in respect of all three items. Carried unanimously.

40/06 Any Other Business.

- a) The Clerk reported that he had receive a further planning application which required attention before the Council's next meeting. The Chairman decreed that, in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972, this matter could be discussed and a decision reached, viz, 22/2006/0267, *Reserved matters approval, erection of one dwelling at land adjacent to 5, East View, Lindal*. It was noted that the outline consent for this development had incorporated the condition "with means of access not reserved for subsequent approval" and yet the current submission included amended arrangements for access. Such amendments gave rise to reservations about the effectiveness of the access arrangements and accordingly, it was PROPOSED by Councillor Lord and SECONDED by Councillor Ms Rainbow that the Council offer no objections to the proposal for the house *per se* but draw the planning authority's attention to a) the apparent ignoring of the condition attached to the outline consent and b) the Council's doubts as to the effectiveness of the proposed new arrangements. Carried unanimously.
- b) The Chairman submitted information regarding a meeting of the Cumbria Criminal Justice Board at Kendall on 23rd March. NOTED.

41/06 Date and Time of Next Meeting.

The Chairman drew attention to the fact that both he and the Clerk would be on holiday at the time of the next meeting (6th April) and as a consequence it was AGREED that the next meeting would be in May. It was also pointed out that the Borough elections would be taking place on the first Thursday of the month i.e., 4th May and that the Buccleuch Hall would not, therefore, be available. The Clerk confirmed that St Peter's Church was available and it was AGREED that the meeting – which would be the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – would be in the Church, at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 4th May 2006.

NB There will be no meeting in April and the next meeting will be the AGM, to take place in St Peter's Church, on Thursday, 4th May 2006, at 7.30 pm.