

Lindal and Marton Parish Council

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Councillors:-
Mr A Waite (462922); Mr R Lord (464034). Ms S Rainbow (462383.) Mr D Howarth (463304) Mrs S Kelly (465343)

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday, 6th December 2007 at 7.30 pm in the Buccleuch Hall, Lindal.

Present:- Councillors A Waite (Chairman); Ms S Rainbow; D Howarth; Mrs S Kelly

Apologies:- Councillor Lord.

Also present:- 16 members of the public.

In attendance:-

Mr Garry Thomas, Capita.
WPC A Rawlinson, Cumbria Constabulary.

Councillor Howarth in the chair, pending the arrival of Councillor Waite.

146/07 Urgent business. Items normally needing to be publicised but received too late for the agenda. (Section 100B (4) (b) Local Government Act 1972)

The Clerk reported that there were two items of a financial nature which had been received too late for the Agenda and which needed prompt attention viz., 1) a request from the Buccleuch Hall Management Committee for a donation towards the cost of the annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Party and 2) An invoice from the Society of Local Council Clerks in respect of the Clerk's annual subscription. The Chairman confirmed that these matters could be discussed under agenda item 13 – Finance.

147/07 Disclosure of Interests.

Councillor Howarth declared an interest in agenda item 146/07 (1) in that he was treasurer of the Buccleuch Hall Management Committee.

148/07 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 1st November, 2007.

The minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 1st November, 2007 were taken as read and APPROVED.

PROPOSED:- Councillor Ms Rainbow

SECONDED:- Councillor Mrs Kelly.

Carried unanimously.

149/07 Matters arising.

a) The Clerk introduced Mr Gary Thomas, from Capita, who commented on the following:-
135/07 (b) The “triangle” by St Peter’s Church. He intended to arrange for appropriate road markings to help motorists negotiate this obstacle. He also confirmed that he would arrange for white lines in the centre of the road as it ran past the Church, in order to help in turning into “the ginnel” running to Hempland Cottages.

135/07 (b) The telegraph pole on Mount Pleasant. The Clerk had received a letter from a local resident suggesting that clients of the Probation Service could concrete the area in question, at a much reduced cost. The resident had been advised to contact Mr Thomas who indicated that he was still waiting to be contacted but felt that there could be difficulties with matters like the requirement for all sub-contractors to be properly accredited.

b) 144/07 (c) Councillor Ms Rainbow confirmed that she had received further information about the express bus service – Barrow to Kendal – and the request that Lindal be included as a stopping point for passengers wishing to go to Kendal. Stagecoach, the bus operator, had nothing to add to its previous decision in that Lindal could not be included, but the County Council were more sympathetic. If passengers still had to take a local bus to either Dalton or Ulverston in order to join the express service, it might be possible for a through-ticket to be purchased without the need to buy a ticket on the local service. Councillor Ms Rainbow was awaiting further information.

c) 138/07 Councillor Howarth asked whether there was any information regarding the suggestion that one of the newly-installed benches on Lindal village green was not completely level. The Clerk confirmed that this had been passed to the supervising landscape architect but, whilst no final decision had been taken, there was some reluctance to disturb the fixing bolts.

d) 144/07 (e) Regarding “Neighbourhood Watch”, the Clerk reported that, after discussing the question of a sending out a questionnaire in “Aspects” with Councillors Mrs Kelly and Ms Rainbow, together with the editor of “Aspects”, it had been decided to defer this until the February edition. This would enable the matter to be discussed at the March meeting.

150/07 Speed limits within Lindal. (20 mph)

Mr Thomas, from Capita, spoke on the question of introducing a 20 mph speed limit on roads within Lindal. He summarised the basic principles, which included studies of traffic speeds and assessment of any accident statistics as well as seeking the views of residents and organisations such as the Police for their opinions. He said that 20 mph schemes invariably required the introduction of practical measures to physically slow down traffic and the most obvious was the speed hump.

The Clerk mentioned the introduction of such a scheme in Marton, some 5 years ago, which happened without the Parish Council’s knowledge or involvement and which did not incorporate humps. Mr Thomas said that it had not been organised by his department and he had no knowledge of the circumstances.

The importance of slowing down traffic on Pit Lane was emphasised, particularly outside the school and the Buccleuch Hall, where there was a daily play-group. Reference was also made to the problems associated with damage to vehicles from such humps, with increased noise and additional pollution. *From the floor* it was pointed out that Lindal was a rural community, with tractors and trailers, often with animals on board. (There was also a request that the previously-agreed scheme to provide 30 mph signs for Pennington Lane (*vide minute 135/07(a)*) be expedited by not waiting until the necessary illumination for the signs was provided. Mr Thomas agreed to see whether this was feasible.)

Mr Thomas confirmed that the Parish Council’s original request for Lindal to be brought into line with Marton, by the introduction of a 20 mph scheme, was still in the County Council’s

programme but, in the absence of any particular pressure from the Parish Council, was unlikely to be seen as a priority scheme in the near future.

It was AGREED therefore, that the Clerk write to Mr Thomas formally, requesting that this be now looked at as a measure of some urgency, bearing in mind that it could still be some considerable time before any practical steps could be taken. It was also AGREED that Mr Thomas' offer to supply a temporary flashing light(s), to advise motorists to take note of their speed, would be accepted, Mr Thomas to arrange for this as soon as equipment was available.

Councillor Waite arrived and assumed the chair.

151/07 Highways repairs and maintenance in the Parish.

Reference was made to the document from Cumbria County Council (*vide minute 144/07 (i)*) which reported that there were to be changes to the arrangements for highways maintenance and repairs. Mr Thomas gave a brief summary of the arrangements whereby a two-man team would attend various towns and villages for a period of 8 working days, twice a year, in order to carry out minor maintenance work. Examples given were:- repairs to kerbs; clearing gulleys and culverts; replacing signs; cutting back vegetation;- reporting back more serious defects eg., blocked drains, dangerous trees etc.

Lindal and Marton were scheduled to be visited in week-commencing 27th February, 2008 and 19th August, 2008. There was also an undertaking to warn the Parish Council in advance of the visit in order that problems could be collated and passed to the maintenance team. It was AGREED that a notice be prepared on this subject for inclusion in "Aspects".

152/07 Attendance of Officer from Cumbria Constabulary.

WPC Rawlinson attended in place of WPC Harris. There were no particular issues other than reference to the Keswick to Barrow Walk whereby Keith Johnson, from the KBW committee was meant to be organising his own meeting with Gary Thomas and WPC Harris. Mr Thomas had heard nothing and WPC Rawlinson said she would raise the matter with her colleague.

153/07 Report of School Governors. Submission of minutes – if any.

The minutes of the governors relating to 24th September 2007 were NOTED.

154/07 Lindal Village Green.

There was nothing further to report.

155/07 Planning applications relating to the Parish.

B10/07/1227 Temporary meteorology mast, near Harlock Reservoir, re future wind farm.

The Clerk indicated that this development was not within the Parish boundary, being within Askam and Ireleth's boundary, and that, originally, Lindal and Marton Parish Council had not been asked for comment. The proposal had been submitted to Barrow Council's planning committee on Tuesday, 27th November 2007, with a recommendation that it be approved. The committee had decided to defer consideration, to enable this Council to pass comment.

A wide-spread discussion took place involving *the floor* when various reasons why the application should be opposed were put forward. These centred on two issues, visual intrusion and the effect on the everyday lives of local residents during the construction period.

Whilst the application was for a single, 60 mtr mast, to enable meteorological data to be collected, it was clear that this was simply a pre-cursor to an application for a full-size wind farm. It was apparent from the applicant's web-site that the intention was to erect windmills far bigger than anything seen before, ie., 125 mtrs, which would have an extremely

detrimental effect on the landscape. It was acknowledged that wind farms were already in existence in the vicinity but the massive size of the proposed development would overshadow everything built before and have an immense impact on what is still a relatively unspoilt area of wild moorland.

Insofar as construction was concerned, it was suggested that there would be a need for hundreds of lorry-loads of concrete and other materials, all of which having to be transported through small villages and along narrow country lanes which were totally unsuitable for such traffic, and that this would have a seriously deleterious effect on the life and well-being of local residents.

There were no arguments to the contrary, with no reference being made to climate-change issues and the need to support the provision of alternative energy supplies, other than it being pointed out that the efficiency and economics of electricity provided by wind farms was very much open to question.

It was then PROPOSED by Councillor Howarth and SECONDED by Councillor Waite that the Council object to the proposal on the grounds that it was incontrovertibly linked to the development of a wind farm and that such wind farm appeared to be of such immense size that it would have a) a devastating impact on the landscape and b) create unacceptable disruption for local residents during the construction period. Carried unanimously.

156/07 Correspondence.

- a) Planning applications outwith the Parish. NOTED.
- b) Cumbria County Council. Bus services and subsidies. NOTED.
- c) Cumbria C.C. Minerals and Waste Policies. News bulletin. NOTED.
- d) Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust. Consultation re Foundation status. NOTED.
- e) Friends of Eden, Lakeland and Lunesdale Scenery (FELLS) Newsletter. NOTED.
- f) Letter re unofficial signage on main road – A590. The Clerk reported that he had received a letter of complaint about ad-hoc signs advertising events in, say, the village hall, and not being removed after the event. He had contacted the Highways Agency who confirmed that they had a policy of checking for such items approximately every two weeks, when they would be removed. The complainant had been so advised. NOTED.

157/07 Finance.

- a) Cash balances :- Current account £50 Reserve account:- £1585.78
- b) The Clerk submitted a request for reimbursement of petty cash in the sum of £20.52.
- c) He also referred to agenda item 2 – minute no 146/07 – re 1) the request for £200 from the Buccleuch Hall Management Committee regarding the Senior Citizens' Annual Christmas Party and 2) the annual subscription of £43 to the Society of Local Council Clerks. It was PROPOSED by Councillor Waite and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Kelly that the three items referred to in b) and c) be approved and cheques signed accordingly. Carried unanimously.

158/07 Any Other Business.

- a) The Clerk reported that he had received the annual request from Barrow Borough Council for the Parish Council to determine the precept it would require for 2008/09. He would report to the Parish Council at the January meeting but envisaged that the amount required would be the same as the current year, ie, £2,500.
- b) The Clerk submitted the latest minutes of the Duddon Estuary Partnership and Cumbria County Council's Annual Report.
- c) Councillor Ms Rainbow gave a reminder of the Church's Christingle and Carol Service, to be held on Sunday, 16th December.

d) Councillor Waite drew attention to the lack of any minister of religion at the Marton War Memorial for the Remembrance Sunday Service on Sunday, 11th November. Councillor Ms Rainbow undertook to investigate what might have happened.

e) *From the floor* the Parish Council was wished the compliments of the festive season and the Chairman expressed his thanks and returned the compliments.

159/07 Date and Time of Next Meeting.

It was AGREED that the next meeting be held on Thursday, 3rd January 2008, 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.