

BOWNESS ON SOLWAY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Thursday, 9th March 2023, in The Lindow Hall, Bowness on Solway.

Present:

Chair: Councillor Pauline Hinks.

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

County Councillor, Tony Markley, and Borough Councillor, Vaughan Hodgson.

Clerk: Peter Streatfeild.

Three members of the public were also present.

1 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest.

No apologies were received. Councillors Hinks, Carruthers, Mark and Wills declared an interest on point 4.4 The Lindow Hall. All councillors were unanimously given dispensation to speak and vote.

2 Minutes (Meeting 18th January 2023 previously circulated)

The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th January 2023 were **approved** unanimously.

3. Report on action taken

3.1 Report on action by members of the Council.

There were no reports.

3.2 Report from the clerk.

The Clerk reported that he had attended the CALC sponsored End of Year Accounts & Audit Training and the Briefing on Preparations for the Council Elections in May 2023. He also reported that every voter will need photographic ID such as a passport or photo driving license to vote in future. If any person does not have a photo ID they can apply for Voter Authority Certificate which also requires a photo at the time of submission. He further reported that the section 137 expenditure limit was being raised from £8.82 per electorate per annum to £9.93 with effect from 1st April 2023.

3.3 Public participation (at the Chairman's discretion).

Members from the Glasson Community Association put forward their case for placing an 8' by 10' storage container in the Glasson Play Area because there was no place to store all the Association's equipment being accumulated (see below at 4.2).

4. To review correspondence received and take any appropriate action

4.1 Letter received from Allerdale Borough Council (ABC) re grass cutting at Port Carlisle.

The Clerk reported that he had informed ABC that Port Carlisle Community Association were the trustees and therefore responsible for the grass cutting of the Play Area in Port Carlisle and not the Parish Council. He had not received any further correspondence from ABC.

At this juncture both Councillor Tony Markley and Councillor Vaughan Hodgson arrived.

3.5 Report from Borough Councillor Hodgson

Councillor Hodgson reported that this would be his last attendance at the Parish meeting as he did not stand for election in the new Cumberland Council but was leaving us in the capable hands of Councillor Markley. He mentioned that he had served the communities for over 14 years and appreciated the parish councillors' support. The members in turn thanked him for all that he had done for the communities. On asking if there was anything else he could do he

was asked to mention the road erosion at the Easton T-junction on the Drumburgh to Burgh by Sands marsh road to the Highways Department.

3.4 Report from County Councillor Markley

Councillor Markley reported that the Cumbria County Council and the Allerdale Borough Council had each met for the last time and there had been a lot of work going on in the background with all the new Cumberland Council staff being appointed and in place for the transition on 1st April 2023. With reference to the search for a nuclear depository Councillor Markley mentioned that the investigation had moved from Allerdale to the Maryport and Seaton areas. He further reported that there was a delegation from Canada visiting the Bowness area; there was no further news about the Number 94 Bus; the parish council elections are scheduled for 4th May; he was on the Cumberland Council for the next four years and the AGM will be on 13th/14th April 2023.

At this juncture both Councillor Tony Markley and Councillor Vaughan Hodgson left the meeting.

4.2 Letter received from Glasson Community Association (GCA) requesting permission to put a storage container on the playground.

On discussing the GCA proposal to place an 8' by 10' container to be donated by Mobile Mini it was noted that there was a lack of detail in the request such as it's permanence, the foundations, safety for children (such as climbing preventions and hidden areas), being an eyesore for some neighbours, ownership, maintenance and lack of detailed plans. After some discussion it was put to the vote with five against the proposal, one for it and one abstention.

Permission was not approved.

4.3 Letter from the Parochial Church Council giving thanks for the grass cutting funding last year and an update for this year.

Councillor Hinks read a letter from St Michael's Parochial Church Council thanking the Parish Council for the grant enabling the Church to cut the grass and maintain it at a high standard along with a request to increase the grant for the next financial year beginning 1st April 2023 due to increased costs. Councillors agreed to support an increase in grant funding when an application is received.

4.4 Letter from The Lindow Hall regarding the heating system requesting the Council for support.

Mrs Hinks, Trustee, presented an update on the state of the Lindow Hall heating system and the boiler which was installed in the late 1960s and is no longer serviceable. A quote of £11,760.00 has been obtained to renew the boiler but much ancillary work will need to be done in the old building to install it. After some discussion Councillor Mark proposed a **grant of £20,000.00** be made available on the understanding that the Council will be provided with proper plans and costing for a new boiler and its installation. This was seconded by Councillor Graham and **approved unanimously.**

4.5 RPA's proposal for Basic Payment Scheme Extension until 2028 i.e. for five years.

The Council have been given an opportunity to extend the Basic Payment Scheme with the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) but it would also require a renewal of consent with Natural England to agree to it. The renewal would benefit the council to the tune of £3,946.00 per annum for the next five years. Hitherto Mr Jonathan Hird of M/s H&H Land and Estates had dealt with the scheme on behalf of the Council. Councillor Carruthers proposed the **renewal with RPA and Natural England** be accepted and dealt with by Mr Jonathan Hird. It was seconded by Councillor Wills and **approved unanimously.**

4.6 Various correspondence received regarding souvenirs for the King's Coronation.

To commemorate HM King Charles III's coronation on 6th May 2023 Councillor Hinks presented a number of options ranging from mugs and tie pins to lapel badges and tea towels. After some discussion Councillor Wills proposed the **'Patterned Crowns' tea towels** be purchased and distributed to every household in the parish. This was seconded by Councillor Harrington and **approved unanimously.**

5. New business/Follow-on business

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

5.2 Update on provision of defibrillators for Fingland and Cardurnock.

The Clerk reported that two defibrillators had been ordered – **Noted.**

5.3 Update on speed awareness devices installation by Swarco Traffic Ltd for Glasson (permanent device) and one each (temporary devices) in Drumburgh, Anthorn & Fingland. Councillors Hinks and Carruthers reported that the posts for the Speed Indicator Signs (SID) were in at Glasson and Drumburgh but there had been delays in providing the necessary

equipment by Swarco. On the advice of Ms Victoria Upton of the Highways Department a local company, Pandora Technologies Ltd., based in Hawkeshead, was contacted and it can provide very similar equipment for Fingland and Anthorn at similar prices, **£6,900.00 incl VAT**. Furthermore, Ms Upton will ensure the Highways Department will install the equipment once it has been received. Councillor Mark proposed two speed indicator devices be ordered for Fingland and Anthorn from Pandora Technologies Ltd which was seconded by Councillor Carruthers and **approved unanimously**.

- 5.4 Update on repositioning of noticeboard at Cardurnock
Councillor Reay reported that the notice board has been erected by Mr Chris Turner – **Noted**.
- 5.5 Update on maintenance of noticeboards.
It was reported that a painter, Mr Broughton, had submitted the only estimate to sand, rub down and paint each notice board in the Parish with two coats of oil-based stain at a total cost of £70.00 each. Councillor Hinks proposed and Councillor Mark seconded that Mr Broughton be given the contract which was **unanimously approved**.
- 5.6 Update on safety concerns in Fingland.
It was noted that the speed concerns were being addressed with the provision of a Speed Indication Sign (SID) (see 5.3). Other matters of a safe bus stop/shelter and the road drainage were still being pursued.
- 5.7 Update on concerns about the culverts & railings at Low Flow, Glasson.
The clerk reported that the Highways Department had informed him that the road safety concerns at Low Flow and at Bowness Hall Farm and the cutting back of the gorse and hedges along the airfield road between Anthorn and Cardurnock will be dealt with after 1st April 2023.
- 5.8 Update on maintenance of metal fingerposts in the Parish.
The Clerk apologised that he had no further information about maintaining the fingerposts.
- 5.9 Update on preparations for Council Elections on 4th May 2023.
The Clerk, having already reported on the Council Election preparations, stated that he had nomination papers for all interested candidates who will need a proposer and a seconder to nominate them. The completed nomination papers have to be submitted by any person to Allerdale Borough Council/Cumberland Council at Allerdale House in Workington by 4.00pm (16.00 hours) on Tuesday 4th April 2023. Councillor Hinks reported that The Lindow Hall has been booked for election day, 4th May 2023.
- 5.10 Update on possible electric vehicle (EV) charging points in the Parish.
The Clerk reported that grants up to 60% of total costs were available for Parish Councils wishing to erect public EV charging points on public parking spaces and on streets in consultation with the local residents on the streets – **Noted**.
- 5.11 Information regarding the heating system in The Lindow Hall – (see 4.4).
- 5.12 Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting.
The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 10th May 2023 in The Lindow Hall – **Noted**.
- 5.13 Review of Parish Assets.
It was **noted** that the Parish Assets consisted of the Bowness Moss, Glasson Green and Park, Bowness Banks and the Common Glebe, 19 park benches, ten notice boards, two bus shelters, three defibrillators, one Acer laptop & one HP laser printer (both with the Clerk).
- 5.14 Arrangements for strimming of Parish seats.
It was reported that Mr Steve Hinks could no longer strim around the parish seats and M/s Ian Rumney, the present grass cutting contractor, was willing to do it. Councillor Wills proposed that Mr Rumney be requested to take on the responsibilities which was seconded by Councillor Reay and **approved unanimously**.
- 5.15 Review of Clerk's salary and pay increase.
Councillor Hinks reported that council clerks' pay had been increased with effect from 1st April 2022 so it was proposed and approved unanimously to increase the Clerk's salary from £10.21 per hour to £11.21 per hour back dated to 6th May 2022 which was **approved unanimously**.

6. Finance

Information

- 6.1.1 To Approve the accounts ending 31st January & 28th February 2023 – **Approved**.
- 6.1.2 To Note the Clerk's monthly salary of £265.62 paid for January & February 2023 - **Noted**.
- 6.1.3 To Note Clerk's expenses paid – for telephone & internet usage July to December 2022 (£73.54) & reimbursement of Microsoft subscription renewal for one year (£59.99) - **Noted**.

- 6.1.4 To Note the HMRC monthly payments of £66.20 for January & February 2023 - **Noted.**
- 6.1.5 To Note £2,000.00 grant paid to Anthorn Sports Club to repair tennis courts – **Noted.**
- 6.1.6 To Note £20.00 paid to CALC for Finance Training Course attended by Clerk – **Noted.**
- 6.1.7 To Note £138.00 Invoice paid to Rocket Sites for web hosting – **Noted.**
- 6.1.8 To Note £40.00 paid to Messrs Hodgson for bench concrete plinths – **Noted.**
- 6.1.9 To Note budget of £4,900.00 set aside for the Council Elections on 4th May 2023 – **Noted.**

To authorise the following payments

- 6.2.1 Clerk's expenses of £81.00 for mileage (10 circuits of parish notice boards @ 18 miles per circuit since August 2022 @ 45 pence per mile), postage stamps 2nd class x 12 @ £8.16 and 1st class x 24 @ £22.80, stationery envelopes x 50 @ £5.99, minutes display books x 3 @ £9.99 and paper x 2 reams @ £9.99, printer cartridges x 4 @ £59.55, total expenses £197.48 – **Authorised.**
- 6.2.2 Anthorn Village Hall – Room hires for 2021-2022 – **Invoices still awaited.**
- 6.2.3 Invoice dated 14th February 2023 for £20.00 from CALC for End of Year & Audit Training Course attended by Clerk – **Authorised.**

7. Highways

- 7.1. All pending works to begin after 1st April 2023 – **Noted.**

8. Planning

8.1 Applications outstanding with Allerdale BC

- 8.1.1 FUL/2022/0178 – Conversion/ Amendments to Conversion of roof space to provide an ensuite bedroom and a flat roof area to provide a balcony at the Highland Laddie, Glasson Village – Outcome still pending – **Noted.** (see 10.1).
- 8.1.2 ADV/2022/0007 - Application for Advertisement Consent at various locations in Bowness on Solway by the Bowness Community Group:
Point A West End of Village; Point B Peartree Farm – Wall; Point C The Banks Path - West Entrance; Point D The Banks Path - East Entrance; Point E East End of Village – Outcome still pending – **Noted.**

8.2 Applications decided by Allerdale BC

- 8.2.1 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 – Granted with conditions – **Noted.**
- 8.2.2 FUL/2022/0076 – Formation of 5 single storey bungalows, north of Millgrove, Glasson – Granted with conditions – **Noted.**
- 8.2.3 HOU/2022/0220 -Two storey side and rear extension with front dormer and porch to provide sunroom, utility and garage to ground floor with two bedrooms, ensuite, and bathroom to first floor, including solar panels to roof and demolition of existing garage. 7 The Island, Anthorn, CA7 5AN – Granted with conditions – **Noted.**
- 8.2.4 HOU/2022/0228 - Proposed replacement of pitched roof to existing side extension. Grey Haven, Bowness on Solway, CA7 5BT – Granted with conditions – **Noted.**

8.3 Applications for discussion at this meeting

- 8.3.1 FUL/2022/0243 – Slurry Tower. Millrigg Farm, Millrigg, Kirkbride.
Councillor Wills explained that M/s Millrigg Farm had put in an application to construct a new slurry tank to replace the old one after an inspection by the Environment Agency but, despite its approval, Natural England, which has to give its final approval, has objected at every stage in spite of all improvements and suggestions having been agreed upon. We have previously submitted a no objections on the planning portal. After discussing the matter Councillor Wills proposed a strong letter be sent to Allerdale Borough Council reiterating the Parish Council's original no objection to the application and also expressing its support to M/s Millrigg Farm and the farming community and noting the excessive demands being made by Natural England on the farm and the farming community as a

whole who have been in the area for generations and whose livelihood is threatened. The proposal was **approved unanimously**.

8.3.2 FUL/2023/0027 – Construction of a silage clamp, Easton Farm, Easton.

It was reported that M/s Easton Farm had made an application to construct a properly banded silage clamp. Councillors had no objections to the construction and this should be fully supported along with all farming communities within the Parish. The proposal was **approved unanimously**.

9. Documents received for comment

9.1.1 CALC Circulars – no matters were brought forward.

9.1.2 Common Land and Village Greens – the Clerk reported that there was no further communication from the Friends of the Lake District.

10. Any items of information

10.1 Brought by members.

Councillor Hinks reported that she had received another amendment to FUL/2022/0178 regarding Amendments to the balcony and other conversions to the Highland Laddie, Glasson Village. After discussing the new amendment it was **unanimously decided** that the Council's **original concerns** about the neighbours' privacy **remain unchanged**. (see 8.1.1).

Councillor Hinks noted that this meeting would be Councillor Wilson Reay's last one as he has decided he will not be standing for election again. His long and continuous service to the Parish and communities was noted and appreciated by all members present.

10.2 Brought by the clerk – no further information.

11. **Date of next meeting** – 10th May 2023.

The meeting was brought to a close at 9.25pm.