

# **BOWNESS ON SOLWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022, in Lindow Hall, Bowness on Solway.**

## **Present:**

Chair: Councillor Pauline Hinks

Councillors: Marian Carruthers, James Graham (Vice Chair), John Harrington, Carol Mark, and Wilson Reay

Borough Councillor: Vaughan Hodgson joined at 8.10pm.

Clerk: Peter Streatfeild

One member of the public was present.

## **1 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest.**

Verbal apologies from Councillor Markley were conveyed by the Chair.

Councillor Hinks declared an interest in item 4.3 'Letter from 70 Plus Club' and requested dispensation to speak on the matter which was granted.

## **2 Minutes** (Extraordinary Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 & Ordinary Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 previously circulated)

2.1 Councillor Mark proposed and Councillor Carruthers seconded that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 be approved as a true record. **Approved** unanimously and signed by the Chair.

2.2 Councillor Reay proposed and Councillor Mark seconded that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 be approved as a true record. **Approved** unanimously and signed by the Chair.

## **3. Report on action taken**

3.1 Report on action by members of the Council – **NONE**.

3.2 Report from the clerk. – **NONE**.

3.3 Public participation (at the Chairman's discretion) – see item 4.5 'Letter from Port Carlisle'.

3.4 Report from County Councillor Markley.

The Chair reported that County Councillor Markley reported on potholes being repaired and preparations for the transition of the present councils into the Cumberland Council.

3.5 Report from Borough Councillor Hodgson – see below.

## **4. To review correspondence received and take any appropriate action**

4.1 Resignation of Councillors Malcolm Coates, David Evans & David Hutton and the co-option process.

The resignation of the 3 councillors were noted. It was **Noted** that a co-option notice would have to be displayed as per instructions from Allerdale BC and these would be put on noticeboards.

4.2 E-mail from a resident regarding vehicle electric charging points in the Parish.

The Clerk was requested to pursue the matter and report back at the next meeting.

- 4.3 Letter from 70 Plus Club requesting support and possible donation.  
Councillor Graham read out the letter from the 70 Plus club requesting financial support. Councillor Hinks reported that the Club had been providing a Christmas gift to the older citizens (70 Plus) since 1948. It was proposed and unanimously **approved** to give a donation of £500 towards the Club's expenses this year.
- 4.4 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal – Donation.  
Councillor Reay proposed and Councillor Mark seconded that a donation of £250 be given this year which was unanimously **approved**.
- 4.5 Letter received from Port Carlisle Village Hall Committee.  
The Chair of the Port Carlisle Village Community Group, was given permission to speak to her report of 4<sup>th</sup> September 2022 (previously forwarded to all councillors) on the use of the Jubilee grant (to celebrate Her Late Majesty's Jubilee) and the Polytunnel/Green House grant. The report on the Jubilee was well received. With regards to the polytunnel expenditure further details with copies of the expenses were required. The Port Community Group were requested to submit copy invoices to the Clerk as per our grant conditions.

## 5. New business/Follow-on business

- 5.1 To receive community reports – **None**.

Councillor Vaughan Hodgson arrived at 8.10pm.

- 5.2 Update on provision of defibrillators for Cardurnock, Easton, Fingland and Old Anthorn.  
The Clerk reported that two defibrillators for Old Anthorn and Easton had been received. Councillor Reay would ensure that the two poles would be erected by the bench in Old Anthorn and by the notice board in Easton. Councillor Hinks reported that a villager in Easton and Old Anthorn would check the defibrillator monthly as required and report to the ambulance service. The Clerk reported that he had contacted people in Fingland who are willing to be the local representatives. Work was still ongoing in Cardurnock. Councillor Reay proposed and Councillor Harrington seconded that a third defibrillator be ordered for Fingland up to a cost of £3,000 which was unanimously **approved**.
- 5.3 Update on speed awareness devices for Glasson (permanent device) and one each (temporary devices) in Drumburgh, Anthorn & Fingland.  
Councillor Carruthers reported that approval was still awaited from the Highways Department for poles/positioning for the devices in Anthorn and Fingland. After some discussion it was unanimously **decided** that the devices for Glasson and Drumburgh should be ordered without further delay in liaison with Councillor Carruthers.
- 5.4 Update on payment of concrete plinths for metal parish seats.  
The Clerk reported that he was awaiting the invoice – **Noted**.  
Councillor Carruthers reported that the seat in Glasson needed a concrete plinth and this was still outstanding – **Noted**.
- 5.5 Repositioning of noticeboard at Cardurnock.  
Councillor Reay reported that he and Councillor Graham had been in discussion with residents of Cardurnock regarding the re-positioning of the notice board and this matter was in hand.
- 5.7 Maintenance of noticeboards.  
The Clerk reported that no councillor had reported back on the condition of the notice boards in their areas. Councillor Hinks reported that the one in Drumburgh and many other boards need some maintenance and urged the councillors to inspect them and report back.
- 5.8 Concerns about safety issues in Fingland.  
The Clerk reported that the main safety issue in Fingland was the speed of through traffic. Councillor Carruthers stated that it had been a problem for years as were the lack of a safe waiting place (bus shelter) for pupils and commuters and the poor drainage in the road. It was **Noted** that the Clerk was dealing with the issue of providing a defibrillator in due course.
- 5.9 Concerns about the culverts & railings at Low Flow, Glasson.  
The Clerk stated that he had reported the matter to Highways with copies to Councillor Markley, and Cumbria County Council Highways as suggested. Highways have replied requesting a grid references and photographs. Councillor Hodgson stated that he will pursue the matter with Highways because it had been outstanding for over one year – **Noted**.

- 5.10 To discuss updating the fingerposts in the Parish.  
Councillor Carruthers reported that many finger posts within the parish have deteriorated badly and need refurbishing. Councillor Hodgson suggested speaking to Highways first as they had recently refurbished several posts in other areas of the County – **Noted**.

## 6. Finance

### Information

- 6.1.1 To note the outstanding bill of £240.00 has been paid to the external auditor Messrs PKF Littlejohn LLP – **Noted**.
- 6.1.2 To approve the accounts ending 30<sup>th</sup> September & 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 – **Approved**.
- 6.1.3 To approve the remaining budget & expenditure for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 - **Approved**
- 6.1.4 To approve the financial budget and precept for the financial year 2023-2024.  
The Clerk presented the budget and precept for the financial year 2023-2024 which was – **Approved** unanimously.
- 6.1.5 To note the report from the external auditor.  
The report of the external auditor, Messrs PKF Littlejohn LLP, was **Noted**. Recording of our fixed assets to be clarified and the Clerk was requested to pursue the matter.

### To authorise the following payments

- 6.2.1 Clerk's salary for October £265.62 & November £265.62 – **Approved**.
- 6.2.2 HMRC payments for October £66.20 & November £66.20 – **Approved**.
- 6.2.3 Clerk's expenses – Mileage and cost of telephone and internet – To be presented at the next meeting.
- 6.2.4 Anthorn Village Hall – Room hire (still pending) – **Noted**.
- 6.2.5 Ian Rumney – Grass cutting invoice (£4,095.44 for June to October 2022) – **Authorised**.
- 6.2.6 The Lindow Hall – Hire of hall for council meetings (£84.00 during January to November 2022) – **Authorised**.
- 6.2.7 Although not on the Agenda a bill of £48 towards inserting an appropriate photograph of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II during Operation London Bridge, i.e. during the mourning period for Her Late Majesty, on the council website from Rocket Sites, the administrator, was presented for payment – **Approved**.

## 7. Highways

- 7.1 Councillor Graham reported that the gorse bushes on the Old Anthorn airport road need cutting back – Councillor Hodgson said that he will pursue the matter with Highways.

## 8. Planning

### 8.1 Applications outstanding with Allerdale BC

- 8.1.1 FUL/2022/0111 – Change of use of land to create a public car park and holiday lets land use for accommodation and erection of communal block and bin store, demolition of barn and replacement with micro-brewery and widening of site access – Bowness House Farm – Change in wastewater drainage still under consultation – **Noted**.
- 8.1.2 FUL/2022/0178 – Conversion of roof space to provide an en-suite bedroom and a flat roof area to provide a balcony at the Highland Laddie, Glasson Village – see below (8.3.1)

### 8.2 Applications decided by Allerdale

### 8.3 Applications for discussion at this meeting

- 8.3.1 FUL/2022/0178 – Amendments to Conversion of roof space to provide an en-suite bedroom and a flat roof area to provide a balcony at the Highland Laddie, Glasson Village. After discussion Council was still **concerned** about the loss of amenities (privacy) to neighbours despite amendments to the plans.
- 8.3.2 FUL/2022/0076 – Formation of 5 single storey bungalows, north of Millgrove, Glasson. Despite the reduction in planned dwellings from eight to five the Council **noted** that local villagers were concerned about localised flooding in Glasson and the refusal of insurance companies to insure local properties.

### 9. Documents received for comment

- 9.1.1 CALC Circulars.  
The Clerk pointed out that training in Community Planning and The Effective Councillor was available on the CALC website (on-site face to face training was also available on request) with Finance and End of Year Accounts & Audit for clerks/responsible finance officers. On request the Clerk was **Authorised** to attend the Finance and Accounts training modules.
- 9.1.2 Common Land and Village Greens.  
The Clerk was requested to circulate the latest information to the Councillors to be discussed at the next meeting.
- 9.1.3 Cumberland Council Plan.  
The Clerk reported that there will be an online update regarding the Cumberland Council achievements to date on Tuesday evening, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022. With councillors having been elected and staff being appointed Cumberland Council will become live on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 – **Noted**.

### 10. Any items of information

- 10.1 Brought by members.  
Councillor Hodgson reported that all households in Bands A to D should have been contacted by the County Council by now and provided with a council tax rebate of £150 as part of the government's rebate towards energy costs – **Noted**.
- 10.2 Brought by the clerk.  
A request for funds had been received from Anthorn Sports Club towards the cleaning and repair of tennis courts – to be taken to the next meeting – **Noted**.  
The Great North Air Ambulance Service is planning community hubs become donation hubs – **Noted**.  
The Clerk reported that he had received information that the next council elections will be Held on the first Thursday in May, i.e. 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

### 11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in the Lindow Hall, Bowness on Solway, at 7.00pm on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

The meeting was ended at 9.25pm.