

Lindal and Marton Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 4th December 2003, at 7.30 pm in the Buccleuch Hall, Lindal.

Present:- Councillors T Weall (Chairman); R Hickey; A Waite.

Apologies:- Councillor R Lord, Mrs D Morgan.

In Attendance:- PC Tony Howson from Cumbria Police.

Also Present:- 1 member of the public.

112/03 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 6th November 2003

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 6th November 2003 were taken as read and APPROVED.

PROPOSED Councillor Hickey.
SECONDED Councillor Waite.
Carried unanimously.

113/03 Matters arising.

- a) 94/03 The Clerk reported that a response had been received from Barrow Borough Council regarding the proposed amendments to the Housing Chapter of the Local Plan. The Parish Council's comments regarding the utilisation of brownfield sites had been noted and the suggestion that attention should be given to the need for low cost starter-homes had been noted for discussions with the housing department. NOTED.
- b) 111/03 (g) In response to a query from Councillor Hickey the Clerk reported that he had secured a quotation from Chatsworth Signs for a new sign at a cost of around £20. As a consequence he had ordered one sign for the Buccleuch Hall notice board. NOTED.
- c) 111/03 (b) Councillor Waite asked whether the question of debris from hedge-cutting had been followed up. The Clerk indicated that the Highways officials considered that clearing up was the responsibility of the contractor who had been cutting the hedge. NOTED.
- d) 108/03 The Chairman reported that the application to amend the design of the (already approved) single house had been approved but that the alternative application for two houses on the site had been refused. After perusal of the Borough Council's planning papers it was apparent that the Parish Council's

concerns regarding vehicular access to the site, whilst being reported in such papers, had not been mentioned in the officer's report. It was, therefore, impossible to tell whether the Parish Council's concerns had any validity or not and it was, therefore, AGREED that the Clerk should write to the Chief Executive of Barrow Borough Council asking for some kind of feed-back in similar cases.

114/03 Attendance of officer from Cumbria Constabulary.

The Chairman welcomed PC Howson, who was part of the rural policing team and who was standing in for PC Livingston.

PC Howson explained the way in which "speed watch" worked and how it could help rural communities. Volunteers are required from villages operating the scheme and they would be trained in the use of radar guns. These would be used in sensitive areas e.g. outside schools, where there were dangers from speeding motorists, and if the radar gun suggested that a vehicle was exceeding the speed limit the operator would note the vehicle registration number for onward transmission to the police. The owner would receive a warning letter from the police advising him of the speed limit on the road in question and if a second occurrence was reported, the police would "target" the motorist with a view to any further transgression being observed officially.

It was emphasised that being caught by the radar gun did not, in itself, constitute a criminal offence and was merely a mechanism for being able to warn offending motorists that their speed needed to be more controlled.

From the floor, it was clear that there were some doubts about the proposals and the Chairman decided, therefore, that further consideration should be deferred until such time as all Councillors were present. It was AGREED that the matter be an agenda item for the February meeting and that Mr Roger Mallett, the road safety advisor, be invited to address the Council.

PC Howson then explained the concept of "datadots", whereby householders could mark valuable articles with a dot of a special glue which contained a unique identification number which would be held on a central register. The number would only be visible under ultra-violet lighting and if stolen articles were recovered by the police the owners could be contacted once the identification number had been checked. It was AGREED that the use of this system should be supported by the Parish Council and PC Howson confirmed that funding for the supply of the materials (at about £16 per kit) should be available within the next twelve months. This should be sufficient to supply possibly 100 kits and when these were available the Parish Council would discuss the logistics of distribution.

15/03 Report of School Governors (submission of minutes – if any)

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2003 were NOTED.

116/03 Development of Lindal Village Green.

The Clerk and Chairman reported on a meeting they had attended at the Town Hall on Wednesday, 12th November. In attendance were Steve Warbrick, Director of Regeneration, Barrow Borough Council, together with Alan Postlethwaite, Secretary of the Residents Association and Des Metcalfe, landscape architect, designer of the scheme.

The following points were highlighted:-

Steve Warbrick confirmed the provisional allocation of £20,000 from Barrow Borough Council in 2004/2005 – subject to the Borough’s final budget allocations (March 2004) – with £10,000 anticipated from the Rural Regeneration Fund. The scheme could cost up to £75,000 and might have to be completed in phases, unless other sources of finance could be found. Such avenues were to be explored by Alan Postlethwaite.

The first phase would be the re-siting of the War Memorial, plus the new entrance opposite the Buccleuch Hall, together with the wall/fence linking these two features. This phase should be covered by the £30,000 referred to above. The balance of the scheme would be dependant upon additional funding.

Des Metcalfe would re-assess the boundary requirements with a view to suggesting a wall/railings less elaborate and costly. Amended sketches etc would be provided for a public meeting to be held in the Buccleuch Hall in January 2004, in order to ‘fine-tune’ the proposals with a planning application to Barrow Borough Council planned for February 2004.

The Clerk, together with Alan Postlethwaite, would meet County Highways officials on site with a view to assessing the desirability and practicality of traffic-calming arrangements on the eastern side of the Green, possibly as part of the Safe Routes to School initiative.

117/03 Planning applications relating to the Parish.

Improvements to Marton Waste Water Treatment Works.

The Clerk submitted correspondence from United Utilities regarding the above development. It was noted that although this scheme did not require planning consent, United Utilities were anxious to keep the Parish Council advised as to their proposals. It would appear that the contractor would need to move plant and equipment across the children’s playground in order to gain access to the site and as a consequence, discussions were on-going with Barrow Borough Council regarding the possible closure of the side of the playground to the east of the existing access track

United Utilities would ensure that local residents were kept informed as to developments. NOTED.

It was suggested, in addition, that United Utilities might view favourably any request to renew the gates into the playground and it was AGREED that the Clerk write accordingly.

118/03 Correspondence

- a) Planning applications outwith the Parish. NOTED.
- b) ‘Childline’ newsletter. NOTED.

119/03 Finance.

- a) The Clerk reported that the cash balances were as follows:-
Current account:- £426.51
Reserve account:- £527.35
- b) The Clerk requested re-imburement of petty cash in the sum of £18.13, payment of rental charges in connection with the Parish Council's use of the Buccleuch Hall in the sum of £55 and payment of the invoice from the District Audit Service in the sum of £58.75. It was PROPOSED by Councillor Waite and SECONDED by Councillor Hickey that such payments be authorised and appropriate cheques signed. Carried unanimously

120/03 Any Other Business.

- a) The Clerk referred to a few electricity failures which had affected parts of Lindal and Marton in recent months and confirmed that the Secretary of the Residents Association had written to United Utilities to complain. It was AGREED that the Parish Council would await the response to the Residents Association before deciding what action, if any, it should take.
- b) The Clerk reported that the planning application in respect of an aggregates recycling plant at Whinfield had been withdrawn. NOTED.
- c) The Clerk submitted the minutes regarding the meeting of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, held on 4th September 2003. NOTED.
- d) The Clerk introduced correspondence from Capita, on behalf of Friends of the Lake District, seeking cooperation regarding a survey on rural roads and changes in character over recent years. This was referred to Councillor Hickey for attention.
- e) The Clerk reported on discussions with the County highways department when two outstanding requests from the Parish were mentioned. The request for the lane adjacent to Hempland Cottages to be made one-way was still within the provisional programme of works for 2004/05 but was unlikely to be given priority for funding. As far as the main crossroads were concerned it was recognized that the layout of the double yellow lines was not ideal but it was felt that any alteration could cause further problems. It is likely that the current arrangements will remain unaltered for the time being. NOTED.
- f) The Clerk reported that he had only just received a planning application, (6/03/1206/057 Erection of garage and shed, 'Half Acre', Melton Terrace, Lindal.) too late for the agenda, and for which a response was required before the next Parish Council meeting. The Chairman decreed, therefore, that the matter could be considered as urgent, and could be debated there and then, with a decision reached. After discussion it was PROPOSED by Councillor Weall and SECONDED by Councillor Hickey that the Parish Council make no comment on the application. Carried unanimously

121/03 Date and Time of Next Meeting.

The Date and Time of the Next Meeting was AGREED as **FRIDAY, 9th January 2004.** at 7.30 pm in the Buccleuch Hall, Lindal.

NB Change of day to Friday!!