

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, 3rd June 2010 at 7.30 pm in the Buccleuch Hall, Lindal.

Present:-

Councillors A Waite (Chairman); D Howarth; Mrs S Glover; Mrs S Kelly.

Apologies:- Councillor R Lord.

Also present:- 30+ members of the public.

In attendance:- PCSO Louise Perry, Cumbria Constabulary.

69/10 Urgent business. Items normally needing to be publicised but received too late for the agenda. (Section 100B (4) (b) Local Government Act 1972)

None.

70/10 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 6th May 2010.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 6th May, 2010, were taken as read, and APPROVED.

PROPOSED:- Councillor Howarth.

SECONDED:- Councillor Mrs Glover. Carried unanimously.

71/10 Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

72/10 Attendance of Officer from Cumbria Constabulary.

PCSO Perry reported that there had been another occasion when some stray sheep had been seen in the village. This had been resolved with the farmer responsible.

She also commented on the problems of inappropriate car-parking in Marton (*vide minute 67/10 (c) May 2010*), with this being dealt with by means of a letter to local residents asking for co-operation.

73/10 Report of School Governors. Submission of minutes, if any.

There were no minutes for consideration.

74/10 Parish Paths Initiative.

The Clerk reported that Mr Roy Mason was proceeding with his project to create a series of leaflets describing seven walks within the parish, based on the parish's paths, and that the printing costs for the leaflets, together with leaflet holders (for the kiosks) would be under £200. The County Council had agreed to fund this expenditure.

Insofar as the Lindal Tunnel footpath was concerned it was AGREED that no further action should be taken.

75/10 Adoption of BT telephone kiosks, Lindal and Marton.

The Clerk confirmed that BT had now formally emailed to say that the kiosks were now legally the property of the Parish Council.

However, there had been no response from any local residents regarding helping out with general supervision of the kiosks to ensure that they were kept clean and tidy and to report any vandalism. In addition, there had been no response from the school regarding pupils taking an interest in the kiosks. *From the floor* a resident of Marton living near to the kiosk volunteered to keep a general eye on that kiosk.

Councillor Lord had completed the installation of shelves etc to enable the kiosks to be used as mini libraries, the expenditure amounting to £156.68.

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Waite and SECONDED by Councillor Howarth that the Council express its appreciation for the work undertaken by Councillor Lord with this project. Carried unanimously.

The Clerk also confirmed that the signs to announce the new use of the kiosks ("Lindal and Marton Parish Council" and "Information Point".) had also been delivered at a cost of £42.30, from Chatsworth Signs.

76/10 Cumbria Playing Fields Association.

The Clerk was able to confirm that both the Lindal Cricket Club and the Bowling Club had had no contact with the Playing Fields Association. However, it was accepted that should either of the clubs wish to apply to the Association for financial assistance, it would help if the Parish Council was affiliated to the Association, and it was, therefore, PROPOSED by Councillor Howarth and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Kelly that the Council become affiliated, at a cost of £15.50. This would be reviewed annually. Carried unanimously.

77/10 Planning applications relating to the Parish.

a) B12/2010/0626 *Erection of building to house 16,000 chickens, together with free-range egg area, Maidenlands, Marton.*

The Clerk explained that this was a project to erect a 100m-long building in a field behind Maidenlands Farm, Tarn Flat, Marton, to house 16,000 chickens for the purpose of egg production. The building would be hidden from the road, over the brow of the hill and midway between the road and Poaka Beck on the western edge of the site. *From the floor* the applicant, Mr F Saunders, and his architect, Mr J Bryden, expanded on the details provided in the application.

During an open debate which followed involving Councillors, the applicant and *the floor* the following matters were discussed:-

- *Boundary fences.* The 8 hectare site, described as the amount of land required for the free-range use of 16,000 chickens, will be enclosed by an electrified fence, similar to fences used to contain cattle, horses etc. This will be some 4ft to 5ft high but will not necessarily enclose the whole of the site, the amount of fence determined by other factors such as existing boundaries and the way in which the chickens roam the site. It was suggested that any such fence could be construed as being visually intrusive and unacceptable in open countryside.
- *Manure.* The application referred to manure being “used for pastureland within the boundary of the farm.....” but also listed other Furness farms to which manure would be transported. The applicant stated that no manure would be ploughed into his own farmland and that removal to other farms would be by tractor and trailer, twice per week. The applicant suggested that the project could produce some 640 tonnes of manure per year but that most (88%, based on other studies) would be contained within the building (the stock to be housed between 6.00 pm and 9.00 am) and 12% (around 70 tonnes) deposited on the free-range land. Concern was expressed about problems relating to the land, such as
 1. water contamination, with manure being washed into Poaka Beck;
 2. dust contamination, with dry and windy spells of weather producing problems for nearby houses.
 3. Fly contamination, with summer months seeing a proliferation of such insects. (presumably, fly infestation of the building could be controlled by insecticides and electronic equipment)
 4. Odour contamination. It is not clear how much the free-range area will produce offensive odours although the building itself may be adequately controlled. Many comments were made about how intolerable the odours were in the vicinity of other chicken farms.
- *Noise.* The applicant suggested that the building will be insulated to contain noise. However, whilst the effectiveness of such measures is an unknown quantity, fears were expressed about the noise coming from the stock when it was outdoors.
- *Vermin infestation.* The applicant was confident that there will be adequate measures in place to keep rats, etc., out of the building. However, it is unclear as to how much any vermin will be attracted to the site by the presence of out-of-doors poultry, particularly as the site contains a small wood which could harbour vermin. In addition, the site can be anticipated to become a magnet for rats which, if they are unable to gain entry to the building, could easily migrate to the nearest residential properties in search of food.
- *Health issues.* There were many observations about the ammonia which comes from chickens and their manure, and it was suggested that there was much evidence that this was seriously detrimental to health, particularly to those with asthmatic problems.
- *Additional land requirements.* The question was raised of the need to “rest” the land, perhaps in sections, to enable grass to re-grow after intense attention from so many birds. It was not clear how this would be addressed by the applicant although the use of some of the applicant’s other, adjacent fields was mentioned, (with all that that implies regarding planning consent.)

After a full discussion on the matters raised it was PROPOSED by Councillor Waite and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Glover that the Council decline to support the application on the grounds that the development would be detrimental to the health and well-being of the local residents, as outlined in the preceding paragraphs, and that Barrow Borough Council be asked to take due notice of the various concerns expressed by such residents. There were 3 votes in favour of the proposal and 1 abstention. The proposal was, therefore, carried.

b) 6/10/0754/113 *Reserved matters re development of 5 houses, Anchor Inn, Lindal.* The Clerk confirmed that this application was to give more details regarding the type of houses to be erected on the Anchor Inn site, the original application having been discussed in 2009. (*vide minute 117/09, Emergency Meeting held on Monday 5th October 2009*) It was PROPOSED by Councillor Howarth and SECONDED by Councillor Waite that the Council express “no comment” on this application. Carried unanimously.

c) 6/10/0701/020 *change of use, agricultural land to curtilage of property, The Homestead, Marton.* It was PROPOSED by Councillor Mrs Kelly and SECONDED by Councillor Howarth that the Council express “no comment” on this application. Carried unanimously.

d) B12/2010/0712 *extension to Wild Animal Park, Dalton.* The Clerk reminded Councillors that assurances had been given by Barrow Borough Council that the Parish Council would be formally consulted as and when the Wild Life Park submitted the anticipated application for further development, notwithstanding the fact that the Park was outside the Parish boundary. (*vide minute 122/09 (b) November 2009*). This was because the houses at Melton Terrace, which would be affected most by the proposed development, were within the Parish boundary and also because a development on such a scale had wider implications for the whole of the Parish. Unfortunately, no such consultation had been forthcoming from the Borough Council and the information before the Parish Council was merely that which was available via the internet.

It was AGREED that discussion of the application would be limited to the traffic issues associated with the new entrance to the Park, and new car-park, opposite Melton Terrace, and the problems which could ensue for both the wider area of Lindal and its inhabitants as well as residents of Melton Terrace itself.

Points emphasised in discussions *with the floor* included such matters as:-

- *Potential for accidents, A590.* It was noted that a “ghost” island would be incorporated within the centre of the A590 to allow motorists coming from the direction of Ulverston to park in the middle of the road before turning right into the “old” A590. It was thought that, at peak periods, this would constitute a major hazard because of the number of vehicles which travel at high speeds towards this junction from the roundabout at the top of Melton Hill. In addition, that junction is already used by large HGVs going to and from Duerden’s abattoir and further traffic could create more congestion and more potential for accidents.
- *Traffic congestion, minor roads.* The development envisages that when the new car park is full, the overflow will be directed along the minor road outside the suggested new entrance, past Tytup and towards the Black Dog Inn and then in a southerly direction towards the existing entrance with the current car-park becoming an overflow car-park. Presumably, visitors leaving the park will be encouraged to return to the A590 in the reverse direction, given that one of the intentions of the new arrangements is to divert traffic from Dalton town centre.

It is thought that this would be completely unsuitable because the roads in question are narrow country lanes which are barely sufficient to cope with existing levels of traffic, with HGVs a particular problem. There are reports of damage to walls and crumbling road surfaces and it has also been pointed out that part of the road now houses a new water main and that additional heavy traffic will be detrimental to the integrity of this facility.

There is also a major concern that traffic departing from what will be the overflow car-park will, either by design or accidentally, go into Lindal village itself, thus adding to traffic problems both for villagers and also in respect of the crossroads junction with the A590.

- *Quality of life, local residents.* The residents of Melton Terrace have enjoyed a much more peaceful and tranquil life for the past 15 years or so, since the new Dalton bypass rearranged part of the A590. Traffic going past their houses has been very limited with HGVs being, in the main, abattoir vehicles, milk lorries and the like. This tranquillity is threatened by an immense increase in traffic passing the houses should the development come to pass. There will be the additional noise, fumes and general congestion - the householders park their own vehicles on the road, there being little in the way of off-road parking – and the area will change from a quiet oasis into a busy thoroughfare.

It was then PROPOSED by Councillor Mrs Kelly and SECONDED by Councillor Howarth that the Council decline to support the application. Whilst the economic advantages which come from the encouragement of tourism were recognized, this should not be at the expense of local residents who would have their quality of life adversely affected by the massive increases in noise and fume pollution, together with the associated congestion. Neither should inhabitants of the Parish as a whole have to endure the increase in traffic on country lanes which were not designed to cope with such traffic densities. And, finally, the potential for accidents on the A590, where the old A590 forms a junction, is enough to warrant a total re-evaluation of the scheme as a whole. Barrow Borough Council is, therefore, requested to take into account all of the above considerations as and when it reaches its decision whether or not to grant planning permission. Carried unanimously.

78/10 Correspondence.

- a) Planning applications relating to the whole of the Borough. NOTED.
- b) Friends of the Lake District, Annual Report. NOTED.

79/10 Finance.

- a) Cash balances:- Current account £50 Reserve account:- £2880.92.
- b) The Clerk submitted cheques in respect of expenses incurred by Councillor Lord (£156.68 *vide minute 75/10, above*) Chatsworth Signs (£42.30 - *minute 75/10*) Cumbria Playing Fields Association (£15.50 – *minute 76/10*) It was PROPOSED by Councillor Howarth and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Glover that these be approved and signed. Carried unanimously.

80/10 Any Other Business.

Councillor Mrs Glover asked what the situation was regarding the village green and the fact that one of the small gates had been removed by Barrow Borough Council. The Clerk explained that he had raised this problem with Borough Council officials who stated that they were unwilling at the present time to replace the gate because they considered that the lack of a gate might deter those who wished to put sheep on the green from doing so.

81/10 Date and Time of Next Meeting.

The date and time of the next meeting was AGREED as Thursday, 5th August, at 7.30 pm in the Buccleuch Hall, Lindal. (NB There would be no meeting in July.)

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