

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, 7th February 2008 at 7.30 pm in the Buccleuch Hall, Lindal.

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

Also present:- 7 members of the public.

In attendance:-

No officer(s) present from Cumbria Constabulary.

13/08 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 he had received an application from the publishers of "Aspects" for a donation in respect of their running-costs. The Chairman confirmed that this could be discussed, as it was a matter of some urgency, under agenda item 11 (Finance.)

14/08 Disclosure of Interests.

None.

15/08 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 3rd January, 2008.

The minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 3rd January, 2008 were taken as read and APPROVED.

PROPOSED:- Councillor Ms Rainbow

SECONDED:- Councillor R Lord. Carried unanimously.

16/08 Matters arising.

4/08 (a) The Clerk reported that further information had been received regarding highway repairs in that the County Council had made available additional funds to enable repairs to be carried out to potholes and other damage caused by recent heavy rain. Lindal and Marton had been scheduled for attention on Friday and Saturday, 1st and 2nd February. He had been informed that certain works had been carried out on the Friday and, *from the floor*, it was

confirmed that some potholes had, in fact, been repaired. The previously-mentioned planned visits to the Parish by the maintenance teams were still to go ahead, commencing 28th February 2008.

17/08 Attendance of Officer from Cumbria Constabulary.

There were no officers present..

18/08 Report of School Governors. Submission of minutes – if any.

There were no minutes for consideration.

19/08 Lindal Village Green.

The Clerk reported that the latest information regarding the installation of kerbs was to confirm that these would not be considered until the new financial year – April – although there had been further reassurances that the money would still be available.

20/08 Infinergy Ltd. Discussions re Windfarm developments

The Clerk reported that he had been approached by an organisation representing the company who had been given planning permission for the temporary meteorological mast near Standish Cote - Infinergy Ltd - with a request that the company be allowed to meet the Parish Council privately in order to discuss the various factors surrounding any future application to build a wind farm. It appeared that such meetings had taken place with other Parish and Town councils in the vicinity.

He had discussed the matter with the Chairman, the result being that Infinergy Ltd had been informed that the Parish Council were of the opinion that such a meeting would serve no purpose, the Council already having made its position clear in refusing to support the planning application for the meteorological mast, on the grounds that this was inextricably linked to an application for a wind farm proper, and that such future development would meet with widespread opposition.

However, it would be acceptable for Infinergy to appear at a Parish Council meeting, when their points of view could be explained and when the general public would have the opportunity to respond. The Clerk was still awaiting a letter to confirm that this was acceptable to Infinergy. It was AGREED that, providing a letter was received to formally request same, Infinergy be allowed to attend a Parish Council meeting in order to state their case and to listen to comments from the Council and any members of the public who were present.

The Chairman then proposed that agenda item 10 (f) (letter re the Ireleth Wind farm) be discussed, given that it was in connection with a similar (wind farm) problem.

From the floor the author of the letter gave further details. It was, in fact, a copy of one sent to Barrow Borough Council pointing out that two of the windmills at the Ireleth site were currently inoperative, with one not having worked for more than twelve months. The letter pointed out that the conditions attached to the granting of planning permission for the wind farm included a requirement to dismantle and remove windmills if they had been inoperative for more than twelve months although it was unclear whether this would be applicable for individual windmills or only when the whole site was inoperative. Bearing in mind that one of the objections to the development of the wind farm was the visual intrusion to the landscape, it was thought that such visual intrusion would be ameliorated by the removal, as soon as practical, of any unused windmills. The initial response from Barrow Borough Council was that the requirement to dismantle only applied to the wind farm as a whole, i.e., after all the windmills had ceased to operate.

However, reference was made to a document published for the Renewables Advisory Board, "Onshore Wind Energy Planning Conditions Guidance Note", in October 2007, in which the section on the decommissioning of windmills makes reference to individual machines, suggesting that there could be circumstances whereby a single windmill could be dismantled and removed.

Accordingly, it was PROPOSED by Councillor Waite and SECONDED by Councillor Lord that the Clerk write to Barrow Borough Council with a request that, in order to lessen the visual impact of the Ireth wind farm, and in the light of the Guidance Note mentioned above, Barrow Borough Council should re-assess its opinion regarding the dismantling and removal of inoperative windmills so that the operators of this wind farm be advised that any windmill which has not been working for more than twelve months must be removed without further delay. Carried unanimously.

21/08 Planning applications relating to the Parish.

None

22/08 Correspondence.

- a) Planning applications outwith the Parish. NOTED.
- b) Cumbria C.C. Replacement of Care Homes. The consultation document was NOTED and, in particular, that the proposals did not incorporate any changes for homes within the Furness peninsula.
- c) Barrow Council Minutes – 9/10/07 to 16/01/08. NOTED.
- d) Local Authorities. Regulations re Conduct of Members. NOTED.
- e) Furness Partnership meeting – 18/01/08. NOTED.

23/08 Finance.

- a) Cash balances :- Current account £50 Reserve account:- £1350.94
- b) The Clerk requested that the balance of his remuneration for 2007/08 - £275 – and the honorarium for the Internal Auditor - £35 – be approved and cheques duly signed. It was PROPOSED by Councillor Ms Rainbow and SECONDED by Councillor Howarth that such payments be approved. Carried unanimously.
- c) Further to minute 13/08 the Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council routinely subsidised the production of "Aspects" and that £200 was paid in 2006. It was noted that the magazine was published and distributed by parishioners acting in a voluntary capacity. It was PROPOSED by Councillor Ms Rainbow and SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Kelly that a sum of £200 be made available on this occasion. Carried unanimously.

24/08 Any Other Business.

- a) The Clerk introduced a letter from a local resident expressing concerns about traffic problems within Lindal, particularly in the vicinity of the Church and the junction of The Green with the A590. It was clear that all the matters raised had been discussed on numerous occasions with the County Council's highways department (speed limits within the villages: HGVs: parking and vehicle congestion) and the Highways Agency (traffic lights and other problems associated with the A590). It was AGREED that the Clerk:- 1) ascertain the latest position of the County Council and the Highways Agency on the various matters raised and 2) write to the correspondent confirming the latest situation.
- b) The Clerk drew attention to the April meeting, scheduled for Thursday, 3rd April 2008, and pointed out that, on previous occasions, the April meeting had been cancelled to allow for members' Easter holidays. It was AGREED that no meeting take place in April. He also mentioned that he would be on holiday on Thursday, 3rd July 2008 and it was AGREED that

there would similarly be no meeting in July. NB Should anything occur necessitating a meeting in either of those months, special arrangements would be made.

c) Councillor Ms Rainbow reported that a local resident had drawn her attention to grass verges on the A590, in front of the houses adjacent to the crossroads, which had been damaged by vehicles driving/parking on them. It was AGREED that the matter be left in abeyance for a month to establish whether this was a recurrent problem.

d) The Chairman confirmed that Marton's last remaining public house had now closed and that the premises were up for auction.

25/08 Date and Time of Next Meeting.

It was AGREED that the next meeting be held on Thursday, 6th March 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.